

FROM JOHN ALCOCK, M.A.
CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR

THE HUNSLET ENGINE WORKS
JACK LANE
LEEDS, IO.
TEL. NO 32261.

JFA/BW:

13th September, 1960.

Dr. R. F. Youell,
Physics Department,
University of Leeds,
LEEDS.

Dear Dr. Youell,

Returning today from a tour of Africa I find your letter of the 18th August awaiting me in which you suggest my name for your Hunslet locomotive.

Nothing could please me more and I do thank you and your colleagues most sincerely for the honour you do me. Your suggestion has given me a great nostalgia for those early days. As a very young man only recently down from Cambridge I can remember standing at the end of the Board Room table and asking permission to design and build that very locomotive. I got a grant of £5000 and a warning that if I failed to make good there would be no further money for diesel development for another five years. It was in every sense a challenge and an experiment. Our first diesel locomotive of any consequence and the one that established us in world markets. I am fairly certain that it was the first successful diesel locomotive to run on any of the British Railways and the excellent performance that it put up was certainly the reason why the L.M.S. were the first in the field.

Again and many thanks and best wishes for the future.

Yours sincerely,

Replied 16/9.

