

COPY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON

In reply refer to
SWP 711.62114A/4-345

April 13, 1945

My dear Senator Connally:

I have received your communication of April 3, 1945, with its enclosure, a copy of a telegram dated March 31, from Mr. Amon Carter, further in regard to the transfer of American officer prisoners of war formerly held at Oflag 64. In this connection I refer to my letter of April 6, 1945.

Information just received telegraphically from The American Legation at Bern reports that a representative of the Swiss Government visited Oflag 13-B at Hammelburg March 25, 1945. On that date 1291 American officers including 423 officers from Oflag 64 were detained at the camp.

According to recent press reports Hammelburg has now been overrun by the American Armed Forces. Unfortunately it appears that the German authorities were successful in moving to the interior most of the American prisoners detained in that area prior to the arrival of the American forces. However, as a result of the continuing swift advances of the Allied Forces in the west it is hoped that these American prisoners of war may soon be overtaken and liberated.

You may wish to inform Mr. Carter that it is becoming increasingly common for next of kin to receive direct from the prisoner of war information which has not been reported through official channels to this Government by the German authorities. It appears evident that because of the chaotic conditions now existing in Germany the German authorities have apparently found it to be administratively impossible to continue to supply the customary notifications regarding the movements and new addresses of individual prisoners of war. It is gratifying that mail from American prisoners of war in Germany is being permitted to go forward and is reaching relatives and friends in this country. The time in transit of prisoner of war mail has been appreciably reduced since under arrangements concluded some time ago, such mail is being carried by air from Switzerland to the United States.

As requested by you the copy of Mr. Carter's telegram which was enclosed with your communication is returned herewith.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) E. R. Stettinius, Jr.

Enclosure:

Telegram dated
March 31, 1945.

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