

January 19, 1945

Mr. H. Gaither Perry
1228 Southwest 19th Avenue
Miami, Florida

Dear Mr. Perry:

I am quite sure you must think me not only a poor correspondent but also lacking in appreciation of your letter of December 19. The former is true, - the latter, however, is not the case. I mislaid your letter through an accumulation of unanswered correspondence - some of it at least two months old and only dug it out a few days before I left home for New York by plane.

I appreciate your letter tremendously and have kept in close touch with Col. Drake in Washington both by telephone and correspondence. Meanwhile, I have been doing everything humanly possible to try and help remedy the unfortunate condition which exists in the camp where our boys are located.

I sent a long telegram to the President's secretary, Mr. Steve Early, a copy of which is enclosed, and received an answer from him dated December 30, as per enclosed copy. Please do not permit either my telegram or the reply to be used in connection with newspaper stories or publicity of any sort. I am sure this request is not necessary but I make it merely as a matter of precaution. In addition, I have had the matter up with some other important Army officials and I am quite sure they are finally aroused in Washington to the necessity of doing something about it.

I have read your plan with much interest, and while I am naturally deeply concerned about any plan that would be of help, I am somewhat dubious as to whether this plan could be worked out, as I question whether you would be able to secure the cooperation of the German Government as to dropping food by parachute. This would be rather a hazardous plan and even though it were carried out we would not know whether the prisoners of war actually received the food.

I talked with Mr. Joseph F. Cotton, in the Relief to Prisoners of War Department of the Red Cross in Washington, on January 13, and he advised me that they sent 6388 Red Cross packages to Oflag 64 in November and 13032 in December, including 150 overcoats. He had written me previously on December 29 that they had shipped 1500 extra packages for Christmas. While I have not received a letter from Amon Junior, another friend of mine had a letter stating that they received their Christmas parcels on December 13, as I recall.

It is my understanding that they have about 1200 prisoners in Oflag 64 at this time and that the Germans have resumed delivering their packages.

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However, they are storing them outside of the camp now and are delivering on a weekly basis. This was no doubt caused by the Allies broadcasting suggestions that everyone in Germany proceed with sabotage in every manner possible and that the Germans take this literally to include the prisoners of war - hence the order to deny them the packages.

Col. Drake is doing everything humanly possible. However, he is somewhat on the spot and has to be careful not to jeopardize his own situation.

Meanwhile, I will appreciate hearing from you any time you receive additional data or information and I will do likewise with you. Inasmuch as I have had considerable, frank discussion with both Mr. Pate and Mr. Dunning (of Geneva) in the Red Cross, I feel it might be doing more harm than good to raise too much of a disturbance. I am continuing in as consistent a way as possible to rush the matter of better service to these boys in every conceivable way.

I trust you will consider this letter, my telegram to Steve Early and his reply as confidential.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

AGC/C

(Amon G. Carter, Sr.)

P.S. I will be here at the Ritz-Carlton for four or five days longer, after which I will be home in Fort Worth.