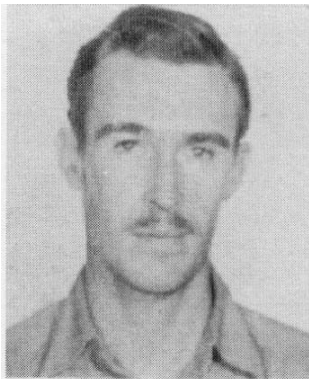# The Last Flight of CNAC # 60

On November 17, 1942 at 0905 o'clock, C-47 #60 took off on a return flight to Dinjan, India from Kunming, China. The three man crew consisted of Captain John J. Dean, co-pilot James S. Browne and radioman K. L. Yang. Fully loaded with tin, # 60 took off from Kunming on the north route as a Japanese bomber attack was about to take place. One transmission from Dean was reported by another CNAC pilot headed for Kunming. Dean reported heavy icing and indicated he might head south. That was the last that was ever heard from the flight. The last transmission gives a clue as to its final flight line. This was CNAC's first fatal crash in the new Hump flying effort.

JOHN DEAN

Captain John Dean was from the little town of St. Peter, Minnesota. He learned to fly in the Navy where he spent a little over a year as a naval aviator with a Fighter Squadron before he decided to join the A.V.G. As a Flying Tiger he had 3.27 "kills" which netted him $1,633.33. He was promoted to Flight Leader just before the A.V.G. disbanded. Then Dean joined CNAC in July 1942, determined to continue to fly for China.. A quiet young man, he came to China shortly after his marriage hoping to create a nest egg for his new family. He was 26 years old when he was killed.

The Chung

JAMES BROWNE

 Co-pilot James Browne came from Winnetka, Illinois, a Chicago suburb, and was a graduate of Riverside Academy in Gainesville, Georgia which is where he learned to fly. He was a former pilot for Air Transport Auxiliary, a branch of the R.A.F., flying fighter and bombers around the British Isles as part of the Ferry Command. He was a mischievous, happy-go-lucky young man who was planning to be married when he came home from China. His decision to fly for CNAC was typical of his spirit of adventure but his stay in China was less than a month before his final flight crashed on the unforgiving Hump. He was only 21 years old when he was killed.

The third member of the crew was K. L. Yang, a Chinese radio operator about whom, sadly, little is known.