

February 1, 1944

Honorable Norman H. Davis
American National Red Cross
National Headquarters
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Davis:

I hesitate to write you in connection with this matter because I know that it is impossible for you, as Chairman of the National Red Cross, to give specific attention to individual complaints. On the other hand, the matter which I want to bring to your attention is quite important from a local and state standpoint and might conceivably seriously affect the future success of the Red Cross in this area.

I understand that Mr. Amon G. Carter of this city has from time to time written and wired you in connection with the treatment of his son, Amon Carter, Jr., who is a prisoner of war in Germany, OFLAG 64. More recently, and as of January 13th, Mr. Carter wired you in connection with the fact that his son, among some 150 others at the same prison camp, had insufficient clothing and no overcoats.

I realize and am sure that upon reflection Mr. Carter will realize that the difficulties of equipping prisoners of war under existing circumstances are almost insurmountable. Indeed, the difficulties which confront the Army and Navy in supplying

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active troops on many fronts may prolong the war.

Locally more than 15,000 people are engaged in volunteer activities of the Red Cross. In addition to the normal activities of the Red Cross and the services which it performs, both for the men in the Armed Forces and their families, we have undertaken the organization and operation of a Red Cross Blood Donor Center. No greater contribution could, of course, be made by those at home for the benefit of the men and women in the Armed Forces than a participation in this activities.

As Chairman of the local Red Cross and as a close personal friend of both Mr. Carter and his son, Amon, Jr., I am naturally distressed at the news contained in Amon, Jr.'s letter and hope, of course, that every effort will be made to remedy the situation which Amon, Jr. reports.

Mr. Carter has heretofore given unstintedly of his time and money to the activities of the Red Cross.

I am sure that the Red Cross, through the International Red Cross, is making periodic inspections of German prison camps in order to ascertain if the terms and conditions of the Geneva Treaty are being complied with. Here in this section of the country there are located several German prison camps and I think I can say that these camps are models of efficiency and

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that the prisoners are being given every consideration. It is only natural when we know that German prisoners in our own localities are receiving good treatment to resent reports of bad treatment to our own soldiers in Germany.

I suggest that some immediate steps be taken, if you have not already done so, to ascertain conditions in Germany and to rectify the condition which is the subject of Amon, Jr.'s letter. If I recall the situation correctly, representatives of the Red Cross and other agencies are accorded the privilege of visiting prison camps for just this purpose. A representative group of American citizens should be designated for this purpose, safe passage arranged for and the inspection expedited in every way possible.

I am sure that Mr. Carter's complaint in this matter is not the only one and that there are many other instances which could and should be corrected as a result of a comprehensive survey by representative people. Mr. Carter is probably more articulate than others. Mr. Carter's communication, however, serves to bring the matter forcibly to the attention of the national organization of the American Red Cross.

Surely with the widespread interest in the activities of the Red Cross and the overwhelming interest in the welfare of

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our prisoners of war, the national organization of the Red Cross could well undertake the sponsorship of an independent, comprehensive investigation into conditions as they actually exist and take such steps as are necessary to improve such conditions.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. W. Hanger".

RKH:mb

