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German-Italian Barbarians

Amon G. Carter, publisher of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, was talking to a newly liberated American prisoner of war somewhere in Germany. "The people at home," the soldier told him, "don't realize the importance of the little things that they take for granted every day. They never will know what these things mean until they have to do without them."

The soldier was his son, Lt. Amon Carter, Jr. When the publisher came back home to Texas, he wrote the following, which may be inspirational to many who are able to do more, and still more, on what is now the Series E warfront at home:

More than 5,000 of the 16,000 Allied soldiers at Luckenwald were Americans. They got between 900 and 1,100 calories a day. The menu consisted of dehydrated cabbage, black bread and potatoes—most of them decayed. Their clothes were patched and ragged.

They had been told by the Germans that they would have five minutes under a shower once a week, but actually at times it averaged a shower every two months.

The Germans in charge were frank to say that they paid no heed to the Geneva Convention relative to the care of war prisoners. German officers and guards were at all times arrogant and in many cases cruel. Shocking as it may seem, the Italians treated American prisoners with equal if not greater barbarity.

In direct violation of the Geneva Convention, the Italians paraded our soldiers through the streets on exhibition, spat upon them and there are well authenticated cases where Italians knocked the stretchers out from under Americans who had been wounded in combat.

Our troops would like to see German prisoners, in Europe, turned over to the Russians who have suffered far worse treatment from the German brute than the Americans. Americans who have been prisoners of war in Germany would welcome the privilege of guarding German prisoners in this country.

What I have seen and heard on my trip to Germany and Italy convinces me of one thing. We Americans cannot pay too high a price for liberty. A prisoner of war really knows what liberty means.

The troubles in Europe are by no means over. We have to bring order out of deliberately created chaos or we have failed.

Then, too, there are from 50,000 to 75,000 American POW's we must nurse back to health. Hundreds of battle casualties are blind; others must be fitted with artificial arms and legs. Meanwhile our patriotism in fighting the war against the equally vicious Jap must not go slack in any way.

In the big job ahead, think of your War Bonds as "bonds of liberation". Let's invest every dollar we can in all the extra War Bonds we can buy until we have really won this war.