

FORMER THOMASVILLE MAN NAMED TO HIGH OFFICE IN CHINA

Dr. John Earl Baker Will Direct Burma Road Operations

The following news clipping from the March 12 issue of the New York Times will be read with cordial interest by friends of Dr. John Earl Baker, who spent several months here during the past year or two, visiting with friends and relatives.

While here he made a number of talks on life and conditions in China where he has spent so many years. He is regarded as one of the outstanding authorities on Chinese customs and economics and his appointment to a new office of great importance is in recognition of his special abilities.

The story follows :

Chungking, China, March 11 (AP) - An authoritative source announced today that Dr. John Earl Baker, formerly of the American Red Cross, had been appointed director of the Kunming-Burma Transportation Bureau, controlling the Burma Road.

Mr. Baker's tasks, the source disclosed, will be to keep the route operating smoothly and to eliminate the graft and corruption that threatened to cripple its value as an artery for inbound war material to China and outboard exports, which produce needed foreign exchange.

Reports recently circulated that President Roosevelt's special envoy, Lauchlin Currie, had asked Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek to appoint an American director for the Burma Road. The reports were denied in Chungking. Walter Wesselius succeeded Mr. Baker as director of the China relief unit of the American Red Cross.