

# The Tryon Daily Bulletin

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## EUGENE TURNER WRITES LETTER FROM CHINA TO DAILY BULLETIN

The letter below written on Nov. 30 at Hangchow, China, was sent direct to the world's smallest daily newspaper, with the request that copies of it be sent to numerous friends throughout the United States. Mr. Turner's home address is now Tryon which he visits every seven years. He has many friends throughout this section who will be interested in his personal account of the war situation. The mail service has been so uncertain that some letters written last reach their destination first. On December 10th he wrote the New York office: "For three weeks we had no mail. Last week 200,000 letters arrived in one consignment and only a small staff to handle them." In the New York Times of January 6th a Canadian insurance surveyor cabled from Shanghai, that one of the first things the Japs did after capturing Hangchow was to declare a three-day holiday for the soldiers which resulted in much looting of Chinese wine shops, private homes. Hundreds of women and girls were ravished. In many places missionaries had to stand between the women and Japanese soldiers. The whole place went wild and some of the retreating Chinese joined in the looting. The Canadian praised the work of Gene Turner and others for their bravery in risking their lives on many occa-

sions to save refugees. Mr. Turner's letter is as follows:

Hangchow, China.  
November 30, 1937.

Dear Mr. Vining:

Within the past month I have had the unbelievable experience of seeing more than a half million people move out of this city toward the upland regions of the Province. Driven by fear of aerial bombing and the possible coming of Japanese troops, the people have poured out by the tens of thousands, taking everything of value with them that they possibly could. First there went the people of means, with the valuables, then from day to day the process continued until only those who could not afford the inflated prices of the road were left in the city. There are probably less than fifty thousands of the normal population of more than a half million left here now. Not only have the people gone from their homes, but in the night with its covering darkness and protection from planes, proprietors of shops moved out their goods in great bundles, usually wrapped in white cloth and the thousands of dollars worth of the choicest silks and satins have gone thus on the backs of coolies, in rickshaws, on hand carts and in trucks and private cars.

During the past few days, the few foreign residents here, about a dozen English, and six, or seven

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