

Leamon, Harold A.

Awarded Cluster

AUG 14 1945



AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND BASE, India—Capt. Harold A. Leamon, 617 West Broad Street, Bethlehem, has been awarded an Oak Leaf Cluster to his Air Medal, it was announced by Brig. Gen. William H. Tunner, commanding general of the India - China Division, Air Transport Command.

Capt. Leamon received the award for "meritorious achievement" while participating in aerial flight on March 30, 1945, as pilot of a — type aircraft. Immediately after take-off from — Air Base and upon reaching an altitude of approximately 75 feet, one engine failed and the aircraft became unmanageable, with just enough power and momentum to continue in flight. Capt. Leamon resorted to every maneuver to keep the ship in the air, even attempting to jettison part of the cargo, but it was impossible to release the cargo door. Realizing he did not have sufficient altitude to bank the aircraft in order to enter the traffic pattern and rather than make a crash landing, Capt. Leamon flew the aircraft several miles further where less altitude would be required to make a turn. By using the single working engine he granted sufficient altitude to make a safe landing with full cargo and full gas load. Capt. Leamon's outstanding airmanship, devotion to duty and cool judgment saved valuable cargo and the lives of the crew members as well as prevented possible disaster among the civilian residents in the area. By his performance above and beyond that normally expected, Capt. Leamon has reflected highest credit upon himself.

August 14, 1945