

October 16, 1943.

Brig. Genl. Patrick J. Hurley,
The Shoreham Building,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Pat:

Your letter of October 12th received and I note what you say regarding your investigation concerning Amon Junior's promotion and the fact that they had no record of any recommendation.

Colonel Charles P. Summerall, Jr., now located at the Armed Force School, Fort Knox, Ky., told me over the telephone sometime in March that he had recommended Amon Junior for a promotion from Second to First Lieutenancy the early part of February, 1943, and prior to his capture by the Germans on February 23rd, as a prisoner of war. However, he was reported "missing in action" at Faid Pass, February 14, 1943. Incidentally, he hid behind the German lines nine days before being knocked unconscious by the Arabs and turned over to the Germans.

I wrote Colonel Summerall on May 12th, as follows:

"You stated in my telephone conversation with you that you had recommended Amon Junior for promotion. I wonder if there has been any action on your recommendation and as to whether the fact that he is a prisoner would make any change in the status of the case? I have never made any effort regarding Amon Junior's promotion. As a matter of fact, he has never mentioned it to me at any time and I am sure he would be embarrassed if he knew his father had made any effort in his behalf as he is somewhat conscientious in that respect."

Colonel Summerall answered this letter May 22nd, as follows:

"Mr. Amon Carter,
Fort Worth, Texas.

Dear Mr. Carter,
Thank you very much for your letter and for the

enclosures. It is very reassuring to read the letters from Amon Junior and I hope that all is as well with him as can be under the circumstances. It is reasonable to believe that his letters present a true picture and no pressure is brought to bear to make him write otherwise.

"As concerns his promotion, Major Stipp (George W. Stipp of the 91st Field Artillery) wrote me that none of my recommendations had been approved and that the officer who eventually took over the 91st, Field Artillery Battalion elected to make his own selections. I hope eventually Amon's promotion, along with several others will go through.

"I hope the news from Amon will continue reassuring and that before long an exchange of prisoners will find him back in the American forces.

"With warm personal regards in which Mrs. Summerall joins me, I am

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) C. P. Summerall, Jr."

You will note from this letter that Colonel Summerall former Commanding Officer of the 91st Field Artillery, of which Amon Junior was Second Lieutenant in Battery B, recommended him for promotion prior to the time that Colonel Summerall returned to Fort Knox and prior to the time that Amon Junior was captured at Faid Pass.

As a matter of record, Amon Junior entered Culver Military Institute when he was fifteen years old in the fall of 1935 before he was 16 on the following December 23, 1935. He graduated from Culver June 8, 1938 at the age of 18 and following his graduation from Culver he spent six weeks at Fort Knox in actual training in the artillery with the big guns and received his Commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Officers Reserve, to become effective at the age of 21. On December 23, 1940, he signed the commission (his 21st birthday) and sent it in to the War Department stating he was ready for service.

Meanwhile, prior to this, in the Fall of 1938 he entered the University of Texas and attended college there for three years. He was called into the service on July 1, 1941 a year prior to the time he would have graduated from the University of Texas. Therefore, he had been in the service twenty months when he was captured. About ten months of this was training in Fort Knox including maneuvers through the Southern States; two months at Fort Dix, four months in Northern Ireland, two months in England and about two months in North Africa. He will have been a prisoner of war eight months the 23rd of October. He is still a Second Lieutenant, although he was recommended for a promotion the early part of February before his capture.

As stated in my letter to Colonel Summerall, I have never made an effort in any manner, shape or form to contact any of Amon's officers or anyone in the War Department; and, as stated previously, he has never discussed the matter of promotion or made any complaint. He did add a postscript to his last letter of September 6th: "I am the third oldest 2nd Lt. here and all three of us from the same outfit".

So, here is a youngster who spent three years in Culver Military Institute, took his additional required training at Fort Knox, served twenty months in the Army and all maneuvers in Louisiana, Alabama, and through the South, - two months at Fort Dix, 4 months tough training in rainy and bad muddy weather in Northern Ireland, two months of the same kind of weather in England, two of the ships of his convoy were sunk enroute to Africa and two months training in Africa. The entire episode of the Faid Pass battle was extremely unfortunate and from press reports and all other indications, the capture by the Germans of all of these some 2000 boys might have been avoided if the Intelligence Department had been a little more alert in knowing when and where the enemy was going to strike, thereby not have subjected these boys to being overrun with 76 big German tanks and about three German soldiers to each American man. Still this is one of the unfortunate things that come in war and I am not complaining and Amon Junior has never complained, but they failed, after his experience, to follow the recommendation of the Colonel in charge of the Battalion and promote him to a First Lieutenant.

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It looks like, or makes me feel like it is somewhat of a discrimination not only for Amon Junior but for any of the other boys that may have been recommended at that time. These boys have all lost about forty pounds in weight, receive two meals a day and we cannot even send them a Christmas present, the same as we can send the other boys overseas - that is we cannot send a package of any kind other than the regular 11 pound package every sixty days. Amon has been in the prisoner of war camp about eight months and only received one package.

You will note from the enclosed telegram I sent the Chief Censor that I am somewhat "exercised" over their treatment. In one of Amon's letters he states that some of the packages arriving have been twice as large as the regulation package he received from me. Some of the packages contained as many as 48 bars of chocolate while the Censors removed less than six ounces of smoking tobacco in my package to Amon. I am writing Norman Davis, Chairman of the American Red Cross, and to Frank Walker, Postmaster General, suggesting that they get together with the Chief Censor and try and adopt some sane, reasonable plan that will not discriminate against these boys.

Pardon me for writing you this lengthy letter. I am just leaving for New York and will be at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel the next week or ten days. If you should happen to be in New York I will be delighted to see you. Meanwhile, I hope if you make another journey you will be successful and have happy landings as well as take offs.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,