

# Charles Richard “Dick” Hedge

U.S. Army Air Corps 10<sup>th</sup> Air Force

Sergeant

Missing in Action – June 3, 1942 – crashed in Burma



Purple Heart

Air Medal

American Campaign  
Medal

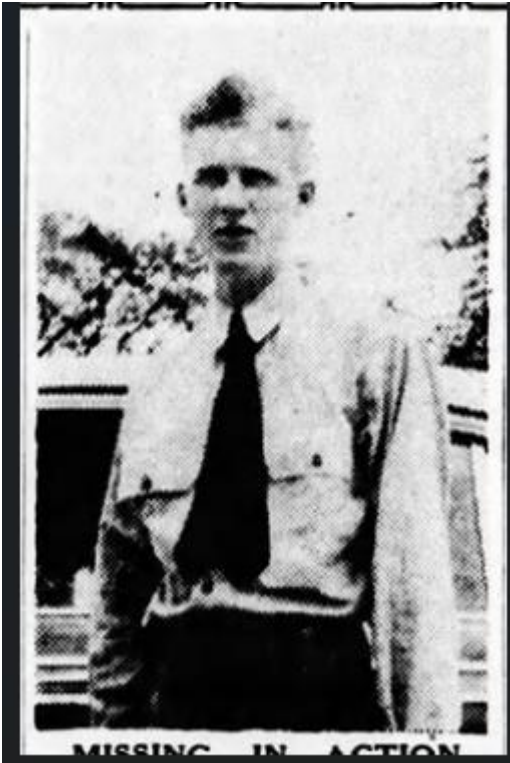
Asiatic Pacific  
Campaign medal

WWII Victory Medal

Hedge was a sergeant in the U.S. Army Air Corps, 11th Bombardment Squadron. He was part of a “secret” mission that “departed Dinjan, India, on a mission to bomb Lashio Airfield (Burma) and land at Kunming (China).” His plane was one of three that hit a mountain and exploded after successfully bombing the airfield in Burma. He is memorialized at *Manila American Cemetery, Philippines*, and there is a memorial marker at *Oakdale Cemetery* in Hendersonville.



## **RICHARD HEDGE 'IS MISSING' IN FAR EAST AREA**



Mrs. O. E. Hedge of Hendersonville received a telegram yesterday afternoon from the war department saying that her son, Richard Hedge, a bombardier in the army air corps was missing after action in the Far East.

Mr. Hedge was a member of a prominent Henderson county family. His uncle was the late Hubert M. Smith, who died in the last World War and for whom the Henderson post of the American Legion was named. His grandfather was the late William Alexander Smith, pioneer Western North Carolina developer and former Hendersonville mayor.

Mr. Hedge was a cousin of Judge J. Will Pless, Jr., and of Jack Hedge, now an army aviation cadet. His father was recently commissioned a captain in the army. He is a nephew of Walter Smith of Hendersonville.