

By the Grace of G-d
Erev Rosh Chodesh Nissan 5719
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Chaplain Moshe Stengel
Office of the Jewish Chaplain
Ft. Bragg, N. C. 28307

Greeting and Blessings:

I was gratified to hear a report from the representatives of Tzeirei Agudas Chabad who visited your Post during Purim, and who also brought Shalach Moneh from you and the Jewish men under your Chaplaincy. It was quite opportune and significant that this reached me in the midst of our celebration of Seudas Purim, when the joy of Purim attains a more intense form.

May G-d grant the fulfillment of the words of the Megillah - "וְהָיָה לְיוֹם שִׂמְחָה וְהוֹדָה" - "For the Jews there was light, joy, gladness and honor." May this be fulfilled also in the case of each and every one of us, in the midst of our people Israel, in accordance with the traditional text which we add to this quotation from the Megillah - "וְהָיָה לְיוֹם שִׂמְחָה וְהוֹדָה" - "So be it for each and every one."

Now that this letter has been delayed until today, Erev Rosh Chodesh Nissan, which is highlighted by Pesach, the Season of our Liberation, I also add the prayerful wish that this liberation include also liberation from all things that distract the Jew from serving G-d wholeheartedly and with joy. Indeed, in accordance with the saying of our Sages that true חֵירוּת - freedom - can be accomplished only through a life of Torah and Mitzvot, may each and every one of us use the maximum degree of influence that one can bring to bear on the environment in helping achieve true liberation in the daily life. Certainly you have been especially privileged to have a considerable influence, both directly and indirectly, on your fellow Jews, in a situation where they are particularly receptive to such influence. May you enjoy the fruits and fruits of fruits, of your efforts. And may G-d, the Creator of the world and the Creator of man, the Essence of Goodness Whose nature it is to do good, keep and protect each and every one of you wherever you may be, and return you to civilian life safe and sound both physically and spiritually.

Hoping to hear good news from you, and wishing you and all yours a Kosher and happy Pesach,

With blessing,