

Feb. 5 - 1943

Dear Mr. Carter -

First, I want to say that I am very sorry that I was unable to write you as I said I would. I had little time to get my stuff organized before I was on the move. Have been all over & have had little contact with Amon & the boys until I rejoined them the last few weeks. However, what I told you the 1st part of December has been fairly accurate.

Saw Amon a couple of days ago & he looked fine - smoking a cigar as usual and in good spirits. My little crew & I have a stock of food & my machine gunner is the cook, so he had supper with me. Have seen Summerall daily & thru him know your son is OK & doing a good job. Expect him to continue to be around me so that I can keep track of him.

This war is the most unreal thing you can imagine. A lot of it is like a slow motion picture - everything going on slowly, ~~but~~ and as if the one watching were standing on the sidelines and can see clearly

all the action on both sides.

I know that any of us will be able to qualify as expert ditch diggers when we get back. I've dug holes everyday during the last 6 weeks.

Got to visit Oran and Algiers, but didn't stay any length of time. Saw several of your friends in Algiers, including Ike.

Pinky Talbot is working on the same stuff with me. The lucky guy found soap & water yesterday to get a bath. I've had 2 since. Well, so, the last one at an old Roman bath in the desert about a month ago.

Margaret Bourke-White was around when I last saw you - I has an interesting story that may be released someday. Also ran into her in Gen. when she was doing an air corps story at the place I was staying.

No more news I can write & I'm on the 2 to 8 shift & things seem to be waking up. We're getting along OK - plenty to eat altho I wouldn't turn down that sirloin you probably had when you got home.

Rec'd letter of Jan. 5 from home telling me you had called. Can't tell you in words how much I appreciate what you have done. I'm sorry I haven't been able to do what I had hoped to.

The news about FAID has not been too good. It's very interesting to listen to such news now. Quite a bit of the news-casts are accurate, altho about 24 hours after things occur.

We've been pretty lucky & most of the gang you know are OK. Freddy Hughes (our bunch - you probably met him when you were around Ward) has been missing 5 days.

Maraist was reported wounded, but turned up OK - ^{not} "Doc" Martin was wounded slightly.

Thanks again for all your kindnesses. Will write again when I have a chance.

Sincerely

Sidney Wiedema