

FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE
Office of the Commanding General
A. P. O. 520

6 September 1944

Tech. Sergeant Bernard J. Buschard
Hq. Fifteenth Air Force
APO 520, U. S. Army

Dear Sergeant Buschard:


You are going home. With you will go the thanks and admiration of the Fifteenth Air Force for a superb and heroic performance. You are the returning heroes of the Battle of Ploesti. You will be greeted and treated as such by your loved ones, and by a grateful American public. They are proud of you.

Your safe return to my command marked the culmination of an outstanding campaign in the annals of American military history. The German war machines' disintegration on all fronts is being caused, to a large extent, by their lack of oil - oil that you took from them.

I have only one regret on this jubilant occasion. I wish it had been possible to bring out of Roumania every officer and man who went down in that battle. Unfortunately there are some who will never return. The memory of their sacrifice is an inspiration to the all of us.

One of the memories of my life will be the thrill I experienced as the B-17s came into view, circled, landed, and I saw you unloading. It was impossible for me to greet each of you and it will be impossible for me to say "Good-bye" to each of you before you return to the States. However, I do want you to know my thoughts and those of your fellow soldiers are with you.

Best of luck and Godspeed.


N. F. TWINING
Major General, USA
Commanding