

#84

January 19, 1945

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

Dear Cowboy:

Dad wrote you a letter in longhand on the plane coming up from home last week but has been waiting for an opportunity to dictate a letter to you which would be easier for the censor as well as you to decipher, as my writing is not very good.

Up to the time I left home, the last letter I had received from you was dated October 10, since which time your Mother has mailed me a copy of your letter to her of October 10, of which about ten or twelve lines were blacked out, and also your postcard dated December 7 on which the top part had been blacked out. In this postcard you stated you had not received your Red Cross Christmas parcels; However, that you had received 2100 Red Cross parcels the week before to take care of 1150 officers. Furthermore, that you planned on being home by next Christmas.

Meanwhile, we received your Christmas card on January 10 addressed to your Dad, Mother, Ruth and Carl and Katrine Deakins. I am unable to decipher the postmark, which reads: "08 12.44-12" although this may mean December 12, 1944. If so, the card came through in rather quick time and needless to say we were all delighted to receive it.

Katrine wired me that Mrs. Pitchell of Dallas received a letter from her husband dated December 10 in which he said he had been cooking a chili dinner and that everything was dandy. R. C. White, Sr. of Monroe, La. sent me a copy of his son's letter dated October 21 in which he told about the six new kittens arriving.

Mrs. Barron wrote me a letter on January 9 enclosing letters that she had received from her husband, Gaines, dated September 18, October 22 and December 10. His letter of September 18 was received January 2. In this he stated that due to transportation difficulties there would probably be no more mail for him, but that he wanted her to keep writing just on the chance that some of it might come through. He advised that the May and July parcels had not arrived and no cigarettes since March. In the letter of October 22 he said that they had finally begun to let them have private parcels again and that he had received one mailed in July from the Buffalo firm. He said that he would rather have one from home on account of the fact that there was no coffee in their package. In his letter dated December 10, he said he had received four letters which had been sent to him in October.

I think I told you about Mrs. Henry receiving four or five letters from Bob before I left home. I telephoned Mr. Cotton of the Red Cross Prisoner of War Department in Washington, and read Bob Henry's letter to his Mother dated November 27 in which he advised that there were some 22 pound packages being received. I asked Mr. Cotton about this and he stated emphatically that no one had authority to send other than the regulation 11 pound package. In the meantime, I received word from someone that the Christmas packages had arrived on December 13. I certainly hope this is correct, as it would be fine if you were able to have a good Christmas dinner.

I have a National Geographic Magazine map of Europe, and according to the best information I can figure out you are about 100 miles south of Danzig and a little south and west of the Vistula River. It does not show the town of Schubin but

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does show Bydgoszcz and I understand Schulin is a little north of this place and about 100 to 125 miles north and west of Warsaw. I keep the map before me as a matter of information.

I understood from a letter a friend of mine received dated November 28 that everything was about the same and that they had not celebrated Thanksgiving but hoped to do so the following week when they were expecting 1200 food parcels - they had not had any food parcels since October. T.D.D. is working closely with those in authority and doing everything consistently possible to help improve your situation.

