

NEW WINGATE STORY

10th May, 1944

The following story has been issued from S.E. Asia Command:-

Relatives at home of the men of the Chindits Special Force in Central Burma were fore-warned against anxiety about their menfolk by an act of fore-thought on the part of the then force commander the late Major General Wingate.

Official airgraphs were sent from the Chindits H.Q. to relatives of the men who formed the Marauding Columns 200 miles behind the Jap lines in Burma. The airgraphs warned people at home not expect any letters for some time but asked them to carry on writing. The British Columns which had to march hundreds of miles into enemy occupied country had no regular means of despatching mail but letters from home were dropped from aircraft with other parachuted supplies.

The Chindits started an excellent news service home to cover almost every eventuality. The men were asked to declare to whom they would like these airgraphs to be despatched and in addition their relatives at home were notified at regular intervals as the campaign went on that the man concerned was fit and well but was still not allowed to write himself. Men were also asked to provide a list of two or three dates which they especially wanted remembered - such as anniversaries and birthday. Then as the dates fell due and the men could not send the accustomed telegram, Chindits H.Q. did it for them.

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