

# **431 MILITARY AIRLIFT TRAINING GROUP**

## **MISSION**

### **LINEAGE**

1 Ferrying Group constituted, 3 Mar 1942

Activated, 7 Mar 1942

Redesignated 1 Transport Group, 1 Jul 1943

Disbanded, 1 Dec 1943

Reconstituted and redesignated 431 Military Airlift Training Group, 31 Jul 1985 (Remained disbanded)

### **STATIONS**

Pope Field, NC, 7 Mar 1942-18 Mar 1942

Charleston AAB, SC

Karachi Apt, Sind, India

Dinjan, India

Chabua Field, Assam, India

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

AF Combat Command

Tenth Air Force

India-China Wing, ATC

### **COMMANDERS**

### **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 1 Ferrying Group was activated on 3 Mar 1942. The 3, 6, and 13 Ferrying Squadrons were activated at Pope Field, Fort Bragg, N.C., on 7 March, instead of at West Palm Beach as originally ordered. Before their activation they were transferred from the jurisdiction of the Ferrying Command to that of the 1 Ferrying Group.

The 1 Ferrying Group and its three ferrying squadrons were destined for transport service in the China-Burma-India theater and left the United States by boat on March 19, 1942, this group sailed from Charleston, South Carolina, on the S.S. BRAZIL. This was the maiden voyage for this ship as a troop carrier. The first stop was at San Juan, Puerto Rico. The next stop was Freetown, West Africa. The BRAZIL crossed the equator on April 10, 1942, and arrived in Capetown, South Africa, on April 18, 1942. Shore leave was granted at Capetown and again at Port Elizabeth, South Africa. On May 15, 1942, the SS BRAZIL arrived at Karachi, India.

While at Karachi, C-47s and flight crews started arriving. These crews ferried the C-47s down to South America, across to the African Coast and across Africa and Arabia to Karachi. On July 29, 1942, two C-47s flew across India to Dinjan in the Assam Valley. After several days at Dinjan, the first group of men went to Chabua to set up operations for the third squadron. The Sixth squadron started operating out of a field at Mohanbari and the Thirteenth squadron set up a field at Sookerating which was up the valley above Tinsukia. The group set up a rest camp at Sadiya where a C-47 could land. The group also setup a weather station or contact point at Fort Hertz in the Kumon Mountain Range in North Burma about one hour's flying time from Chabua. Most of the group's flights went from Chabua over the North Burma mountains to Kunming, China. Occasionally the group flew into Yunanyi, about two-thirds of the way to Kunming.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.