

May 12, 1943

Colonel Chas. P. Summerall, Jr.,
Armored Force School,
Fort Knox, Ky.

My dear Colonel:

Your letter received a short time ago in reply to my telegram regarding Amon being reported a prisoner of war in Germany. Please accept my thanks for your encouraging assurance that he will be reasonably well treated. The fact that the Americans since this time have taken many thousand German prisoners may be good insurance in this respect.

As for exchange of prisoners, I presume it would be too much to expect until the war is over; however, it certainly would be a grand thing if they could be able to make any exchange.

We received a letter from Amon Junior dated March 20th and a post card dated March 25th, which were addressed to both Mrs. Carter and the writer, although Mrs. Carter lives in New York. He can only write three letters and four postcards a month. The letter and card arrived here in the same mail on April 29th. The contents were 'phoned to me in New York where I happened to be having dinner at the Stork Club with my daughter and some friends from Fort Worth and we were all overjoyed over having a letter carrying his signature. The last letter I received was written on February 13th, the day before he was reported missing. Thinking you might be interested, I am sending you a copy of his letter of February 13th and a copy of the two communications received from Germany. It was unfortunate that after spending nine days behind the German lines he could not have gotten back to his own outfit. Everything he had was taken from him, but for some unaccountable reason they left his American Express money orders in the amount of \$1200.00. Fortunately, he can change them through the Red Cross in Geneva and secure, I imagine, German funds where he is located if there is anything they can buy.

John Jones, Jr., Jesse Jones's ne^{ephew,}

Lt. Beasley of Ennis, Texas, Lt. Batte of Waxahachie, and Captain Warren are in the prison camp. In fact, I am informed that there are 141 American officers and 11 American doctors located in this prison camp, together with a number of British Officers some of whom have been there since the fall of France. It is in a little town named Rotenberg, 24 miles Southeast of Kassel, with a population of about 3,000.

The letters from the Red Cross advise that they deliver a package once a week to these prisoners and that they have religious services at camp, have a good library and theater but stated, unfortunately, no sports ground. The International Red Cross delegate informed the American Red Cross that the Germans were issuing regular rations to the prisoners and that the stock of clothing at the camp was exhausted by the almost complete re-equipping of the Americans.

We are only permitted to send cable messages through the Red Cross in extreme emergencies - sickness or death.

I can imagine that Amon Junior is having as good a time as possible and making the best of the surroundings, getting acquainted with the Germans and will probably learn to speak the language.

You stated in my telephone conversation with you that you had recommended Amon Junior for promotion. I wonder if there has ever been any action on your recommendation and as to whether the fact that he is a prisoner would make any change in the status of the case? I have never made any effort regarding Amon Junior's promotion - as a matter of fact he has never mentioned it to me at any time and I am sure would be embarrassed if his father had made any effort in his behalf as he is somewhat conscientious in that respect; however, if they should promote him it would probably be very pleasing to him now that he is tied up and out of action.

I am sure that all of these boys are burned up on account of the fact that they could not have been there for the final clean up. I know he felt that way at the time part of the division moved to Africa and then you and your organization moved there later.

Incidentally, I apologize for not sooner congratulating you for your just and belated recognition by the War Department. I am sure it is very gratifying and pleasing to you and your family, and I take pleasure in joining them in this happiness. If for any reason you should be in this part of the country, please by all means come by Fort Worth. Nothing would please us better than having you as our guest for such time as you could possibly spare. This invitation applies to Mrs. Summerall and all of your family.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

AGC.KD