HEADQUARTERS 16TH TROOP CARRIER SQUADRON
Office of the Commanding Officer
APO 650, US Army

3 April 1945

Mrs. John Porzyk,
2433 Sheridan Street,
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Mrs. Porzyk:

As Commanding Officer of the 16th Troop Carrier Squadron, I am writing this letter to you to express my deepest and sincerest sympathy on the death in action of your son Richard, who was a member of this organization.

I know you will be anxious to know some of the details surrounding the regrettable accident, and though information is limited I will try and tell you what I know. The aircraft on which your son was a member of the crew was assigned for a night flight to drop vital military supplies to Partisans who are operating behind enemy lines in Northern Italy. The aircraft was unescorted and alone, as are most of our night flights. When the plane had reached it's target and had made one run to drop the supplies, one of the engines was seen to flare-up and suddenly explode. The plane went out of control from it's low altitude and crashed not far away. There was no chance for rescue by the friendly forces. It was reported that probably the engine had been hit by enemy anti-aircraft fire. Richard was buried by the friendly Allies and by a Catholic Priest, in the vicinity of the crash in Northern Italy behind enemy lines.

I hope that it will give you some comfort and aid to know that your son's death was in line of duty against our common enemy. Also that Richard had played an important role in the Squadron and his presence will be sorely missed. His great courage and determination coupled with his tireless and efficient work in the performance of his duty reflect highest credit upon him.

Some of Richard's closest friends and associates in the Squadron were Staff Sergeant Louis D. Estes and Corporal Harold L. Shinn, and if you should care to correspond with them you may feel free to do so by addressing your letters to them at this address.

In closing, I should like to add that I feel it a great privilege to have had Richard under my command and the entire organization joins me in expressing deepest sympathy to you for the great loss you have sustained.

Sincerely yours,

Delmar L. Zahniser

DELMAR L. ZAHNISER,
Captain, Air Corps,
Commanding

WAR DEPARTMENT

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:
AG 201 Perzyk, Richard J.
PC-N MT0095

13 April 1945

Mrs. Anna M. Perzyk
2433 Sheridan Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Mrs. Perzyk:

It is with profound regret that I confirm the recent telegram informing you of the death of your son, Sergeant Richard J. Perzyk, 16,043,611, Air Corps, who was previously reported missing in action on 23 February 1945 over Italy.

An official message has now been received which states that he was killed in action on the date he was previously reported missing in action. Recently provisions were made whereby there will be sent directly to the emergency addressee or the next of kin a letter containing further information about each person who dies overseas in the service of our country, and if this letter has not already been received, it may be expected soon.

I realize the burden of anxiety that has been yours since he was first reported missing in action and deeply regret the sorrow this later report brings you. May the knowledge that he made the supreme sacrifice for his home and country be a source of sustaining comfort.

My sympathy is with you in this time of great sorrow.

Sincerely yours,

J. A. ULIO
Major General
The Adjutant General

1 Inclosure
Bulletin of Information

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO
QMGMF 293
Perzyk, Richard J.
SN 16 043 611

19 April 1949

Mr. John Perzyk
2433 Sheridan Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Mr. Perzyk:

This office desires to furnish you information concerning the recovery and identification of the remains of your son, the late Sergeant Richard J. Perzyk.

Your feelings during this long period of waiting to receive this information are fully understood and, in order to justify the delay, I wish to state that it is the policy of our Graves Registration personnel to process all remains recovered from isolated graves in order to establish and/or verify identification. Because of the manifold problems involved, this processing is, of necessity, time consuming. The processing reports pertaining to your son and his crew members have been received and reviewed. Following is a detailed summary of the pertinent facts as revealed by these reports and Department of the Army records.

Your son was one of seven crew members aboard a C-47 type aircraft which became missing in action on the night of 22-23 February 1945 while on a resupply drop mission. The Missing Air Crew Report pertaining to this plane reveals that the aircraft was last contacted, by radio, at the time it departed from Rosignano Airdrome, Italy. Two of the men on the plane were members of the Royal Army Service Corps, and were employed as crew members.

Subsequent to the disappearance of the plane, information was received by our overseas Command which disclosed that your son's aircraft had crashed in the vicinity of Craciglia, Italy, causing the death of all on board. The remains of the crew had been interred by local civilians in separate caskets, side by side in a common grave in the Zavatarello Civilian Cemetery, Zavatarello, Italy. According to these civilians, your son's plane, after dropping its cargo, burst into flames and crashed.

