

3 Liberated Fort Worth Officers Tell of Prison Camp Hardships

BY ROBERT WEAR,

Star-Telegram's Own Correspondent in
European Theater.

WITH THE 9TH U. S. ARMY, on the Elbe River in Germany, May 6 (By Press Wireless).—In a German village serving as headquarters of the 83rd Division, a reunion took place Saturday such as will be enacted in thousands of homes in the United States as liberated American prisoners of war reach that country.

This bridgehead on the Elbe River was the scene of the meeting of Lt. Amon Carter Jr., freed from more than two years of imprisonment by the Germans, with his father, Amon Carter of Fort Worth.

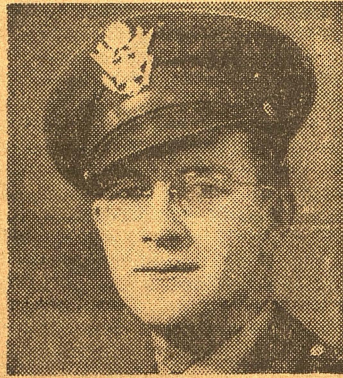
Lieutenant Carter reached the American lines from Luckenwalde prison camp shortly after 2 p. m. Saturday and two freed fellow prisoners, Lt. Robert T. Henry Jr., 3064 Baldwin, Fort Worth, and Lt. John T. Jones of Fort Worth and Houston, arrived at the 9th Army press camp soon afterward.

Writer Goes for Him.

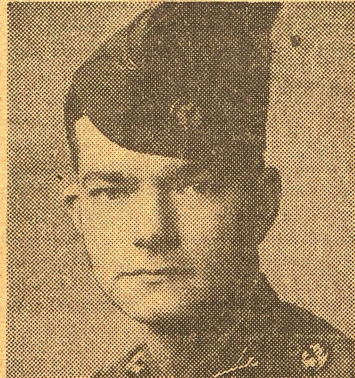
Jones' parents live at the Lamar Hotel, Houston, and he is a nephew of Jesse Jones.

Frank Conniff, International News Service correspondent, went to Stalag 3-A prison camp 30 miles south of Berlin by jeep Friday afternoon, found young Carter and brought him Saturday to headquarters of Brig. Gen. Robert C. Macon of the 83rd Division.

The senior Carter had just fin-



LT. ROBERT T. HENRY JR.



LT. JOHN T. JONES JR.



LT. AMON CARTER JR.

ished luncheon with Lieutenant General Simpson, 9th Army commander, and Undersecretary of War Patterson, and was standing in front of the division command

post, waiting for a car, when his son walked up.

"Well, Dad, here I am," the son said, slapping his father on the shoulder.

They shook hands heartily.

Russians Reached Camp.

The reunion ended the prisoner-of-war experience of young Carter, who had been in enemy hands since his capture on Feb. 23, 1943, in the battle of Faid Pass in Tunisia.

Carter's first thoughts, after greeting his father, were for the liberation of Americans he had left behind in Luckenwalde prison camp.

Trucks already have been ordered from the Salle River bridgehead to Luckenwalde to bring back

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HAPPY REUNION—Lt. Amon Carter Jr. (left) a prisoner of the Germans for more than two years, is greeted by his father, publisher of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, as they were reunited near the Elbe River in Germany Saturday. The Armored Forces officer was liberated from Luckenwalde prison camp in time to meet his father who is touring the front after visiting atrocity scenes. (AP Wirephoto).

After Faid Pass: Lieutenant Carter Describes Imprisonment Under Axis

BY FRANK CONNIFF.

BEHIND THE RUSSIAN LINES IN GERMANY, May 6 (INS).—Liberated from the Luckenwalde prison camp after 26 months of incarceration in various German detention areas, a tired young Texan Saturday described a series of harassing adventures that began with his capture at Faid Pass in Tunisia in February of 1943.

In unemotional tones, Lt. Amon Carter Jr., son of the publisher of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, told of his bitter experiences.

The story was told in a jeep as I took Carter to his father, now in Germany with a group of American editors and writers who came to this battered country to study Nazi atrocities at first hand.

Their's was a joyous reunion—this first meeting between father and son in more than two years—and a happy coincidence that brought them together in Germany.

Wandered in Desert.

Lieutenant Carter told of wandering for 10 days in the African desert and living for a week in a cave where his only food consisted of pulp from cactus plants. He eventually was picked up by a savage Arab patrol and the natives stripped him of all his clothing except his underwear.

