WAR DEPARTMENT

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

IN REPLY

WASHINGTON

AG 201 Snyder, Howard J. (19 Feb 44) PC-N 051001

25 February 1944.

Mrs. Ruth I. Snyder,
.1239 North El Molino Avenue,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Mrs. Snyder:

This letter is to confirm my recent telegram in which you were regretfully informed that your husband, First Lieutenant Howard J. Snyder, 0-742,461, Air Corps, has been reported missing in action over France since 8 February 1944.

I know that added distress is caused by failure to receive more information or details. Therefore, I wish to assure you that at any time additional information is received it will be transmitted to you without delay, and, if in the meantime no additional information is received, I will again communicate with you at the expiration of three months. Also, it is the policy of the Commanding General of the Army Air Forces upon receipt of the "Missing Air Crew Report" to convey to you any details that might be contained in that report.

The term "missing in action" is used only to indicate that the whereabouts or status of an individual is not immediately known. It is not intended to convey the impression that the case is closed. I wish to emphasize that every effort is exerted continuously to clear up the status of our personnel. Under war conditions this is a difficult task as you must readily realize. Experience has shown that many persons reported missing in action are subsequently reported as being prisoners of war. However, since we are entirely dependent upon governments with which we are at war to forward this information, the War Department is helpless to expedite these reports.

In order to relieve financial worry on the part of the dependents of military personnel being carried in a missing status, Congress enacted legislation which continues the pay, allowances and allotments of such persons until their status is definitely established.

Permit me to extend to you my heartfelt sympathy during this period of uncertainty.

Sincerely yours,

A. ULIO

Major General, The Adjutant General.