

Marion Burcham Jr.

Is Awarded Air Medal for Hump Flying *Sept. 14, 1945*

Technical Sergeant Marion Burcham Jr., aerial radio operator of Newton, has been awarded an Air Medal, it has been announced by Brigadier General William H. Turner, commanding general of the India China division of the Air Transport Command, Calcutta, India.

The India China division is completing, by homeward movements of freight and personnel, its war mission of trans-India and India-China and intra-China transport. It has made air history by flying cargo and passengers in regularly scheduled day and night transit over routes once virtually unuseable, primarily over the famed hump. Its war contribution, say aviation leaders, has provided far reaching portents for the future of air transport on a world-wide scale. July, 1945, saw 71,000 tons cross the hump, while at the moment of Jap surrender the rate was nearly two tons a minute.

Supplied Armies in China

"From a small monthly tonnage at the outset," said General Tunner in a war's end statement to his troops, "cargo to China has increased until it has been proved that whole armies could be supplied by air in China—and they were, to the distress and destruction of our enemies."

Lieutenant General Albert C. Wedemeyer, commander of all United States forces in China, has stated: "Through enemy fire and through all sorts of weather, over oceans, mountains, desert and jungle, those planes came, never failing. Upon their cargoes battles have been fought and victories won. Upon their cargoes China survived when there was no other contact with the world. Your fliers made the hump the most famous mountain range in the universe."