

May 10, 1943.

Mr. Harold Crookes,
Maryland Casualty Company,
1520 K Street, N. W.,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Harry:

Your letter of the 7th enclosing a letter from your friend, Rex, received for which please accept my thanks. The letter was very interesting.

As, I think, I told you in person, Amon Junior was on an observation post in the Lessouda Hills facing Faid Pass on the night of February 13th. The following morning the Germans attacked with overwhelming forces of infantry and tanks, far superior in number to the Allies, who I am sure had not anticipated the attack. Amon Junior stated in his last letter of February 13th that he had just received Katrine's Christmas package that morning and that he would write to her "tomorrow", (Sunday, February 14th), and that it was the first chance he had had to write in some time which indicated they had not expected the attack.

In a letter received from the Captain of Amon's Battery, who escaped capture, he stated that he had sent Amon Junior to this outpost for observation duty and he reported to the battery during the battle what was taking place and where to place their fire. He informed them that a larger German force was flanking them which the battery did not know. They were forced to withdraw and were over run. The Captain made his way up the mountain and after two days finally made his way back to the battery. Amon Junior never showed up.

In our last letter from Amon Junior received April 29th (written March 20th) and written in a prisoner of war camp in Germany about twenty-five miles Southeast of Rotenberg, he stated that he was captured on February 23rd, after spending nine days behind the German lines in an effort to make his way back to his own Company; that he was knocked unconscious by the Arabs (he does not say how many, how it happened, whether he was asleep or what) who took both of his cameras (Leica and 16mm Eastman movie Camera) together with the films, his pistol, his watch, his money and all of his clothes. However, for some reason or other he was

permitted to keep his Express money orders. The Germans flew him to Italy by plane and then to Germany he went by train and to the prison camp in Germany.

It is not altogether the matter of the value of the cameras but it would be extremely interesting to be able to recover them on account of the history in connection with them. I would be glad to give a reward of \$500.00 for the cameras and watch if possible. The chances are the Arabs received a reward for turning him over to the Germans and probably sold the cameras as they would be unable to get additional films. Of course, if the Arabs turned them over to the Germans it would be difficult to trace them. Now that the Americans have captured practically all of this country it may be that there is a faint possibility of recovering these articles. If so, it could be done only through your friend Rex Ingram and his very fine connection with the "powers that be" in that neck of the woods. I realize it is somewhat of an imposition to ask anyone to work on such a matter and presumptuous on my part to even suggest it; however, if there is anything he could do I would appreciate it tremendously.

Amon is permitted to write only three letters a month and four post cards; however Katrine and I are writing him frequently and he will probably receive quite a bunch of letters at one time.

I have been advised that the Red Cross is distributing to these prisoners a package of food each week. I understand the Germans are treating them fine and I imagine that Amon Junior will make the best of his situation and come back home a much wiser young man - at least we hope so -- insofar as his coming home is concerned. He still has a lot of rocky hazards to overcome, meanwhile we are so pleased and delighted to know that he is alive and well and his actual whereabouts that it makes everything else fade into insignificance. When he does get home he will have a very interesting collection of letters and telegrams from all over the country including quite a few from England - probably a thousand to twelve-hundred of them - so he will know there were many people interested and concerned over his welfare.

Please accept my thanks for your tireless

efforts in behalf of Lt. Van Zandt and I hope his problems will solve themselves.

Mr. and Mrs. Deakins are fine and we are sorry you are not here this evening as we are having some extra-special juicy steaks for dinner which will just about fill the bill.

I hope you are fine and with best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

AGC.KD