19 April 1949

QMGMF 293
Perzyk, Richard J.
SN 16 043 611

Later, units of the American Graves Registration Service recovered the remains of the crew from the Zavatarello Civilian Cemetery and removed them to the United States Military Cemetery Mirandola, Italy, for investigations to establish individual identifications. As a result of these investigations, it was possible to individually identify the remains of your son, and those of three others, two of whom were the employed crew members; however, all efforts to identify, individually, the remains of the other three crew members were unsuccessful, and they were designated as a group, with respect to which collective identity alone is known.

Individual identification of your son's remains was based on the following identifying media:

a. Tooth chart accomplished for the decedent compares favorably with Army dental information on file for your son.

b. Estimated age of the decedent, between 23 and 27 years, compares favorably with that of your son at the time of his death.

Your son's remains were interred in Plot F, Row 19, Grave 802, in the United States Military Cemetery Mirandola, Italy, but have now been casketed and are being held in above ground storage, under the constant protection of our Army personnel, pending receipt of disposition instructions from the next of kin.

There are inclosed informational pamphlets concerning the Return of World War II Dead Program, together with a "Request for Disposition of Remains" form on which to indicate your instructions in this matter. Upon receipt of the properly completed Disposition Form, necessary action will be initiated to comply with your wishes for final interment of your son's remains.

It is my sincere hope that the above information will, in some small measure, alleviate the grief and distress you have suffered over the loss of your beloved son.

Sincerely yours,

James F. Smith

JAMES F. SMITH
Major, QMC
Memorial Division

7 Incls

ADDRESS REPLY TO
COMMANDING GENERAL, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

ATTENTION: AFPPA-8

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

AAF 201 - (12987) Perzyk, Richard J.
16045611

18 May 1945

Mrs. Anna M. Perzyk
2433 Sheridan Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Mrs. Perzyk:

I am writing you concerning your son, the late Sergeant Richard J. Perzyk.

Inclosed is a list of the names of the crew members who were serving with your son on 23 February 1945, when he was first reported missing in action, and the names and addresses of their emergency addressees.

You have my deepest sympathy in your sorrow, and I hope that as time passes, you will derive some measure of comfort in the knowledge that your son gave his life in the finest traditions of service to his Country.

Very sincerely,

E A Bradunas

E. A. BRADUNAS
Major, Air Corps
Chief, Notification Branch
Personal Affairs Division
Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Personnel

1 Incl.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

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A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS
DL = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

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MRS ANNA M PERZYK=

2433 SHERIDAN AVE=

THE SECRETARY OF WAR DESIRES ME TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP REGRET THAT YOUR SON SGT PERZYK RICHARD J WAS KILLED IN ACTION IN ITALY 23 FEB 45 HE HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION CONFIRMING LETTER FOLLOWS=

ULIO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.

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23 45.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
28 June 1949

IN REPLY REFER TO

Sgt. Richard J. Perzyk, ASN 16 043 611
Plot B, Row 8, Grave 40
Headstone: Cross
Florence (Italy) U.S. Military Cemetery

Mr. John A. Perzyk
2433 Sheridan Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Mr. Perzyk:

This is to inform you that the remains of your loved one have been permanently interred, as recorded above, side by side with comrades who also gave their lives for their country. Customary military funeral services were conducted over the grave at the time of burial.

After the Department of the Army has completed all final interments, the cemetery will be transferred, as authorized by the Congress, to the care and supervision of the American Battle Monuments Commission. The Commission also will have the responsibility for permanent construction and beautification of the cemetery, including erection of the permanent headstone. The headstone will be inscribed with the name exactly as recorded above, the rank or rating where appropriate, organization, State, and date of death. Any inquiries relative to the type of headstone or the spelling of the name to be inscribed thereon, should be addressed to the American Battle Monuments Commission, Washington 25, D. C. Your letter should include the full name, rank, serial number, grave location, and name of the cemetery.

While interments are in progress, the cemetery will not be open to visitors. You may rest assured that this final interment was conducted with fitting dignity and solemnity and that the grave-site will be carefully and conscientiously maintained in perpetuity by the United States Government.

Sincerely yours,

H. FELDMAN
Major General
The Quartermaster General