

Letter Describes Maneuvers Leading to Officer's Capture

A description of the battle maneuvers, which preceded the capture of Lt. Amon Carter Jr. in Central Tunisia is contained in a letter from the captain of his battery, Bruce Pirnie Jr., Field Artillery, just received in Fort Worth by the lieutenant's father, Amon Carter.

Lieutenant Carter is now a prisoner of war in Germany. The action described in the letter took place Feb. 14.

Cut off by the German advance, the officer hid for nine days behind the enemy lines before being set upon by Arabs, robbed, and then turned over to the Germans.

The letter follows:

Dear Mr. Carter—

I have just been informed that you have received official notification of Amon being missing in action. I wrote a short description of what happened which will probably be sent to you through quicker channels than this. However, I want to elaborate the story a bit, for I'm sure that the details will be of interest to you.

The battery was in position in a deep wadi at the base of a mountain; we were working independently of the battalion. On Feb. 13

I sent Amon to the top of the

mountain to establish an observation post, which he did. Early the next morning the Germans attacked with tanks and infantry, overrunning the position. During the initial attack we were in wire communication with Amon, who reported to us the actions of the enemy. He saw a large flanking force, which we knew nothing about until he reported it, go around the mountain to attack us from the rear. The battery was forced to withdraw, and was soon taken care of by the flanking force. As I was late in leaving the battery position I did not get to mix up with the flanking force, but made my way up into the mountain. I remained there two days (we were surrounded), and on Feb. 15 I went to the O. P.

A few infantrymen were there; they said that about mid-morning the previous day, Amon left the O. P. I imagine he tried to rejoin the battery; the opinion is that he was captured. This opinion is not based on any facts; merely on the assumption that so many of our troops being known to have been captured, Amon might very well be among them. Space prevents me from telling you how much we miss Amon; he's a fine boy, Mr. Carter. Very sincerely yours,

Capt. W. Bruce Pirnie Jr.