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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND CURRENCY

180 - 37th. St.
Des Moines, Iowa
January 18, 1945

PHILIP LEVY, CLERK

Mr. Amon Carter
Fort Worth, Texas

My dear Amon,

I missed you the last couple times you were in Washington and as I have been out home for a month, have not had a chance to visit with you about our boys. I understand you had a visit with Col. Drake and he gave you a first hand report such as he gave me. Enclosed is copy of a commendation which the Colonel brough back to me and which as you can well realize affords us much pride.

Just before the close of the last session of Congress, our good friend Senator Tom Connolly introduced a bill providing for the advancement of one grade for each year of imprisonment of American soldiers, commencing with February 1943. This to apply to all ranks up to, but not including Colonels. While a similar bill ~~confining~~ only to prisoners of war in the Pacific theatre passed the Senate, it like Connolly's bill died there with the old Congress. Senator Connolly immediately appreciated the injustice of recognizing our prisoners of war in one theatre of operation without similar recognition to all prisoners of war and it was to correct this injustice that he introduced his bill.

You and I have seen so many Lieutenant Colonels and even higher ranks in Washington and the various headquarters, that we can fully appreciate that the boys who have risked their lives and are now wasting months behind prison wires are really the forgotten soldiers. I presume the War Department opposed this legislation, but that is to be expected. I am bringing these things to your attention because I feel ^{certain} something of your interest and I know that a word from you to Tom Connelly would be much appreciated by him.

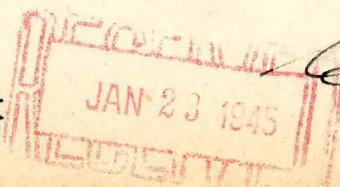
I hope to be back in Washington for brief periods after the first of the month and shall make it a point to see you when you are next in the city.

Personal regards.

Yours very truly,

CLH:K

Encl.



Clyde Herring

Oflag 64
Alzburgund, Germany
14 February 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation

TO: Captain Clyde E. Herring, O-351365, U.S.A.

1. On 15 February 1943, while S-2, 168th Infantry, when the entire force had been scattered and the remainder completely encircled, you volunteered to go to an observation post, located on the highest peak in the front line of the position and there observe and report on enemy activity.

During this day and throughout the next you maintained your position there, under constant and direct fire, and kept the force commander informed by telephone of all enemy attacks and movements to the north and the south.

Due to your bravery, devotion to duty and inestimable conduct of your post under fire in this exposed position, timely and correct steps were able to be made to counteract the enemy attack.

2. It is with great pride in your achievement that I hereby commend you for your soldierly conduct.

THOMAS D. DRAKE
Colonel, U. S. Army
(Then Commanding 168th Infantry)

Captain Herring Tells of Germany

SENATOR'S SON IN NEW CAMP

Other Des Moines Men With Him.

A separate prison camp has been set up for Americans in Germany, according to word received from Capt. Clyde Edsel Herring, son of former United States Senator and Mrs. Clyde L. Herring.

The Americans previously had been in a camp which also served for English prisoners.

Captain Herring, 28, has been a prisoner for six months since his capture in North Africa where he was serving as an infantry intelligence officer.

In the same camp with Captain Herring are: Capt. Floyd Burgeson, former Des Moines physician and surgeon; First Lieutenant Richard Secor, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Secor, 115 Glenview drive; and the Rev. Stephen Kane, who was for two years assistant pastor of St. Ambrose cathedral in Des Moines and is a brother of the Rev. Bart Kane, pastor of St. John's church.

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Capt. Clyde Edsel Herring.
Pictured in German Prison Camp.

Jones Nephew.

Others in the camp include Lieut. John Jones, a nephew of Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones; and Lieut. Amon G. Carter, jr., son of the Fort Worth, Tex., newspaper publisher.

The letters from Captain Herring say that he had received no mail up to July 11, the date of his last message.

Excerpts from his letters follow:

"May 30, 1943—No word yet but a couple of letters have come through from the states so I do expect to get one next month. . . Yesterday I played cricket for the first time. . . I found there's a lot more to the game than one believes by merely watching it.

Parole Walks.

"Also last week they started giving us 'parole' walks. We went 80 in a group down to a spot on the river. A few went in swimming but the water is still a bit too cold. It was very pleasant, for even a short time, to be outside again and walking on the grass. I intend to go again next time. . . .

"In the meantime save the Life and Time so when it's all over I can find out what happened. I'm feeling fine. Have gained some and now weigh 145 pounds."

A letter of June 20 included the following:

"Have moved to a new camp—had a most interesting train ride across Germany—saw a couple of big castles I should have liked to have gone through, and scores of tiny vil-changed for centuries.

"Our new camp is made up entirely of Americans—we are housed in another old school building—we have a recreation area, chapel, garden and hospital.

"I have an elementary French class to teach and have also been asked to teach some American history. Unfortunately we have no books on the last course and I hesitate to rely on memory alone which wouldn't do justice to the subject."

On the Fourth.

A letter written July 4 said in part:

"Independence Day greetings to all. We are celebrating our independence today also. Noth-

ing much—just a ball game between the senior and junior officers and a short program—songs of the different states and sections.

"Rather difficult to write all the time without any letters coming in. I've been a prisoner of war going on five months now and should have gotten some mail. . . .

Little to Write.

"In a new camp there is little to write about until we really get settled and functioning — our theater hasn't gotten started yet but we hope to get some plays and revues underway before long—the library has several hundred books now—I'm managing to go through all of them.

"One thing, when I get out of here I'll be well read."

A postcard written July 11 to Monte Herring, son of Lawrence Herring, the captain's brother, contained the following:

"You know when I got out of law school at Drake I thought I was all through with schools—and now I'm living in a school building all the time now!

"Our chaplain (The Rev. Stephen Kane) was sick today so I gave the sermon in church. Bet you didn't know I was a preacher."