

February 2, 1944.

Honorable Jesse H. Jones,
Care Lamar Hotel,
Houston, Texas.

Dear Jesse:

It was a pleasure to have a chance to visit with you over the telephone and I hope that you will soon recover sufficiently from your unfortunate accident to enable you to return to Washington, where I am sure you have plenty of work awaiting you.

I had a phone call this morning from the Prisoner of War Department in Washington advising me that the Red Cross had a representative in Oflag 64 on December 30 who stated that the overcoats and sufficient clothes had been delivered to the prisoners in this camp, further stating that the Red Cross had more than 1,000 surplus food packages in this camp to be delivered to the American prisoners regularly in the event of any delay in the arrival of regular packages, which they are supposed to supply each prisoner one package a week. This is certainly good news and I am sure that Both John and Amon Junior, as well as the other boys there will be taken care of in the matter of food and clothing.

Captain Richard Torrence from Waco died in this camp, his mother was notified by the War Department from Washington Monday through information received from the Red Cross. Amon Junior in his letter of October 20 made reference to the fact that Captain Torrence and a number of other Texas prisoners had arrived at the camp. They are in the 36th Division and made the first landing in Italy. I am enclosing herewith a copy of my wire to the Red Cross as well as a copy of my wire to Mrs. Torrence in Waco. I am trying to find out further particulars. It seems strange that an officer of 25 years of age should die of apoplexy, and I was naturally concerned as to whether there were other deaths. Incidentally, Amon

Junior has been sending me the names of all the prisoners that have arrived and we have contacted their families direct from my office advising them of their location and how to send packages, mail, etc. In many cases this information has been sent to them prior to hearing full particulars from the War Department. In this way I have kept in rather close contact with the parents of other prisoners. Mrs. Vaden of Dallas phoned me last night about the fact that she had a letter from her son dated January 2 arriving here the 31st. This is remarkable service for a letter to come through in 29 days. The letter stated that they had a delightful Christmas dinner supplied by the Red Cross. They had a Christmas service and everybody was OK, so we at least know that John and Amon Junior and the other boys were all right at this date. I am looking for a letter now any day as my last letter was dated December 7.

I am enclosing photostatic copies of Amon's letters of October 10, 20 and November 18, which I thought might be of interest to you as it indicates to a certain extent how they are getting along. I also have a letter from Frank Walker, a copy of which I enclose herewith.

I hope you are feeling better and with best wishes,

Sincerely,



ACC.SB