

COMMENT ON: AVIATION MEDICINE: GLOBAL HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF AVIATION MEDICINE ALONGSIDE THE GROWTH OF SINGAPORE'S AVIATION LANDSCAPE

Dear Sir,

I refer to a recently published review article on Aviation Medicine.⁽¹⁾ I would like to point out that Alexandra Hospital was never involved in our Civil Aviation Medicine Medical Board. It was then the British Military Hospital.

Allow me to quote from my interview with the Annals Academy of Medicine, Singapore,⁽²⁾ entitled Face to Face with the Master: *"I was involved in the Civil Aviation Medical Board (CAMB) including the certification of aircraft pilots and to see that aviation medicine was launched properly. It came to us in the 1970s when the British decided to withdraw their forces from Singapore. Although we were independent, we had the British Army and Royal Air Force stationed in Singapore. We had to take over the licensing of pilots, (this was under the Royal Air Force at Changi Hospital). The director of medical services got TTSB to take over at very short notice this function. I was first a member, then deputy chairman, and chairman, and now advisor to the Civil Aviation Medical Board"*. I hope this clarifies the position.

Yours sincerely,

Chew Chin-Hin

Division of Graduate Medical Studies
Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine
National University of Singapore
Block MD5
Level 3
12 Medical Drive
Singapore 117598
Email: mdcch@nus.edu.sg

REFERENCES

1. Gan WH, Low R, Singh J. Aviation Medicine: global historical perspectives and the development of Aviation Medicine alongside the growth of Singapore's aviation landscape. *Singapore Med J* 2011; 52:324-9.
2. Face to Face with the Master. An interview with Prof Chew Chin Hin. *Annals Acad Med* 2011; 40:338-47.