

February 19, 1944.

Letter No. 44

2nd. Lt. Amon G. Carter, Jr., U. S. Army,
American P. O. W. #1595,
Interned at Oflag 64, Germany,
Via New York City, N. Y., USA.

Dear Cowboy:

I told you in my previous letter, No. 43 written in long hand last Saturday, February 12th, that your letters of December 30th, January 1st and 6th were received February 9th, and naturally I am tickled to death over the fact that you like the special package containing the watch, toilet kit, scarf, pipe, candy, vitamin pills, underwear, fountain pen, pencil, chewing gum, etc. You said there was no pipe tobacco - they will not permit us to send it in the regular packages any more since they provide special tobacco labels for cigars, cigarettes or tobacco. We have to send it in the same manner as the cigars are sent.

I was glad to know that you received 1,000 cigarettes from Canada and we will find out about the books you requested on advertising and newspaper work. Katrine has already made inquiry about the best publications to send you and will have them sent write away. We have also told Suzanne Clery that you received her letters and will notify R. P. Hartle that you received his letter.

You stated in your card of January 1st that you had received two thirty cent airmail letters dated December 2nd. This was remarkably good time. As I recall these letters were in long hand and sent from New York and we will send this letter with air mail stamps on it and will be sure that the Post Office Cancellation does not interfere with the German regulation that no stamps or cancellations with war activities advertising be used. I can see their point of view for not permitting them. Meanwhile I am sure this has been remedied as indicated in my letter from the Postmaster General.

You also asked in your letter to send the label to 269 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo and have them send you one of the \$4.65 food parcels containing 2 pounds of cheese, "C" biscuits, sugar, Powdered milk, vitamins, cocoa, onion flakes, 1 pound chocolate, peanuts, 1 pound cereal, etc; that Lt. Batte had received one of these the day previously and it was the best food package you had seen. I am sending a copy of this letter along to the American Parcels for Prisoners of War Assn in Buffalo, New York, for I am sure they will be delighted to know how well the prisoners of war like their package and appreciate it. Katrine had sent a check in December

to this organization for \$50.00 and asked them to send you parcels, though not food, as often as they can send them to you and they should be showing up soon. We have tried every consistent way possible to supplement the regular packages. We have also tried to arrange for some additional packages to be sent through Portugal through one of your old friends. I gave his father a check for \$50.00 recently to recompensate him for anything that they might be able to get through to you.

You mentioned in your letter of January 6th that it is likely that some of the films you sent from Africa failed to arrive and asked me to get in touch with the Base Censor, as well as the Eastman Kodak Company and see if they have any films held up until after the war. You said you mailed the last ones about January 24, 1943. We will do the best to find out what we can about this for you. We have no record of receiving any films of the matters you mentioned. They might have been cut out of some of the rolls we have or they might be holding them up. All of the films have been developed and are certainly appreciated. I know that you will be delighted to see them when you come home.

Arthur Cararan (you probably knew him as Casey, who lived on Hillcrest) and Wilson McKee of Steubenville, Ohio, who was in your original division up until August 1941 and knew a lot of the boys in your battalion, came in to see me this afternoon and I had a nice visit with them and showed them all of your letters as well as the letters and telegrams that had been received by me from both yours and my friends who were deeply concerned when you were reported "missing in action". Both of these boys asked particularly to be remembered to you. Katrine gave them your address so I am sure you will hear from them in time.

Frank Mason of New York has recently returned from a trip out in the Pacific, during which time he picked up some 50 Centavos, 1 Peso and 5 Peso Japanese occupation money in the Philippines which he left with me for your collection. By the way, I have just about completed your collection of \$3.00 gold pieces and also have a complete set of one dollar gold pieces for you. They are very interesting. I also picked up six more of the old California slugs for you as well as a complete set of 1, 2, 5, 10 and 20 dollar bills all of which are very old. Some of them were issued in 1865 and drew interest similar to the regular bonds. Katrine has them fixed up nicely in a book and I am sure you will be delighted with them.

The Golden Glove Tournament is in full swing and I don't think I have ever seen any better fights. They have had as many as 25 or 30 in one evening. Frank Mason said he saw more fighting last night than he could see in the Madison Square Garden in a year. These boys are all in the service and are in excellent condition.

Hugh Smith is in town today and asked me to send you his best regards.

Mr. Farley will also spend the night here. Eddie Rickenbacker is passing through tomorrow. So we have had a string of visitors here.

Jean told us of your letter to her in which you said you had just enjoyed the best dinner you had had in a long time which consisted of sour kraut and potatoes. It made me hungry to think about it as there nothing I like better than sour kraut as well as potatoes; however I have had to cut them out as I have put on seven or eight pounds in weight.

Katrine is back from her so-journ in the hospital, although I tired to get her to stay away longer. I think what really put her out of commission was that she cleaned up her desk. It was such a feat that Mr. Record insisted on making a picture of the desk and it was run on the front page of this month's employe's paper. I am sending one of the pictures which has been reduced along so you can see how Katrine looks behind a clean desk. You should see it now, however I am responsible for most of the mess on it.

Frank Mason saw Phil North in the Pacific. Said he looked fine. Frank made the trip with Raymond Clapper, who happened to a serious accident and did not return with him.

I hope you have been picking up some weight. In fact, your mother wrote Katrine that she had received a letter from your Grandmother in which you had written to her that you were adding some weight. I wish I could transfer the amount I am adding to you. I am trying to lose some weight.

I talked with Ruth over the 'phone Sunday night and she was fine, although she had had a bad cold. I think I told you in my last letter about the accident that happened to Billy Hightower and Phyllis. Ruth is still distressed over it and the loss of Phyllis as they roomed together at school for a long time. I sent Ruth some flowers for Valantine's Day and have just received a letter from her that she had them by your picture.

D. B. Greene had a couple of heart attacks a few days ago and is in the hospital. He is getting along nicely. He was out at the house a couple of weeks ago and made some fine pictures of Mrs. Travis, and her party from New York who had been to Mexico City and stopped off here on their return trip to New York. Mrs. Van Zandt, Sid Richardson, Durelle Van Zandt and her little daughter were out at the house too and he made some excellent pictures. Although he is very busy he never fails to respond any time I call him so you might mention in one of your letters to me to thank Mr. Greene for the nice pictures which you receive. I am sure it will make him very happy.

I just had a nice letter from your Aunt Olive, stating they were all getting along fine and she was particularly interested in knowing about you. I sent her a copy of your letter of October 10th in which you gave more of the details of your capture. Incidentally, you stated at the conclusion of the letter, "You will have to wait for the rest". Of course, this is all very interesting and if it is permissible on the part of your censors I would naturally be delighted to hear anything you can send

store up all the information you can so when you are able to come home you could write a very interesting story about your experiences.

I just had a letter from Mrs. Batte and also had a nice letter from Rollin Elkins of your old outfit. He was closely associated with Pinky Talbot.

I think this about covers everything that has happened around here of interest other than the fact, as we always tell you in each letter, that our principal interest at all times is in your welfare and we are also interested in the welfare of all of the boys with you. Write as often as you possibly can, keep in good spirits, make as good a prisoner as possible, get along with your guards, keep your chin up and make the best of the situation. Remember war is war and as I have often told you treat your guards like you would like to be treated if you were in a similar position and I am sure you will get along all right.

With heaps and heaps of love, I am

Affectionately,

Dad

Anna G. Carlee Jr

AGC:KD

