

May 13, 1944.

Letter No. 56

2nd. Lt. Amon G. Carter, Jr., U. S. Army,
American P. O. W. #1595,
Interned at Oflag 64, Germany,
Via New York, N. Y. USA.

Dear Cowboy:

Your very delightful, interesting letter to Katrine dated April 5 arrived here May 9, which was excellent time. Sarahbeth had it photostated and sent a copy to Katrine who is in St. Louis. She took Hettie up to a specialist last Sunday. She called last night and stated that Hettie had gone through a thorough examination and that they would have to operate on her Saturday morning, the 13th. They found it would be necessary to remove one of her lungs entirely, as the tumorous growth had progressed to the point where it is essential to remove both the tumor and the lung. It is a very serious operation, however the doctor seems to think she will be all right. I certainly hope so, as she is a mighty sweet soul and her little daughter, Barbara Ann, is one of the sweetest children I have ever known.

I have been home since last Monday night with a bad cold and came down to the office this afternoon long enough to give Sarahbeth this letter to you. Ruth left this morning to spend a few days with her Aunt Olive in Oklahoma City and will return here Tuesday night.

You state in your letter that you have received my letter of February 27th. You must have meant February 26, as I find no letter in my file dated the 27th. This letter of the 26th was Letter No. 46. We are sending all of your letters now with the airmail stamps. As a matter of fact, we are using up the envelopes that were previously stamped in connection with the Special Cover on June 12, 1943. All of these envelopes have from 75¢ to \$1.00 in postage on them.

You mention in two of your letters the fact that some of the boys had received letters to the effect that the Government had asked their parents to write only once a week. I think this must be a mistake and I quite agree with you -- it would be absolutely unfair. So far I have received no communication from the Government indicating how often we could write. The only restrictions we have are in connection with sending packages, including cigar packages. By the way, we should have the labels any day now for your May package. We will follow your instructions and eliminate the shorts.

I think it is fine for the Germans to be as generous as they are in making no restrictions on the number of letters you receive as it

does cause the censors an awful lot of trouble to read the letters and where they are in long hand they are more difficult than when they are typewritten.

I am glad you liked the November parcel, and we are writing Mr. Harper giving him your thanks for the pipes. We will hustle around and see if we can find some Nescafe and cheese. I am glad to know that you have had two more Canadian parcels.

You request in your letter to Katrine to make copies of all of Dad's letters so you can see them when you get home. I presume this means that the censors probably eliminated some of the things in my letters to you, although, frankly I have tried as best I could to comply with the censorship and enclose or send nothing that either the German authorities or our Government could take exception to. As for my letters, we have kept copies of all of them in a file except a few that I have sent you in long hand.

I note what you say about Col. Drake writing the Adjutant General on March 23 and suggesting that I read the letter. This would be rather difficult unless I should ask the Adjutant General for a copy of it.

I also note that you enjoyed the letter about Sonny Neely and wish you were in his place. You would really change things around. It was hard to figure out your meaning until I went back and dug up Katrine's letter of Last October to see what she had told you about Sonny.

You make reference about sending some snapshots which you sent back from Africa and as soon as Katrine gets back from St. Louis, we will send some duplicates. Meanwhile, we sent you a long time back copies of all of the pictures which were made from your film sent from Africa. We also acknowledged in a number of my letters the money that you sent in different letters. As a matter of fact, in your last letter dated February 13, 1943, you sent some new money stating that you had just been paid and it was different from the previous kind of money which they paid you. I acknowledged this in one of my early letters.

I have saved all of your letters, had them photostated and sent copies to your mother, Bertice and Ruth and in most cases to Jean. Each time we receive a letter we immediately have it photostated and send the copies out and keep the original. We are going to have them all filed in a nice leather bound book, so you can see, that you will have a lot of interesting reading matter when you get home, including the hundreds of letters and telegrams sent in at the time you were missing as well as additional letters after you were located as a Prisoner of War.

We have heard nothing from Miss (Lt) Baniak. If she writes, we will certainly let you know where she is located.

We will also notify all of the people mentioned in your letter stating that you have received their letters and express your thanks to them, etc.

We are tickled to death that you are gaining back some of your weight and I can appreciate the fact that you are looking forward to Spring.

It is nice and warm today. As a matter of fact, I was out in the yard for about an hour to get a good sun baking to try and shake me loose from my cold.

You state in your letter about 100 new officers are due in your camp on that date, April 5. I am looking forward to a letter from you advising me the names and locations of the boys so that I can contact their parents and let them know that you have talked with them. I am trying to locate the parents of Pvt. Franklin, whom you referred to from Fort Worth.

