

February 3, 1944.

Mrs. A. A. Yardley,  
Route 4,  
Dublin, Texas.

Dear Mrs. Yardley:

On my return to the city I found your letter of January 24 making inquiry as to whether I had heard from my son, Amon Junior, and mentioning the fact that your last letter was written November 24.

My last letter was written November 18, up until I received a card February 2 which incidentally was dated January 1, photostatic copy of which I enclose herewith. This indicates that the boys in the camp are all right, however it was unfortunate that Captain Richard Torrence died of apoplexy, as you will note from the enclosed clipping. This might have been caused by some previous injury.

Mrs. Laura Vaden of 2611 Worthington, Dallas, telephone Tremont 73721, phoned me that she had received a letter from her son dated January 2 in which he stated that all of the boys in the camp had a nice Christmas dinner supplied by the Red Cross and they had Christmas services and everybody was fine. Mrs. Gaines J. Barron, 3200 Ethel Avenue, Waco, telephone 1218W was in my office Monday and showed me letters from her husband up to December 1 indicating that they were all getting along fine.

On receipt of a card from my son dated November 18 in which he stated that about half of the boys in the camp did not have overcoats, I promptly took up the matter with the Red Cross in a vigorous way, and the Prisoner of War Department phoned me from Washington Wednesday stating that they had word from a Red Cross representative who had visited the camp on December 30 that the boys now all were supplied with sufficient clothing including overcoats.



I feel quite confident the boys are being well treated by the Germans as they should be able to see the handwriting on the wall, realizing that we have 15 or 20 times as many prisoners as they have (American prisoners in Germany now total 13,000) and the further fact that the German prisoners here are being treated the same as our own soldiers in the field should be conducive of the very best treatment possible under the circumstances.

Colonel Yardley, as I understand it, has been a prisoner since September 15. Amon Junior has been a prisoner since February 23, and I feel sure from the amount of information that he is able to send through that he has become very well acquainted with the guards and censors. For example, only recently he was able to send the details of how he was captured. After staying nine days behind the German lines, he and a Private Truett walked 55 miles in back of the lines and were in sight of their own troops in the Kasserine Pass in Tunisia when they were set upon by about 30 Arabs and beat pretty badly, as a matter of fact, unconscious. They were stripped of their clothing, equipment and money and were bound hand and foot and turned over to the Germans. They had to live 10 days on cactus, so their treatment at that time compared to now is quite a contrast.

It is distressing of course that we are unable to do any more for them than the regulations permit, however there is much consolation in the fact that they are so much better off than the ones who have no chance to return, especially than the unfortunate prisoners in the Japanese camps, so we have much to be thankful and cheerful for.

Any information that I receive from Amon Junior will be promptly forwarded to you.

Sincerely,

ACC.SB