

1744 "R" Street, NW.,  
Washington, D. C.  
24 December 1944

Mr. Amon G. Carter, Sr.,  
The Fort Worth Star-Telegram,  
Fort Worth, Texas.

My dear Mr Carter:

In my conversation with you last night I covered all the points that are in this letter. I hope these will help you in your efforts to improve the conditions of our Pows in Germany. I must reiterate though, that if the powers that be find out that this came from me they will hang me high and wide. This I am not afraid of as I am as willing to sacrifice my career in the interest of truth and justice as I was willing to sacrifice it on the battlefield that my country should triumph over its enemies. However, if I am cracked down it will end my efforts to promote things for the welfare of my men over there. I was told by a senior officer who had the most friendly feelings for me that the thing I was bucking was too great and that I would fall by the wayside if I continued.

You can see that there are so many ways to keep me still.. even as I was told I might be reduced to my Regular Army rank of Major. It is sickening to realize that there are reasons we know nothing about at work to prevent the truth coming out but such is the fact.

However, if a court or a fair-minded investigation were to be made I could be called for my evidence and give it without repercussion. In the interest of getting things done to help our POWs is why I have asked that my part be kept back. Never fear that I will let you down, I shall always back up 100% every word I say, with all I have.

I talked with Wasmer and he agreed with me that the Germans only respected force and detested dilly-dallying as evidence of weakness. He appeared to be a fair minded man. At the time I talked with him I knew nothing about the Post's story. He said he hoped the Germans would allow a package of food to be sent in to the camps each week and admitted the Germans had taken all of the reserve. All of the Red Cross officials know this. Our State Department has made a protest, according to Mr. Pate and Mr. Cotton over the seizing and destruction, in some cases, of the red cross food. why is it being kept from the Public? Only the highest authority could say.

Mrs. Waters told me that Gil Redfern, the publicity man for the American Red Cross told her that the story of Peters and Wasmer was a very fair story which told the truth but of course did not go into the worst phases, that it was submitted to censorship and was returned so cut up and changed that it could not be recognized. Redfern said a substituted article was released to the press and that was the one the Post carried. Redfern said the "Powers that be, far beyond their control, changed it and substituted the article" that he had to submit if he wanted to keep his job.

Mrs. Waters also said that Major Starr( G-2 intelligence) told her sometime ago about the seizing of the Red Cross food by the Germans. He just returned to this country the other day and told her this particularly applied to Oflag 64-- all the reserve stock being taken by the Germans.

I think Mrs. Waters would verify What Redfern said to her if you should write her. However, I do know she will stand behind me in what she has said. I do not think any of the Red Cross people would deny these things if they were asked. They appear to be only carrying out their instructions. But you can see, Mr Carter, how essential it is to preserve our sources of information by not divulging their names until, if it is necessary, we smoke these people out into either doing something good or a drag out into the open of why nothing is done. I know if something isn't done to insure food and supplies reaching our men they will die like the Russians and the Italians.

Just this week I got a letter from Mrs Dicks, wife of Capt. James H. Dicks, Oflag 64, letter dates 10 Oct." Suffering from bad cold, other wise alright. If we had coal or some fuel other than what we can get from our weekly Red Cross parcels so we could get the room slightly warmer these chilly evenings" As I told you we always burned the cardboard red cross boxes for cooking and heating purposes.

General Arnold called me and asked if I would go talk to Mrs. A and said he wanted to talk with me later. The next day I went to see her. She had an Air Force Lt. in who had spent five months in the camp that later murdered about 66 officers. This Lt. was inclined to give the Germans much credit for their work. He admitted only five months and most of that in the hospital. I could see she was not much impressed by my experience as she stated of course it was to be expected that some camps would be worse than others. However the German High Command and the Y said Oflag 64 was the best in Germany. That of course is not what the Red cross says- in an effort to explain lack of supplies. The senior officer, Col. Spivey, Air Force, used to have tea with the German Commandant, according to the Y man. Later this same camp murdered all those officers referred to above. I have talked to officers from that camp, Luft III, and they said it was pretty bad. I only know of two camps I was in and the conditions I have described are absolutely true. I have talked to and have had sworn statements from men in all camps in Germany that have had Americans and they swear the conditions are the same throughout. Any man who says differently has sold out to the enemy by accepting personal favors at the expense of his fellow Americans.

I am distressed that I should be the bearer of bad news, particularly at this time of the year, but I believe the situation is as represented, that our brave soldiers who have given their liberty for their country are in need of help, and that unless I did all I could to help them I would be failing in my duty.

Quincey joins me in sending our best wishes to you and Ruth for an enjoyable Christmas. Please remember that Amon is young, strong and healthy and will get along better than most of them. With kindest thoughts, I remain

Sincerely,

*Thomas D. Drake*  
 Thomas D. Drake,  
 Colonel, G. S. C.

*my first attempt  
 at the typewriter for  
 three years - hence  
 so many typing errors!*