

July 10, 1943 #14

2nd. Lt. Amon G. Carter, Jr., U. S. Army,
American P. O. W. #1595,
Interned at Oflag 9 A/Z, Germany,
Via New York, N. Y., USA.

Dear Cowboys:

This is letter No. 14 - I have skipped No. 13.

We were surprised today to receive word from the UMCA War Prisoners' Aid Committee that you had been transferred to the new camp 21-B and naturally I was somewhat disappointed as I felt that you had become accustomed to the old camp. However, I presume they have some justifiable reason for making the change and I hope your new surroundings will be as pleasant and agreeable as where you were located previously. We finally located your new camp on the map of German Prisoners of War Camps.

We are still anxiously awaiting to find out whether you received our first letters and especially to know whether you have received the first package. In fact, there have been two eleven pound packages sent and two boxes of cigars, 100 each, sent separately from the General Cigar Company, New York, as well as four or five packages sent from the Parcels for Prisoners of War in Buffalo, N.Y., each one consisting of 1000 cigarettts and three pounds of tobacco. In addition, we are preparing the next package for you for which we should receive labels from the War Department at an early date. We are enclosing in the next package the pair of pants which you requested and a pair of warm, tan, fleece lined gloves. Mrs. Raymond Buck sent you a pair of beautiful seal skin fur gloves, fur lined with large deep cuffs. We are not sure whether we can include these gloves in the package due to the limited space - and not altogether because of weight. Meanwhile, if not, we will try and send them separately if possible. In any event, we will enclose a list in the package which will indicate just what has been sent to you.

Mr. Leon Gross called up and insisted on sending you the pair of army pants. As a matter of fact, I think he would send you any part of the store that you could use had it have been possible. In addition he asked that I send you his love and best wishes from both he and Mrs. Gross. Incidentally, while we are on the subject, I am sure if it were left to the descretion of hundreds of your friends at home that they would send you enough eatables and everything possible that you could think of to take care of you and the entire 152 American Officers. However, unfortunately, this is not possible.

Enclosed, you will find copy of a letter from Lt. Vernon L. Wood as well as a copy of my letter. I received the letter June 15th from North Africa making inquiry about you, etc. I am sure you know him and I am sending the letter along as a matter of information to you.

Enclosed, also, is an autographed photograph to you from Bob Burns, which was made during his recent visit to Fort Worth.

I also received a letter from A. W. Grant of the San Antonio Express which states as follows:

"I am sorry you have been annoyed by the report in the express that your son had been exchanged and returned to this country. We would like very much to get a hold of the man who started the situation and we suspect one Jack H. Carter, Jr. Although we know he is no relation to you we understand that he has caused you some inconvenience in the past by impersonating your son. The report appeared in the Society Columns in connection with a fictitious notice about a dance to be given at the St. Anthony Hotel."

I also received a letter from Mr. Huntress, the Publisher, expressing his regrets and enclosing a clipping of a correction they carried in the paper.

Orlando C. Ward flew up and spent a few hours with me recently and he stated emphatically that he was under the impression that you had been advanced to a First Lieutenantcy in early February and that he was making an effort to check up and ascertain the facts. Maraist from Louisiana, as I stated in my previous letter, had the same impression.

I recently received a five page letter from Pirnie giving complete description in detail of everything that transpired and should be interesting and pleasing as it is complimentary to you.

In addition, I received a letter from Dr. Burke Brewster, who is now stationed in North Africa. You will probably remember him as the Public School Doctor. He had a nice visit with Pirnie personally and sent me an exceptionally fine letter.

I also had a letter from Sidney Wiedermann. Meantime, I have just today received a letter from Peter C. Hains--you remember he had the same position on another boat that Summerall did with yours and that he had dinner with me, or I with him, the night before they left. He is now going to be situated with Orlando.

Stanley celebrated his twenty-second anniversary with me last night in which we had Ruth, Sid Richardson, and Katrine

for dinner. Carl had to return to his office before dinner. I gave Stanley twenty-two one dollar bills with your compliments. Bill will have been on the place twenty-five years August 9th and we are going to give him a little dinner. Mable will make him a cake with 25 candles celebrating his silver anniversary at 1220 Broad Street. It might be a nice thing to mention this in one of your letters. We have kept him advised as best possible about your activities, however last Sunday I gave him a photostatic copy of all of your letters and post card to read and he had a real kick and a great deal of pleasure and seemed very happy that I had given him the letters and cards to read.

I just had the house painted and the air conditioning machine in your room is fine. Carl and Katrine are enjoying it. Carl's birthday will be July 15th, so Katrine is having a birthday party for him tonight on your boat and I am sure that all of them will wish for you.

I note what you say regarding the packages from Portugal and Mrs. Elmer Thomas' son is now located there and I am going to write him a letter and see if there is any way that he could arrange the matter of sending you a package. The difficulty in the matter of this kind is getting American money into foreign countries. However, I may be able to have him send the packages and I could reimburse him when he returns home. Mrs. Thomas called up and sent her love to you and from her daughters, as well as her son.

I hope you like your new location and that you will bear in mind what I have previously said--to adjust yourself to whatever conditions and make a good prisoner, cause your guards just as little inconvenience as possible, treat them and act just as though you would like to be treated on reversed conditions. There are about 375 German officers located at a point not far from here in Texas. I hear that one of the newspapers is sending Bob Hicks and McAlister down there sometime next week and I hope to go with them and see how they are getting along. I do know that the American Government is giving them the same service and food and equipment that they provide for our own soldiers. I am sure these boys are writing to their own folks in Germany verifying this treatment the same as you have found nice treatment from the Germans and their officials.

Again all of us want you to know how we constantly miss you and that we look forward to the day when the war is over and there can be some exchange of prisoners where both sides can have an equal number of men returned to their homes.

Give all of the other boys - Jones, Warren, Batte, Beasley and Herring and others my regards.

Heaps and Heaps of love from all of us.