

WAR DEPARTMENT
WAR DEPARTMENT GENERAL STAFF
ORGANIZATION AND TRAINING DIVISION G-3
WASHINGTON



15 December 1944

Mr. Amon G. Carter, Sr.,
Fort Worth Star Telegram,
Fort Worth, Texas.

Dear Mr. Carter:

Your nice long letter was received and I fully appreciate your position in what can or should be done at this time.

I assure you I've been doing my very best but have met with Geneva apathy and out-and-out orders to say nothing about welfare work that could be construed as criticism. Neither may I praise one organization (YMCA) unless I extend some to other welfare organizations. Those restrictions plus the order to not divulge atrocities leaves me well tied up. (Hence my mildness)

However, I finally did get the answers to questions of relatives mimeographed through outside sources when the authorities refused to assist me. I'm enclosing a copy of the letter I received on that in which they state due to their relations with State Department and Red Cross publicity of this character would be more injurious than helpful to our cause. Being of average intelligence I have my own conclusions as to whom the publicity might injure but I fail to understand "our" cause. I am of the firm opinion that our cause, the cause of the American people and the Prisoner of War, would be helped.

That gives you an idea of what I too am faced with. I received a cable from Sweden that their "Y" representative was in Oflag 64 November 28 and that everything was running the same. Over 900 Americans now there. The weather cold, snow and rain. Their morale, though, very high. Actually Mr. Carter, it has always been amazing how wonderfully high they keep their spirits. Of course you and I both know a lot of it is pure make believe, but nevertheless, basically their spirits are up on top.

Yesterday I heard from Lt. Colonel Waters there, the letter was written the latter part of September stating no food parcels or clothing

had been received since I left and that 150 were without overcoats and blankets.

Well, I hit the ceiling but have had my fears somewhat allayed by the American Red Cross assurance that the IRC reports a shipment leaving Geneva for Oflag 64 six weeks ago. If that is true it was still the latter part of October and freezing there. I returned to America 19 September.

I've had two long talks with Mr. J. Townsend Russell, who incidentally is leaving within a few days to take his place on General Eisenhower's Staff to arrange plans to pour on the entertainment for released American Prisoners of War when Germany falls. He says, after looking over my papers, that he now understands the situation and does not blame me for taking the attitude I did.

He admits the Red Cross believed the IRC stories and that he is now convinced the IRC did not do their job.

I strongly recommended that this man James be recalled from Geneva and a real honest-to-God American with fire in his soul sent to take his place and supervise the distribution of American supplies.

He agreed in principal but said Mr. James was pretty firmly entrenched! Mr. Pate was very much upset over my broadcast and your newspaper article. He flew to Geneva and just returned yesterday, I'm awaiting a call from them now as I must talk with him.

I told Russell bluntly that they could prevent me publicizing the failure of the Red Cross now but unless they corrected these things promptly, when the American Prisoners of War returned, the wrath of God would break around the ears of the Red Cross.

Let us hope they are sincere, I'm not fooled by promises but am open to conviction. I shall keep you fully informed.

There is a Captain, Jew doctor, named Weintraub that I moved out of barracks in Oflag 64, because of trading with the enemy. He has been repatriated and contacting all relatives he can tell them things lovely and the Germans' well treating the Prisoners of War. That the Red Cross is doing a splendid job etc. It's a pitiful state when my word is not accepted against that of such a man. I can't get him to shut up, though I'm convinced in my own mind that he is a cur type who sold out to the Germans.

General Arnold told me last night he had talked with you and asked me to call on Mrs. Arnold which I shall do. The General also wants to talk to me.

Secretary Stimson said two weeks ago he wanted to see me but nothing more on that.

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When you write Amon give him my best wishes and tell him as much as you can about what is being done.

I'm also enclosing a copy of a letter from Miss Jackson which is self explanatory. Please hold the data I give you as confidential as we do have to tread very carefully.

Quincey joins me in wishing you a Merry Christmas and God grant the next one will see you reunited with your son.

Mr. Amon G. Carter, Sr.,
Fort Worth Star Telegram,
Fort Worth, Texas.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas D. Drake

THOMAS D. DRAKE
Colonel, G. S. C.

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