

A M E R I C A N R E D C R O S S

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 20, 1943

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

Dear Mr. Carter:

Following receipt of your letter of October 9th, I asked that a careful examination be made of every point raised in your letter. The result of this study is contained in the enclosed memorandum from Mr. Maurice Pate, Director of Relief to Prisoners of War.

Our Prisoners of War Relief service is doing its best to get aid in appropriate volume to every American prisoner held by the Axis Powers. A large volume of goods have been moved from this country to Switzerland. In the warehouses of the International Red Cross in Switzerland we constantly maintain stocks of more than one hundred different items for the use of American prisoners of war in German camps. Every department of the Government here is giving us its best cooperation to steadily improve service of all kinds to prisoners of war.

For your guidance, I should point out that the path of actually getting goods from this country into an enemy prison camp is a long one. Clearances of all kinds have to be obtained from the governments of the enemy countries. As Americans have gradually been taken prisoners, they have been scattered in small numbers throughout seventy different camps in Germany and Italy. Out of Switzerland supplies are sometimes started for a given camp, and we are then advised that the Germans have moved the Americans in this camp to another point. For this and other reasons mentioned in the attached memorandum, the supplies and the American prisoner do not always meet, and we are working in every way to bridge these gaps.

Recently, there has been a tendency on the part of the Germans to locate Americans more specifically in certain camps. This will enable the International Red Cross in Geneva to move our supplies with regularity into these permanent camps.

Oflag 64, where your son is detained, has been an unfortunate exception, among the camps to which the International Red Cross has been moving supplies out of Switzerland. On the

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attached memorandum you will note some definite details on relief shipments actually made to this camp. We have many expressions of appreciation from the families of prisoners detained in other camps, and from the prisoners themselves. By now, substantial amounts of supplies of all kinds should be available in Oflag 64.

This is to assure you that every possible step has been taken and is now being taken on behalf of our prisoners in Europe, and I trust that further letters which you will be receiving from your son will indicate the improvement of service for which we are constantly striving.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Norman H. Davis

Chairman

