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Father Meets Freed Son As He Visits Nazi Prisons

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AT THE 83RD DIVISION COMMAND POST, Germany, May 5.—Lieut. Amon G. Carter, Jr., a prisoner of the Germans since Faid Pass, Tunisia, more than two years ago, was reunited here today with his father, publisher of the Fort Worth (Tex.) Star-Telegram. Carter Sr. is making a tour of the front after visiting atrocity scenes.

Young Carter's first words were "Here I am, Dad." He promptly started figuring out how to get his buddies out of Luckenwalde prison, which he was liberated by a special patrol sent to get him in time for the reunion.

Overcoming visible embarrassment before the party of Army personnel and press representatives, he kept saying not only to his father but to the general officers present:

"We've got to go back and get those other fellows. They're worried about the Russian-German fights going on all around them and we've got to get them."

The youthful infantry officer, captured during one of the American Army's earliest setbacks of the war, arrived at the command post shortly after a party including Lieut. Gen. William H. Simpson, Ninth Army commander, and Undersecretary of War Robert Patterson had departed, leaving the elder Carter to await his son's arrival.

Father Oversome by Emotion

The lieutenant walked up behind his father, talked to soldiers nearby, and announced himself quietly. His father turned around obviously overcome with emotion, embraced him and patted him on the back wordlessly.

Almost in the next breath young Carter began appealing in behalf of "those other fellows" left behind. He was reassured by an American Army corps commander that arrangements were being made to evacuate all the prisoners at Luckenwalde.

The publisher, who came over with a party of American editors and publishers invited by General Eisenhower to view German atrocities at first hand, said he had been deeply affected by the Germans' oners of war at what liberated "bad treatment" of American pris-camps he had seen, as against that accorded Italian and German war prisoners back home.

Would Like to Guard Prisoners

"I find most of these boys of ours who have been in prison camps over here are anxious to get home and have a try at guarding our prisoners of war there," he said.

The Texas publisher said the most surprising phase of his trip was seeing Germany's "undamaged countryside," although aware of the military import of the bombing destruction he had seen in the Ruhr Valley industrial areas. He spoke of fat cattle and horses he saw throughout rural Germany, of untouched farm houses and villages, of fat flocks of sheep, goats, chickens, ducks and geese, all indicative of the lack of starvation in the Reich's agricultural areas.

The younger Carter said the worst treatment he had received since his capture at the hands of Italians during the early phases of the war.

After being seized at Faid Pass he was flown to Italy in a German Ju-52 and the formation was among

those attacked regularly by American fighter planes.

In Italy he was taken to the town of Capua, a short distance north of Naples, it was there that the Italians vented their spite on the American prisoners, whose countrymen they later were to greet as liberators.

"They spat on us and threw rocks at us," Carter said. "It was the worst treatment we had from anybody."

From there he was taken to Germany and shipped to Poland, where he spent 18 months at the Szubin officers' prison camp, Oflag 64. When the Russians broke through in that area last January 21, the Germans started walking 1,500 prisoners out. Carter said "lots of them had frozen feet or were sick and they were left behind."

Once members of Carter's party thought they had been liberated when the Russians surrounded them, but a short time later a Lithuanian SS (Elite Guard) outfit came through in a brief attack and picked them up again.

After that they were shipped in boxcars, 75 to a car, to Berlin. For eight days they went without food except what they could get by swapping Red Cross cigarettes for provisions from German troops passing in trains bound for the front.

Locked in During Raids

Arriving in Berlin February 4, the prisoner train was met by an Allied air raid. Guards deserted the train and left the boxcars locked near an airdrome which was one of the bombers' principal targets.

"We were plenty scared," the lieutenant said.

Shortly after that he was shipped with others to Luckenwalde. He said 1,200 Norwegians, mostly political prisoners, had saved the lives of many Americans in the camp during February and March when no Red Cross parcels arrived.

"They shared everything they had with us and kept going," he said. "Most of the time most of us were too weak from hunger to do much but lie around in camp."

Russians overran the camp recently but German counter-attacks made impossible any attempt by American troops to get in and withdraw the prisoners without confusing the military situation.

Two Privates Liberated

Liberated with Carter were two American privates captured at the same time he was.

They are James F. Thill, Hoboken, N. J., and Ralph Bolling, Gallagher, W. Va., both of the 1st Armored Division.

Both said several thousand American prisoners in Luckenwalde felt hurt and neglected after being liberated ten days ago, believing that no effort had been made to get them home and that many now were walking toward the American lines.

"We have been living 400 to a tent, with two faucets to serve 2,800 of us," Bolling added.

They had high praise for the Russians who, they said, gave them all the food they could get their hands on.

It has not been made clear here what has delayed sending trucks to get the American prisoners out of Luckenwalde, but it was believed to be negotiations with the Russians to exchange prisoners liberated on both sides. A fleet of trucks is due to head for Luckenwalde tomorrow to start evacuating the Americans, British and Norwegians there.