The Arabs also beat Carter and a companion so mercilessly that the latter's brain was affected, and even tried to file gold rings from their fingers for loot.

Only the arrival of a German tank saved the pair from almost certain death.

The adventures of the pair were climaxed by a "death march" from a Polish prison camp to Luckenwalde when Russian spearheads shattered Nazi positions last January. In freezing weather, Lieutenant Carter and other officers marched 100 miles in six days before being transferred to boxcars for the final stage of their journey.

No Food, Water.

"There were 70 of us in each car," the lieutenant said.

"We had neither food nor water. And when we passed through Berlin on Feb. 3, they left us locked in our boxcars throughout the biggest Allied daylight air raid in history.

"More than 1,200 planes dropped blockbusters all around while we huddled at a siding near the Templehof airfield."

I found Lieutenant Carter at Luckenwalde, located 30 miles behind the Russian lines and only 25 miles from Berlin. He looked fit and rugged despite his privations and talked dispassionately of Nazi inhumanity toward prisoners.

"For a month after we reached Luckenwalde we had no food," he said.

"We just stretched out on our bunks all day long, too weak to do anything.

"After the first month, Red Cross parcels arrived.

"And they saved our lives."

Didn't Know Father There.

Lieutenant Carter's tribulations almost seemed worthwhile Saturday morning when he met his father near the Elbe. He had not known that his father was touring the German horror camps with a group of American publishers until I told him at Luckenwalde.

Father and son greeted each other affectionately. When the elder described some of the scenes the publishers have witnessed, the son replied:

"I understand they are going to permit repatriated prisoners to become guards over German prisoners of war. It's a darned good idea.

"If we tried on them the tricks they've played on American prisoners, maybe they'd appreciate that two can play the same game."

Of all his experiences, Carter said the 10 days after his units was cut off at the Faid Pass were the most harrowing.

He and a fellow officer hid in a cave for a week.

"We'd peel the green off a cactus, then eat the insides," he said. "After seven days we attempted

to beat our way back to the American lines. We almost made it.

In Italy—Stones.

"We could hear our artillery and saw tanks in the distance, when this armored patrol came along. Boy, they really beat us! They kept knocking us to the ground until I no longer attempted to rise.

"I really thought the end had come."

Carter finally was taken by the Germans to Tunis, then flown to Italy in a Junker transport. The people in Italy threw stones at the prisoners and hurled abuse at them as the train proceeded toward the Brenner Pass.

However, Carter has not been embittered by his imprisonment of two years, though he hasn't heard a radio or seen a newspaper or magazine in that entire period.

We watched a long queue of 20,000 German prisoners being taken to Berlin wind through Luckenwalde last night.

"I was lucky, I guess," Carter said. "When I was captured I knew we were going to win this war no matter how long it took. Those prisoners out there only know the war's lost forever.

"It's sure great to be an American."

DAVID LAWRENCE says: Charter Must Please Soviet

SAN FRANCISCO, May 6.—To understand what is going on here and to prevent disillusionment when the charter finally is written, it is necessary to realize that in reality the clock has been turned back.

The idea of a universal organization to preserve peace—the concept of collective security maintained by sovereign nations — has come into stark conflict with the theory that three big powers have won this war and must continue to rule the world.

Hence the League of Nations covenant, which was based on the idea of collective security, will seem strong in comparison to the charter finally drafted at this conference. And yet to say this, is not to make invidious comparisons or to disparage what is to be formulated here. Rather it means that the San Francisco charter will be based on a three-power control because nothing else can win the approval of Russia.

Russians Are Realists.

The Russians are not obstructionists, but realists. They are, in fact, strong nationalists and, giving them credit for sincerity of purpose, it must be conceded that they respect power and potentiality and

be as much respected as the voice of the large countries.

Similarly, it is to be hoped that the small nations do not feel that their own recourse is to form small blocs and groups of powers with ample armament to gain the respect of the larger powers. Such a trend can only lead to serious friction.

It's a time for patience and forbearance and especially for care in examining the Russian viewpoint. A diplomat highly experienced in Russian affairs expressed to me the idea that the Russians like America and respect our power, but that if, when we know we are right, we appear to concede points just to get a compromise, the Russians will lose respect for us and press their advantage by further demands.

U. S. Must Be Firm.

The advice to our government from all sides is to be "firm," which doesn't mean to be threatening or irritated or emotional about the many pending controversies but simply to be insistent and use the same methods of bargaining that the Russians do. It's a throw-back to 19th century diplomacy, but the whole world has