

May 15, 1943.

Mr. Holman Willis,
Mountain Trust Building,
Roanoke, Va.

Dear Mr. Willis:

I have your letter of May 12th, advising that your son, Keith Willis, is in Oflag 9 A/Z, Germany, which is the same camp where Amon Junior is located and I am sure they have gotten acquainted by this time.

No doubt you have already received letters from your son as on April 29th, I received a letter dated March 20th and a postcard dated March 25th. Today, I received another postcard which was dated March 30th. I've also had notice, as I am sure you have, from the Red Cross advising his location, etc. In Amon's last card he stated that he was fine however he had lost some weight and asking us to send a long list of things that he needed.

Incidentally, he hid out behind the German lines from February 14th to 23rd, 9 days, and would have made it back to his quarters if the Arabs had not knocked him unconscious, robbed him of his clothes, six shooter, cameras, watch as well as took his money and turned him over to the Germans. The Germans flew him to Italy by plane and then by train he went on to the German prison camp. He is in Rotenburg, 25 miles southeast of Kassel and not the 35 miles as originally indicated by the Red Cross. For some unaccountable reason they let him keep his American Express Orders and I am writing him to get the Red Cross to cash these orders and provide his buddies with funds. As I presume you have heard - there are 141 American officers and 11 doctors at this camp together with quite a few British Officers who have been there since the fall of France.

Enclosed, you will find a copy of a letter which I received from Captain Pirnie who was in charge of Amon Junior's Battery - B which I thought you might be interested in reading.

I note what you say regarding the matter of exchange of prisoners. Naturally, it goes without saying

that I would be more than delighted if such a thing could be possible; however, I realize this is a matter that will have to be handled by the War Department and our military strategists and I would hesitate to make any recommendations to them. While our boys are more important to us individually, they are not any more important than the other parents feel about their boys and I am sure the War Department is not unmindful that the relatives of all these boys are extremely anxious to have them back or at least back in the service if possible. Now that we have many thousands of German prisoners and high ranking German officers in our custody the chances are the Germans may make an effort to take care of the boys. Although, I am inclined to think they are giving them as good food as their own officers have.

If you receive any further information I will appreciate hearing from you and will communicate with you likewise if I hear anything.

Assuring you of my tremendous interest in the entire situation and with best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

AGC.KD