

LAW OFFICES  
WILLIS AND WILLIS

ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

MOUNTAIN TRUST BUILDING

HOLMAN WILLIS  
HOLMAN WILLIS, JR.

April 9, 1943

Mr. Amon G. Carter  
Fort Worth, Texas

Dear Mr. Carter:

I thank you for your letter of April 5th, and also the telephone call from your secretary, whose name, unfortunately, I did not get clearly. She was very helpful.

Of course, I may be mistaken in thinking that your boy was with mine, but there are several things that lead me to think it is more than probable that he was. In the first place, it is my understanding that Keith was in the locality of Faid Pass. Again, there were five or six of these boys out on observation and range finding work seen captured under the identical circumstances you detail, on February 14th; that is, they were on an elevation at an advanced point, when they were surrounded by the enemy. The fact that there were other officers with Keith would lead me to believe that they were not regular observation officers, because the method followed by the men regularly engaged in that work is that several of them are out in front, but at locations some distance apart. They run base lines and use these for triangulation in range finding. It would not be customary to have more than one trained observation officer at one point, but, on the other hand, if your boy was out doing special observation work, it would be more than probable that in the course of his work he would be with the regular observation officers, or, in fact, would probably stay with them, because they use the very best points they can find for observation and are fully equipped with means to send the results of their observations back to the artillery in their rear. It is, of course, possible, but hardly probable, that two parties of this sort would be seen from the lines to be captured under similar circumstances. With this in mind, I wrote my brother-in-law, Major A. Willis Robertson, who is a member of Congress, and gave him the substance of the letter that I received last Saturday from Lieutenant Bingham, who is in Keith's outfit and was his closest friend. I suggested that my friend, Senator Tom Connally, would probably be in touch with you and that Willis might pass the information on to him. I hope it did not raise any false hopes. This letter told me that the enemy were seen to surround the hill or mountain on which these officers were located, come up the hill and capture the group in which Keith was at that time. The enemy were seen to disarm them, search them for weapons, put them into a truck and take them



A. G. C.

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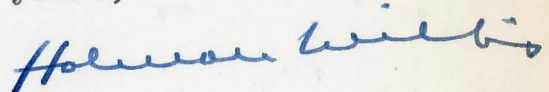
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away as prisoners. He did not mention any casualties or any fighting between the troops who took the position and the observation officers. There probably was none, because officers carry only side arms, and usually have with them one or two privates or non-coms to help with the instruments etc.

I have written an airmail letter to Lieutenant Bingham, asking him to tell me, if he knows, and the regulations will permit, whether your boy was in the group. If he was, I think you may rest entirely assured that he was captured, and we will bend our energies toward getting their names from the Red Cross as soon as possible.

You will pardon this letter being as long as it is, but I don't think much about anything else. I will write to you if I find out anything further.

Sincerely yours,



W-S

Holman Willis

