

H. GAITHER PERRY  
1128 SOUTHWEST 19TH AVENUE  
MIAMI, FLORIDA, U. S. A.

December 19th, 1944.

Mr. Amon Carter,  
% Star Telegram,  
Fort Worth, Texas.

Dear Mr. Carter:

You and I have much in common because your boy and mine are prisoners of war in the same camp at Oflag 64.

Yesterday I had direct news of a startling nature - also another message from underground sources - not from my own boy, but from a high source that cannot be doubted.

The Germans have recently issued an order forbidding any more food parcels being brought into camps over there. They went into some camps and chopped open all the cans of food in stored parcels so it would spoil, after allowing the prisoners to take two or three parcels. In other camps all food was taken from them. They are woefully lacking in medical and dental supplies. In some camps they have none.

I understand that our Government has "protested" and International Red Cross claims that they got an agreement from the Germans to keep food outside of the camps and issue it to our men "as they need it".

In our own camp (Oflag 64) they are short overcoats and blankets; Red Cross says they sent them in there around October 1st. One boy smuggled a letter out to his wife. He told her: "We have had no food from Geneva in three months. We cannot stand up under German food. My stomach has gone back on me and unless we get help soon I'm afraid that I'm not going to be able to eat enough to keep me going".

Yesterday I got this from a high source: "The most important thing though would be to have a real, honest to goodness AMERICAN, with fire in his soul, in Geneva, to supervise the distribution of millions of dollars worth of American relief supplies. The man there now is a CAREER Red Cross man who never showed the least interest in AMERICAN prisoners of war".

For some months now I have been trying to get Washington interested in a plan that would have prevented just what seems to have happened. I am told by army experts that this plan is sound and since things have happened as they now have, that the plan is the most feasible one they know of to get IMMEDIATE relief to the boys in time to save them. That unless something is done at once, many of them will not last out this winter. (In Oflag 64 they are short of overcoats and blankets as well as food and medical supplies). I am wondering if you think well of the plan I have in mind. Here it is:

To get our Government to furnish a transport plane to the International Red Cross in one of the neutral countries (Switzerland or Sweden) and mark this plane plainly and give it safe ~~tran~~ conduct as is now being done for ships leaving Philadelphia; to have this plane operate a

shuttle service from our warehouses in Europe and deliver food, clothing and medical supplies to the men in prison camps. In the absence of nearby landing fields they could drop it to them by parachute - but it is possible to secure trucking service from the fields to the camps.

Of course this would have to be cleared thru our State Department so that consent could be obtained from the enemy. And to have a representative from our State Department immediately flown to Europe to secure thru neutrals the necessary arrangements.

If this plan appeals to you, I am wondering if you will not pull every wire possible to get something done at once. I have recently learned facts and unless something is done at once, our boys may not last out the winter.

I would appreciate hearing from you on the subject. You may not remember me but I met you thru our good friend, the late Will Rogers. We have had mail from our boy dated as recently as October 2nd. He said that Larry Allen had sent your boy a picture of himself, taken in a swell restaurant, with a pretty blonde, showing three inch steaks with all the trimmings and that this little joke was going to cost Larry a pretty penny for dinners when they got back to New York.

With kindest personal regards, I am,

Sincerely,

*Geather Perry*