Letter sent to our son 18 November 2012, during Operation "Pillar of Cloud"

Dear Yedidya,

This is for us an awesome moment (in the literal sense). A moment ago we were caught up in the excitement and pride of our firstborn son preparing to meet his Kallah at the Chupah in a few months. Now we are overcome by the experience of sending that same son off to war, to protect the people and the State of Israel.

This is new to us, and, in a sense, bizarre. War is something in history, or in romanticized fiction. For so much of the world, war is something that happens to other people. Alas, for the Jewish people, war, and the need to defend ourselves, remains intrinsically bound up with our very existence.

We are thankful to live in a time when the Jewish people has an army; when Jewish blood is no longer cheap; when our enemies who wish to murder with impunity will learn that there will be a consequence to their actions. No more will Jews cower in fear and rely on others for a salvation that never comes.

But suddenly this changes from some inspiring but abstract idea, to something very real. For us, it's no longer just about Israel, or Jewish destiny. It's about our son. It's about you.

We are proud that you have chosen to be part of the army of the people of Israel, to share their burden and even to risk your safety. We know this to be a natural outcome of your love for your country, and the fire of the dream of the redemption of the people through the redemption of the land which, while dimmed in the hearts of some, still burns so fiercely within you.

We are assured when you tell us that you will not be on the front line, yet we are anxious knowing that you will be close to combat, and we feel guilty that your relative safety means that the parents of some other young man must be fearing for his increased danger.

Above all, know that we love you, we pray for you, and we are indescribably proud of you.

May Hashem help you keep His people safe, and may He bring you, and his other soldiers, home speedily.

Imma and Abba