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1253-59 NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 1, 1943

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

Dear Mr. Carter:

I have just checked with the War Department and the State Department and have been informed that there is virtually no chance of the United States and Germany making an exchange of able-bodied prisoners until the war is over.

It is possible that an exchange will be made later of officers and men who have been disabled and are unfit for any future combat service. Under the Geneva Convention, the War Department told me there is no provision made for an exchange of able-bodied soldiers. If such an exchange could be made, it would have to come through a mutual agreement between this country and Germany and officials believe that there is very little chance of this.

I understand from both sources that Germany is reasonably complying with the Geneva Convention and there have been no reports of mistreatment of prisoners by either the Germans or Italians. Japan of course is paying no attention to the terms of the Convention.

American officers held prisoner are entitled to the same food rations that German officers receive. They also are not required to do any manual labor. War Department officers told me that insofar as they know these conditions are being complied with. Of course, they explained, they are not able to get any exact information concerning the treatment of individual prisoners.

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I am keeping close touch with the War
Department on this matter and will notify you
immediately if there are any new developments.

The flowers are being taken care of.

With all best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

B. N. Timmons

BNT:kk