We are delighted to know that the parcels are well packed and arrive intact. This is very encouraging and I would like to know if you have had any more parcels arrive without labels or if anyone is receiving a parcel larger than you receive. When you gave me this last information, I protested to the American censors and they claimed emphatically that no packages had gone without labels and that no packages had been passed other than the regulation size.

You state in your letter that you haven't had a letter from Jean since October 31. I am confident she writes you regularly and I am at a loss to understand why you don't receive her letters. Meanwhile, we mailed Jean a copy of your letter to Katrine of the 5th. It may be you will receive a package of her letters all in a bunch.

While I was in New York I attended a cocktail party and met a Mr. Rosbach who has a son, Captain Richard Rosbach, at your same camp. Mr. Rosbach's father in New York is a good friend of Gordon Rentschler, Arthur Sulzburger and a number of my friends. I am sure you probably read in the paper that Frank Knox died in the latter part of April. I missed him at this particular party as he has always attended heretofore.

I just had a letter from Red Talbot, dated April 22 from Italy. He stated the previous night there was a get-together of all the "ex" A & M students and there were 36 officers attending. He stated that Lt. Col. Burke Brewster was there. He is now the Corps Surgeon for their outfit. He closed the letter by stating that the next time I wrote you to give you his regards and that he hopes to see you home safely before the year has ended.

I have just received some new First Day covers dated in Ogden, Utah, May 10. This is a new 3¢ stamp commemorating the linking up of the first Trans-Continental Railroad. The stamps are in blocks of eight and some of the envelopes in blocks of four, all carrying sheet numbers, etc. They are very pretty, showing the old time locomotive. No doubt we will receive quite a few more.

I just received a letter from a friend of yours who autographed your book twice, dated in Washington, May 9. He states as follows: "Dear Amon: It was more than kind of you to send me those choice steaks from the Grand Champion steer of the 1944 Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show. I was out of town and they were forwarded to me and enjoyed by all. I hope Amon Junior is getting along all right. Thank you most heartily. My best wishes to you. Very Sincerely Yours".

Everybody is fine and all of your friends continue to ask about you. Mrs. Yarbrough is here from Santa Fe and was out to the house last night and had dinner with Ruth and Dad. She has invited you and Ruth and Jean to come out and pay her a visit when you return home. She has a marvelous house and it is a most restful place where you could sleep to your heart's content.

The Texas Big Bend Park Association of which your Dad has been President since it was organized has finally gotten all the land together consisting of 691,000 acres down on the Mexican border in the bend of the Colorado River. It will be the 27th National Park in the United States and it a really beautiful scenic layout. The Governor has designated your Dad as the President of the Big Bend Park Association, to take the Deed to Washington and turn it over to the President of the United States and the Secretary of the Interior, which I will probably do some time next week.

Oh yes, I almost forgot to tell you, I went bear hunting in West Texas and killed another bear about the same size as the two previous ones. This has turned out to be a very happy hunting ground and I hope to get 15 or 20 of these big hides for you; however, I hope you will be home and can join me in some of these hunts before the bears are all exterminated. I also have been bear hunting down in Mississippi. I have had some very good success on some hunting ground I have owned for the past 4 or 5 years.

The big steaks referred to in the letter above are from the Grand Champion steer and they weighed about four pounds apiece. As stated to you in one of my previous letters, I wish I could have sent over enough of them to give all of your brother prisoners, especially from Texas, and your guards a little banquet. Meanwhile, we will have plenty of them left when you get back home.

Mildred was tickled to death when I read your letter to Katrine to her where you acknowledged the letter from her. Poor old Luch has had a tough time. He was sick for about seven weeks and returned to the Club and was hardly able to make the grade, so I made a deal for him to work for me for the next 30 days and I am paying his wages to stay at home and rest. Otherwise, I am afraid he would not pull through. Luch always says, "Mr. Carter, be sure and give Amon my best, and tell him I am not spending my money on Policy or talking dominos.

Sarahbeth is holding down the office while Katrine is away and I remember your telling Katrine one day if you ever got your way, you wanted a younger secretary, so I recommend her to you. I think you would make a fine combination.

I got in touch with one of your friends, a Mr. Record, and read him your letter about seeing if it would be possible to send you some comic strips. Inasmuch as it is against the rules to send clippings, he photographed one of the strips and then printed it in the photo department of his newspaper. I hope the censor will pass this and if there is no objection from either the American or German censors, I will arrange with Mr. Record to have a number of them made for you and send them to you regularly.

Give Johnny Jones and all of the other boys my best regards. With heaps and heaps of love and the usual statement that our principal anxiety and concern is over your welfare and the happy time we will look forward to when you can be back with your loved ones, I remain

Affectionately,