

February 3, 1944.

Mrs. Edward Batte,
107 Brown Street,
Waxahachie, Texas.

Dear Mrs. Batte:

Enclosed herewith you will find a photostatic copy of a card from my son, Amon Junior dated January 1 which arrived here February 2. This is the quickest time made by any of my letters. Inasmuch as he mentioned the fact that your son had received one of the packages from Buffalo, I thought you would naturally be pleased to know about it, if you have not already heard.

I had a letter from Amon dated November 18 stating that about half of the boys in the camp did not have overcoats, and I immediately took the matter up with the Red Cross in the most vigorous way possible. The Prisoner of War Department in Washington phoned me Wednesday advising that a Red Cross representative had been in this camp on December 30 and that the boys were now well supplied with sufficient clothing including overcoats.

Mrs. Laura Vaden of 2611 Worthington, Dallas, telephone Tremont 7-3721, phoned me that she had received a letter from her son dated January 2 in which he stated that all of the boys in the camp had a nice Christmas dinner supplied by the Red Cross and they had Christmas services and everybody was fine. Mrs. Gaines J. Barron, 3200 Ethel Avenue, Waco, telephone L218W was in my office Monday and showed me letters from her husband up to December 1 indicating that they were all getting along fine.

I feel quite confident the boys are being well treated by the Germans as they should be able to see the handwriting on the wall, realizing that we have 15 or 20 times as many prisoners as they have (American prisoners in Germany now total 13,000) and the further fact that the German prisoners here are being treated the same as our own soldiers in the

72/108

field should be conducive of the very best treatment possible under the circumstances. However, it is unfortunate that Captain Richard Torrence died from apoplexy, as you will note from the enclosed clipping. This might have been caused by some previous injury.

It is distressing of course that we are unable to do any more for them than the regulations permit, however there is much consolation in the fact that they are so much better off than the ones who have no chance to return, especially than the unfortunate prisoners in the Japanese camps, so we have much to be thankful and cheerful for.

Any information that I receive from Amon Junior will be promptly forwarded to you.

Sincerely,

ACC.SB