I had Ruth, Cynthia Brants and her roommate at dinner at the Stork Club last Saturday evening and we had some pictures taken which I am enclosing. I am also enclosing the pictures made at home at Christmas dinner. No. 1 - you of course recognize your picture over the mantel in the living room. No. 2 - Dad and Ruth by the Christmas tree near the stairway. No. 3 shows both your's and Ruth's pictures on the piano with the American Beauty roses which of course do not show their beautiful coloring. No. 5 is another picture of Dad and Ruth on the couch in the living room. No. 6 shows Carl, Dr. McKnight, Mrs. Deakins, Dad, Ruth, Kay Birch, Raymond Birch, Katherine Birch and Dan Levy, all of whom had dinner Christmas day at the house. No. 7 - you will notice all the crowd at the dinner table with your chair at the head of the table, vacant. Stanley and Mabel both came in for the picture. You will notice Ruth's picture on the wall back of where she is sitting and your picture is just back of Mrs. Deakins on the right, but does not show in this picture. We had a nice 24 pound turkey and it goes without saying that we were all sorry you could not be with us. However, when you do some home you can have all the turkey, eggs, butter, milk, steak and everything you want, even if it does make you weigh 200 pounds! No. 8 was made at the fountain in the yard. No. 9 is of Ruth at her dressing table in her room over the sleeping porch. No. 10 will probably give you a laugh. It is a picture of you and Ruth on a tricycle when you were both youngsters. No. 11 shows Buddy Russell, with his Mother on the left and his Father between him and his new wife. No. 12 & 13 are also pictures of Buddy. No. 12 includes Dr. Roy Russell and his wife. No. 13 shows Mrs. Moncrief, Buddy, Tex Moncrief's wife and baby. No. 14 shows Dad, Ruth and the girls at the Stork Club last Saturday evening. I am also taking them to lunch at the Colony Restaurant here in New York Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Green of Dallas had dinner with me last night. Mrs. Herbert was in the city and I understand that she is going to be married. Enclosed you will find copy of your Sister Ruth's report card, which shows she is doing very well.

Mr. Cotton wrote me there had been two visits made at Oflag 64 on October 11 and 23 and that after the visit of October 11 Geneva was notified to forward 350 overcoats and blankets. He wrote me on December 29 stating he had received a preliminary report from Geneva regarding conditions at Oflag 64 which showed that during November 8444 standard food parcels were dispatched to Oflag 64 and that in December 2900 packages were shipped, plus 1500 Christmas fruit packages. Following my discussion with him over the telephone on January 13, I had a letter from him stating that they had sent in November 6388 packages and in December 13032; 600 blankets in October; 300 in November and 600 in December, and a long list of bathrobes, drawers, mufflers, etc. and 150 overcoats. In October, 1500 wool undershirts and 1056 clothes brushes. I am sorry that they did not send more woolen clothes and fewer clothes brushes.

Ruth will graduate on April 28. Katrine is coming up for the graduation and Ruth is naturally very much excited over the fact that she will be able to go home and be through with school.

Jean sent us a copy of your letter to her dated October 3 which was re-

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ceived January 5 in which you mentioned that 100 new prisoners had arrived, giving the camp a total of 800. You also enclosed copy of a cartoon from your monthly paper which was very interesting, and you said you were looking forward to when you could get home and could see some shows, read the funny papers for the past three years - enjoy a big steak and a quart of milk and a flock of hot baths.

I had some more pictures made of Ruth, Cynthia and Bert Honea, Jr. when they left home the early part of January for school. I will have these reduced and send them to you on my return home.

Harry Crooks called from Washington and wanted to know how you were getting along and stated he was still taking care of your first-date covers. In other words, he is carrying on just like he always has. Katrine continues to buy your regular assortment of stamps for your collection and you will have a lot of interesting stamps, covers, coins and currency from all over the country to look over and check up when you get home.

Dick Walker had an accident to his eye and was sent back to an English hospital. Of course his Dad, Wife and all of his family are very much relieved as the first information was that he had had an accident but they did not know at the time just how serious it was.

Hunting out in Ector County is very good and I hope to kill three or four more bears sometime during the next month.

The General and his wife who used to live in Culver are now in Fort Worth and continue to ask about you. Miss Minnie calls up quite frequently and always sends her love.

I think this just about covers the news up to this time, other than the fact that the principal interest, as I have often said, of Dad and all your loved ones as well as your friends, concerns your welfare and their earnest prayer and hope is that you will come through in good shape. Keep your health; do not be discouraged. When this is over and the country back to a normal state and people have returned to their own pursuit of happiness, it will be a great day for everyone concerned. So make up your mind to adjust yourself to waiting for this occasion which will eventually come. I am sure it will be for the betterment of mankind.

With a continuation of our love and affection, I remain as always

From:
Amon G. Carter, Sr
Ritz-Carlton Hotel
New York, N.Y.