



10th Air Force



4th Combat Cargo Group



16th Combat Cargo Squadron



**Alfred J. Wirth Sr.**  
**Technical Sergeant U.S. Army Air Corps**  
**July 1943 – November 1945**

Alfred was born on 29 June 1923 in Allentown, Pennsylvania. He attended Sheridan, Harrison Morton grade School from 1929 to 1936, Allentown Junior High School from 1936 to 1938, and Allentown High School from which he graduated in 1941. After graduating from high school and prior to entering the service, Alfred worked as an Electrician at Bethlehem Steel Company in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania until 1943. He was drafted into the Army Air Corps in Allentown as a Private in July 1943, and was assigned to Keesler Field in Mississippi where he underwent basic training, followed by training as a Flight Engineer and assignment at Ypsilah, Michigan. Alfred was then assigned to the 16th Combat Cargo Squadron, 4th Combat Cargo Group, 10th Army Air Force, at Syracuse, New York, in June 1944. In November 1944 he and his Group moved to Baer Field in Fort Wayne, Indiana, a staging area for overseas deployment to the China-Burma-India (CBI) Theater of Operations. They then were ordered to Sylhet, India, their home base for operations in CBI Theater. They flew to Sylhet via Borinquen Field, Puerto Rico; Kano, Nigeria; Aden, Yemen; Karachi, Pakistan; and Agra, India. Alfred was a Crew Chief of a Curtis C-46, an unarmed aircraft that flew missions over the Himalayan Mountains (“The Hump”) to deliver troop reinforcements, combat cargo, and supplies to forward-deployed troops and return with war wounded. He participated in three major campaigns – Chabua, Mychtila, and Muitkyina – as well as in the Sonkeratime Campaign, all in Burma.

In June 1945, the Group redeployed to Burma and continued to fly missions into China until the war ended. In November 1945 they returned via India. Alfred was awarded three Distinguished Flying Crosses and three Air Medals for his services in the CBI Theater. He was discharged during November 1945 and returned to live in Allentown, where he



Curtis C-46 “Commando”

returned to the Bethlehem Steel Company as an Electrician until 1946. He then went to work as a Salesman in the Lehigh Valley area until 1953 for Hoover Company, Sealtest Ice Cream Company, and Albert Drug Company. In 1950, he moved to Lower Macungie Township in Pennsylvania. Three years later, Alfred went to work for National Distillers & Chemicals Company for 17 years, and in 1970 he started his own company, H & K Vacuum Cleaner Service in Bethlehem. He operated his own company until 1989, when he retired to his home in Lower Macungie Township. Alfred married **Frances Reichard** (born 2 October 1924). His parents were **Rudolph Wirth** (2 March 1890 – 26 April 1973) and **Emma Schampf** (24 August 1897 – 25 June 1985).