

November 27, 1943.

Honorable Norman H. Davis, Chairman,
American Red Cross,
National Headquarters,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Davis:

By now, I presume you are thoroughly convinced that I am somewhat of a disturbing element when it comes to the matter of service and treatment rendered the American prisoners-of-war of the enemy countries.

I am enclosing, herewith, a copy of my last letter to the Prisoner of War Information Bureau, Office of The Provost Marshal General, Washington, which is a modest expression of my feeling in connection with treatment accorded the prisoners-of-war.

Since sending this letter, I have received another letter from my son, as per the enclosed photostatic copy which shows that some packages are going through, to officers, much larger than those permitted by the Prisoner-of-War Division of the War Department to be sent my son by "next-of-kin". In a previous communication he stated that some of the packages were twice the size of those he received. You will also note in the enclosed letter that he says the U. S. Government is the only one that does not permit them to receive foods in tin. In the package he received October 1st, was tooth powder in a cardboard container (as put up by the manufacturer) which he wrote was spilled throughout the package. This seems inconsistent and thoroughly unnecessary. I presume this was due to both Censors opening the package and neither of them closed it tightly. So, why should all of this red tape, asinine ruling and regulation be dished out to these youngsters who are prisoners-of-war?

It burns me up to the point that I could almost walk in and fight physically everybody that has to do with this kind of asininity. As stated previously in my letter to you, I am not unmindful of the fact that rules and regulations are necessary but I am pretty well burned up over the fact that the Censors have permitted some

packages to go through without the Government Label and packages much larger than the regulation size and weight, while I have been rigidly censored on my packages to the government regulations. I have communicated this information to the War Department and the Censorship Office, but it seems to have no effect. Is there not some possible way in which the Red Cross, the Postmaster General, the Chief Censor, and the War Department Office and whoever else may be necessary get together and adopt some practical method of making it as easy and convenient as possible to take care of the prisoners-of-war without discrimination?

Amon Junior also says in the enclosed letter that he was delighted to receive the two blankets from the Red Cross and that he hopes they would be able to keep their building warm. Following this remark there were two or three lines blocked out, I presume by the German Censor which, incidentally is the second time anything has been blocked out and the other instance was one word which apparently was the name of a German instructor Amon Junior mentioned. He was evidently trying to ask me to tell him something as in the next comment he said, "Also hints will help". He indicated in previous letters not to believe everything we heard, which indicated clearly to me that they were not receiving the Red Cross packages each week as we had been led to believe from the Red Cross Representatives. However, I believe and feel sure that the Red Cross is doing everything humanly possible to reach these boys with the packages. Of course, this particular camp, Oflag 64, about 100 miles South of Danzig, is the farthest East camp in Germany and possibly difficult to reach. At the same time, as previously stated, the YMCA had its representative visit the camp and talk with Amon Junior and other prisoners and transmitted this information by cable to me through its New York Office.

In any event, as indicated in Amon Junior's letter of October 2nd, he has received the third package which was sent on July 20th and is rather good service. He had also received 70 letters which is very gratifying.

I hope you do not feel that I am entirely unreasonable, as I thoroughly appreciate the fact that you are trying to do everything possible. If we could only receive some kindly thoughts, feeling and impartial

consideration from the Chief Censorship Department, it would be very gratifying.

Assuring you of my appreciation of the great job you are doing and with best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

AGC.KD

P.S: In line with my previous inquiry, is there any possible way that we could send a cable to my son for Christmas? It looks as though this concession could be made, if possible, to all the next-of-kin of prisoners of war in Germany even though the cables be delayed. It should be an inspiration and of special interest to these boys behind the walls in prison camps in Germany.