

October 9, 1943.

OK
with charges
make as many
copper as
possible

Honorable Norman Davis, Chairman,
American Red Cross,
National Headquarters,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Davis:

I regret the necessity of continuing to take up so much of your time regarding the difficulty that I have been encountering in connection with my son, Amon Junior, who is interned in a Prisoner of War camp in Germany, Oflag 64. It seems that the red tape in Washington is so exacting that it becomes more difficult to understand.

In my last package the Censor Department (who seem to enjoy finding something wrong with packages) returned three small paper packages of Mixture NO. 79 smoking tobacco, weighing 1 3/4 ounces each with the customary memorandum attached which reads as follows:

"This merchandise which was sent
To 2nd. Lt. Amon G. Carter, Jr.,
American P. O. W. #1595
Oflga 64, Germany
is returned because its transmission
in a Prisoner of War parcel is pro-
hibited. The balance of the parcel
has been forwarded to the addressee.

Consult the Board of Economic Warfare
Current Controls Bulletin 100 at any
Post Office for regulations regarding
parcels to Prisoners of War.

236
Form 1626 "over" 139

'Tobacco' may be sent only under
a 'Tobacco Label' ".

Hence my wire, as per the enclosed copy, herewith, to the Chief Censor
in New York.

There seems to be considerable confusion between the Red Cross, The Censor and the War Department as to just what can be sent, as you will note by the photostatic copy of a letter from my son dated ~~August 30th~~ August 30th, received ^{the previous week} October 9th, advising that he had received the first package - shipped April 29th - ~~on August 23rd~~, which is about four months - also the first two boxes of cigars, the first cigars they had had in six months. He further stated that some of the parcels which arrived were twice the size of the one I sent him. My package was sent according to War Department regulations "not exceeding 11 pounds, gross dimensions, not over 18 inches in length, nor 42 inches length and girth combined" Amon Junior further stated that evidently some of the Post Offices allowed them to come through ~~and~~ in that way and some of them even without labels - I presume special war department labels - and some packages the U. S. Censor had taken the chocolate out, while other packages arrived with as many as 48 bars in them. He also said that there is absolutely no restrictions by the Germans on what we can send in the line of food and clothes.

It is a mystery to me why the Board of Economic Warfare, or any other Board, insofar as that is concerned, should be so arbitrary in its rules and regulations as to what the next-of-kin can send to the prisoners of war. While, I realize that there must be, as stated in my telegram to the Chief Censor, rules and regulations, it seems that they are straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel. There is no real purpose served in removing these three small packages of smoking tonacco which we had previously been permitted to send, even though they do have a regulation requiring cigars, cigarettes and tobacco to be sent by the manufacturer. Then, again, as stated in my wire to the Censor, why discriminate against the prisoners of war in the matter of sending Christmas packages?

According to the present rules and regulations I can send any number of Christmas packages, one a week not exceeding five pounds, gross dimensions, not over 15 inches in length, nor 36 inches length and girth combined, to as many soldiers in the armed forces overseas as I want to - still I cannot send even one Christmas package to my son unless it happens to come within the one 11 pound package permitted every sixty days. *(or his friends)*

This a rank outrageous desobedience against prison of war - Why?

In another letter, Amon Junior states many of their officers received a lot of chocolate and food in their packages and others do not. He further states that he thinks the Germans and Red Cross are mixed up, as previously stated, because the Germans did not prohibit food coming in in tins or jars.

I received a letter, as per the enclosed copy, from the Prisoners' Aid of the Y. M. C.A., stating that their Swedish Representative had visited this camp and talked with Amon Junior on August 16th. This same information was no doubt sent to the other parents of boys located in Oflag 64, Germany.

My son's letter further asked "please start sending mostly food from now on, with razor blades, because some of the things you have been told are not true." I am not sure just what he means but it did lead me to believe that the Red Cross or its representatives have not been delivering food packages in keeping with the regular program. In other words, in any number of letters he has been sending he has said "Do not believe everything you hear about us." So there must be something wrong some way. Is there any way by cable communication with your Geneva representative to have a representative visit this camp and find out what he is referring to, which I am sure equally concerns all of the other boys in the camp, and have them

cable you. I will be delighted to take care of any expense - no matter what the amount might be - as the most important thing in my life at this time (and I am sure all of the parents feel the same way) is to see that these boys get everything that is humanly possible for their comfort, health and welfare. If the YMCA can have a representative go to the camp, it would look as though the Red Cross should be able to do the same thing. There must be some slip up some ~~place~~ place along the line.

I am writing Frank Walker and sending him a copy of this letter as well as a copy of Amon Junior's letter. Frank ~~has~~ has tried in every possible way to expedite the mail service.

The Red ^Cross is one institution to which I have always over-subscribed ^{my} assessments and this is the first personal opportunity I have had to call on them for anything. It looks to me like the Red Cross, Economic Warfare Board, or whatever agency that succeeded them, together with the Chief Censor should get together and adopt some sane, reasonable, liberal policy concerning the treatment of prisoners of war. Personally, with all due respect to the good intentions of everybody, I am just about burned up on the situation. Meanwhile, I hope that common sense, fairness and decency will prevail. I am sure it is your intention, as well as the intention of the entire Red Cross organization, to do everything humanly possible but there is a screw loose some place which is inexcusable.

Assuring you of my appreciation of everything you have done and have tried to do and hoping that you will endeavor some concentrated action of this matter, I remain

Sincerely,

Re: Walker's General