



AMERICAN RED CROSS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WASHINGTON 13, D. C.

August 3, 1943

Amon G. Carter, President
Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Fort Worth, Texas

Dear Mr. Carter:

Your letter to Mr. Davis arrived after his departure from Washington, and in order that there be no delay in answering your questions I am replying in his absence.

With regard to the delay in the receipt by your son Lt. Amon G. Carter, Jr., of mail sent to him from the United States, I would like to suggest that part of this delay is undoubtedly due to his transfer from Oflag 9 A/Z to Oflag 64. Whenever there is a change of camp address there is a delay in forwarding mail. At the same time we are advised that there has been (in our opinion an unnecessary) delay in delivering mail to Oflag 64 due to the fact that the mail for this camp is censored at a second camp which acts as a censoring center for several camps in the Danzig region.

On several occasions the Swiss Government acting as our Protecting Power has protested to the German Army High Command because of this delay in forwarding mail to Oflag 64, the most recent protest having been made in April, 1943. We are hopeful that this situation will be remedied soon if a change already has not taken place.

On August 16 we noted in a letter from another American Officer interned in Oflag 64 that there was a need for additional blankets in this camp and on August 17 we cabled our representative in Geneva to send the necessary additional number of blankets to Oflag 64 from a stock of Army blankets which we have in Geneva.

Under our arrangements with the United States Army and Navy, we are doing everything possible to provide each American prisoner of war in Europe with one 11 pound package weekly of highly concentrated food including: cheese, chocolate, coffee, corned beef, dried fruit, liver paste, whole milk, oleomargarine, jam, pork luncheon meat, salmon and sugar in addition to 100 cigarettes and 2 bars of soap. The above mentioned food package supplements the German prison diet and gives each prisoner a normal 3,000 calories of food per day.

Eight of the fourteen articles mentioned above are shipped in tin and the Government through which we procure these food stuffs has never attempted to reduce the number or kind of articles to be shipped to prisoners of war because of the fact that they must be shipped in tin. Much of our food and regular mail for prisoners of war in Europe are shipped through Portugal to Geneva for distribution to the camps and it is possible that Lt. Carter referred to these shipments rather than any special ones from Portugal as Portugal has very stringent regulations covering the exportation of food.

While it is true that the German authorities do not place any restrictions on the number of packages an American prisoner of war may receive it is the policy of the United States Government and the Blockade authorities not to ship into these prison camps more food or clothing than the prisoners actually require and therefore the limitation of one 11 pound food package per prisoner per week, plus the 60-day next of kin package.

As concerns clothing the American Red Cross acting on behalf of the United States Army and Navy and on its own accord maintains in Geneva a stock of every item of clothing required by a prisoner of war and a stock of more than 30 comfort articles including everything from blankets to wash cloths for prisoners of war. This clothing and these comfort articles are moved regularly into any camp when the camp leader advises the International Red Cross Committee, Geneva that they are required. In some camps such as Oflag 64, we are at present in the process of establishing subdepots of clothing and comfort articles in addition to stocks of food packages.

I am not in a position to advise you how many shipments of mail or parcel post packages have been made from this country since April 29 as this is handled by the Post Office Department and not by the American Red Cross.

Our shipments of bulk supplies are made at the rate of two or three shipments per month via Lisbon and Marseilles or direct to Marseilles and thence to Geneva where the shipments are broken down and fed into the different camps as required. Since April 29 we have made eight such shipments. The neutral boats carrying these supplies do not run on schedules but at irregular intervals depending upon the safe conduct granted by the Belligerent Powers.

In regard to the weight and size of parcels that may be sent to prisoners of war through regular postal channels I would like to mention that the present maximum weight of 11 pounds and maximum size of 18 inches in length and 42 inches in length and girth combined is a part of the International Postal Convention adopted in Cairo, Egypt in 1933. It is not a ruling of the United States Government alone and any change would require the agreement of all countries adhering to the International Postal Union.

I am appreciative of the fact that you are deeply interested in the welfare of your son and I can assure you that we, The American

Red Cross, the United States Army and the Government also are interested in seeing that Lt. Carter gets everything that he needs for his welfare that is permitted by the German authorities and the Geneva Convention. There may be periods when due to the conditions in Europe there will be delays in mail and in the arrival of shipments of food, clothing and comfort articles at the various camps from Geneva but you may be assured that both we and the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva will be unremitting in our efforts to eliminate wherever possible these delays and achieve the most efficient service possible to these prisoners of war.

Sincerely yours,

Henry W. Dunning
Henry W. Dunning
Relief to Prisoners of War

