

Hildenberger, Francis

To Return Soon

MAY 22 1945



SGT. FRANCIS HILDENBERGER

Writes Family He's Safe; On Way Home

Friends of Staff Sergeant Francis T. Hildenberger, 464 Montclair Avenue, reported missing over Germany on April 24, today are happy over the news that he is safe and expects to be returned to the United States at an early date.

"Thank God I am safe and in good health. It would take 100 V-mail letters to tell my experiences but I'll save them until I get home—I hope soon" is essentially what he wrote in a letter received by his family here today.

On May 4 the War Department reported him missing, together with members of his crew on a B-24 Liberator, after a raid over Wessendorf, Germany. Yesterday another letter was received from the War Department in which it was stated that the search for the missing crew continued.

Staff Sergeant Hildenberger's letter indicates that he was taken prisoner and he expressed the happiness he felt when American troops liberated him.

A note of sadness is in the letter. The young gunner, not aware that his father, Martin Hildenberger, had died on May 5, asks that his father's condition not be aggravated by tales of his exploits in Germany.

Staff Sergeant Hildenberger has been in the service since July 9, 1943. His letter, received today, was written under date of May 11.

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