

In Nathan Africa
April 15, 1943

Mr Amos A. Carter Sr.
76 North Star Telegram
Ft Worth, Texas

Dear Mr Carter,

It has been two months and one day since we last saw Amos yet we could not write as you well know until after you had been officially notified. The Mrs wrote you had sent her a telegram informing her that Amos was missing and we know you have been notified. While on that subject of information of all kinds and the kindest regard for my homefolks I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I hope some way to repay you somehow for it all.

We have been very fortunate in returning to the location where Amos disappeared. We are only three miles from the hill a mountain he was on. He moved practically everything onto this mountain with his battery in position right below. The early morning attack almost overran the battery in its position, the largest portion moving just in the nick of time. Pirnie was trapped and joined the infantry on the mountain where Amos had been and came out with the infantry next day. He found Amos's observation post deserted where he looked for him. I don't mean Amos quit, he did not! Apparently he came down the back side of the mountain in an effort to rejoin the battery as it pulled out. It was much safer to have stayed on the mountain which Amos certainly knew yet he tried to get to his men.

The back side of the mountain soon had 70 enemy tanks and some enemy infantry at the base of it and I sincerely believe Amos ran into this group and was captured. We all hope so! The reasoning behind such a statement is that by searching the whole area we have been able to find any trace of Amos nor the men who were with him. One of those very unfortunate circumstances

wherein a few men run into a group of tanks and there is nothing you can do. I, too, with my men were in that same predicament, but I was ^{more} fortunate than Amos because there was no infantry to take me away. The tanks went on by us after "shooting up" everything we had and left us for the infantry to pick up, but we left before it arrived. Our group walked 17 miles back to our unit, but I have a feeling Amos had to walk with the Germans.

I am not trying to build up your hopes and have no other proof except my own convictions of Amos whereabouts or fate.

I had hoped, as all of us had, that Amos would show up out of the hills ~~soon~~ for a long time (some came in two and three weeks after that eventful Valentine Day) but it has been too long now.

Hoping, wishing, and praying that you have word from him before receiving this letter, I remain willing to help (and will continue searching) in any and every way I can.

Sincerely
Gerrit M. Hoff

