

ARMORED FORCE REPLACEMENT TRAINING CENTER

OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN

Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Dear Friend:

As a result of the treachery of some nations obsessed with the spirit of aggression, we are faced with the responsibility of carrying on warfare to defend our God-given rights of freedom. These principles of freedom which are the foundation of our republic have been preserved through centuries and must be protected at this time. As always in the past, the Catholic Church unreservedly upholds civil authority to defend this same liberty even by means of war.

In being called to the service of his country, every man should consider it an honor. As a consequence, a person dear to you Private William Melchiori has been asked to leave his home environment in order to join his efforts with many others in guarding for the world these principles of justice and love.

You at home must also do your part in making his lot easier by encouragement through correspondence and example.

Everyone is asked to make some sacrifice. Cowards and selfish-minded persons have no place in Heaven and no place in America. Army discipline is necessarily different from home life, yet everything within reason is provided to make the soldier's time of service as pleasant and profitable as possible. Holy Mass is celebrated daily and every opportunity is offered for the reception of the Sacraments and for religious instruction.

We know you are proud of him now and we hope and pray that you will be more proud of him when he returns home a soldier of Christ and America.

In case of serious illness or death of father, mother, sister, brother, wife, or child he will be granted leave to go home. Should an accident or serious illness overtake him you will be notified immediately by telegram.

Should I be able to render you any service within the bounds of Military Regulations, do not hesitate to call on me. When writing to this office concerning him, kindly give his full name, rank, company letter, and battalion number.

Yours Courageously for Victory and Peace in Christ,

*John A. F. ...*