

February 16, 1944.

Mrs. Dalton Medlen,
104 Star Street,
Bonham, Texas.

Dear Mrs. Medlen:

Upon my return to the city this morning, I found your letter of February 14th concerning your husband, Lt. Dalton Y. Medlen, who is a prisoner of war in Oflag 64, Germany, and thoroughly appreciate and understand your anxiety.

With reference to your questions, I can only give you our experience insofar as my son, Amon Junior, is concerned; however the conditions now as compared to a year ago are apparently somewhat better and these matters are being handled more expediently. My son was reported missing in action on February 14th and on April 14th I was advised that he was a prisoner of war in Germany. On April 29th, I received his first letter which was dated March 20th and of course we started writing him on April 29th and it was July 1st before Amon Junior received any mail from home. Since that time the quickest we have received his mail has been about thirty days and we have gone as long as seven weeks without hearing from him. It seems to depend on the boat sailings and how long it takes the mail to be censored. It takes the packages from four to six months to reach them.

Naturally, I have been watching the progress of the war near Poland with great anxiety as I feel that the Germans will make every effort to protect and keep all the prisoners of war and still I keep hoping that maybe the Russians who are still four or five hundred miles from this camp might get in and release them. All we can do is pray and hope that the war will end in Europe and these boys will be returned to us.

While I am sure they don't have sufficient food and clothing, still I feel certain they are not tortured or abused and that they have enough to sustain them. They are apparently getting a little more to eat and the Red Cross advised that they had a representative in this camp on December 30th and they boys had been provided sufficient warm clothing and overcoats. They had been issued blankets earlier. A letter from Amon Junior dated December 19th

advised," The Red Cross has sent each officer a special box of food which will make it a very nice Christmas for us and for once I am going to eat until I am full. Also the German Commandant has given us permission to keep our lights on until 11:30, so we should have a swell time. Just finished eating supper about thirty minutes ago. It was sour kraut and potatoes, the best meal we have had in a long time. What wouldn't I give for a good Mexican dinner!!!"

I received a card from Amon Junior on February 9th which was dated January 6th as well as one dated December 30th in which he was acknowledging a parcel he had just received.

As tough as it is, all we can do is be as patient as these boys are being and make the best of a situation none of us can do anything about. I am sure your husband is all right and once the line of communication is established that the mail will come and go with some regularity.

I am glad you wrote me and hope the information I have given you will be of some consolation to you during this trying time.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "J. E. Carey". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a double red line.

AGC:KD