

Marion Burcham

Is Awarded the

Air Medal *Jan 17, 1944*

Mrs. Burcham Receives Letter from Lieutenant General George C. Kenney Telling of the Award

Announcement was made Tuesday by the War Department that Staff Sergeant Marion J. Burcham of Newton had been awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement with the Army Air Force in the Southwest Pacific, particularly a flight over Muschu and Kairiru islands during which a Japanese vessel was bombed and sunk.

Coincident with the announcement of the award of the medal his wife received the following letter from Lieutenant General George C. Kenney, commanding the Air Force in which he is serving:

"Dear Mrs. Burcham: Recently your husband, Staff Sergeant Marion J. Burcham, was decorated with the Air Medal. It was an award made in recognition of courageous service to his combat organization, his fellow American airmen, his country, his home and to you.

For Meritorious Achievement

"He was cited for meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial flight over Muschu and Kairiru islands.

"He was radio gunner of a B25D-1 type aircraft in an attack on enemy shipping in Victoria bay. Despite intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire, a small transport was strafed and bombs were dropped on it, scoring a direct hit. The vessel caught fire and its destruction was confirmed both by subsequent flights and by photographic interpretation.

"Almost every hour of every day your husband, and the husbands of other women, are doing just such things as that here in the Southwest Pacific.

"Theirs is a very real and a very tangible contribution to victory and to peace.

"I would be glad to tell you how genuinely proud I am to have men such as your husband in my command, and how gratified I am to know that young Americans with such courage and resourcefulness are fighting our country's battle against aggressor nations.

"You, Mrs. Burcham, have every reason to share that pride and gratification."