

## Captured Correspondent's Letter

"DREAMER IN GERMANY"  
1125 DECEMBER, 1943

DEAR LEO:

That's a helluva dateline—but it could have been worse. Please tell Joe I'm sorry to have broken up our little family. Hope my story got through didn't you and Charlie thank me that's all that counts? Also I pray that ELIZABETH is getting my salary and she is all right. I'm not able to write many letters—so of the first two, one to you—one to her please cable her when you get this as her's will take longer to arrive. Maybe I'll be able to get out some mail stories—The boys here are first-class copy. Please tell Mrs. Walker (mother-in-law) and tell her for me that I'm OK. Hope my typewriter, which was at the airfield, is being sent for me. Mrs. Walker will save my clothes, etc. for me if they can be sent to her. (2 GARDNER, NANNING, D. L. B. B. B. N. N. 3) I've STARTED WRITING ANOTHER BOOK—IN LONGHAND—AND TILL TIME THERE'S NO RUSH SO I'LL MAKE IT GOOD. NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS TO ALL THE GUYS—PLEASE ASK EVERYBODY TO WRITE ME IF THEY WILL—LETTERS WILL BE IMPORTANT EVENTS. ANYWAY—I DON'T GET THAT GERMANY IS A TRICK ANYMORE! I'LL TRY TO GIVE YOU SOME SCRAP-SOUP OF THE 2ND FRONT! TELL JIMMY I'M SAVING MY EXPENSE SHEETS AND WATCH OUT FOR THE "SECRET WEAPON" PLEASE WRITE—730—LOVELL

Here is the letter received by Leo Dolan, INS bureau head in London, which revealed that correspondent Lowell Bennett, missing in a raid over Germany was a prisoner of war. The young reporter was flying in one of the 41 RAF bombers shot down during the Dec. 23-24 raid on Berlin. At the bottom of the letter, Bennett warns "watch out for that 'secret weapon'."

# Allied Troops 30 Miles From Rome; Reds Threaten Another Railway Line

## Destroy Nazi Bridgehead On Volkhov

### Germans Still Hold Narrow Stretch of Railway to Capital

Moscow, Jan. 24—(AP)—Sweeping along both banks of the Volkhov river after wiping out a German bridgehead on the east bank, the Red army was within ten miles of Chudovo today in a drive which threatened to cut still another vital enemy rail line below Leningrad.

The Germans, whose communications are being systematically chopped up in various parts of the Leningrad front, still hold a narrow stretch of this line—the main Moscow-Leningrad line—between Chudovo and Tosno. Chudovo is about 75 miles southeast of Leningrad on the west side of the Volkhov river.

At the same time, Russian troops directly menaced the key rail junction of Tosno by advancing through Pustinka, ten miles southwest of Mga, and a Soviet communique said the Germans were retreating in disorder from the tip of the Tosno salient.

The bulletin also told of continuing Russian successes in lower Volhynia, declaring that the drive through the Pripiet marshes already had passed Simonovichi, 53 miles west of Mazyr.

Swedish dispatches from Berlin, meanwhile, said the Red army had launched a surprise offensive on the far northern Finnish front about 150 miles southeast of Petsamo. The Finnish communique, however, reported only routine patrol activity.

In another unverified report, a Berlin broadcast said heavy fighting was going on southeast of Kerch in the Crimea. Later Russian forces landed and drove inland. The broadcast said the new landings came simultaneously with attacks by other Russian forces which already had established a bridgehead northeast of Kerch.

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Strong Allied amphibious forces have landed "deep in the rear of the present Nazi front line positions" and are officially reported to be "progressing satisfactorily" after occupying the port of Nettuno, 32 miles south of Rome. The landing, paced by U. S. Rangers and British commandos of the Fifth Army, was carried out under a shattering bombardment by Allied planes and warships. A steady stream of troops and equipment continues to pour ashore with virtually no opposition from the German Air Force. (International)

## Aussies Nearing Bogadjim, Door To Jap Base Of Madang

### Aerial Action In Rome Area

15th Air Force Base in Italy, Jan. 24—(AP)—Big bombers and fighters of the 15th Air Force—hundreds of them—pursuing their impressive offensive in support of the landing operation south of Rome, struck at some 18 targets yesterday and rained above the Italian capital at will.

The chief targets were the network of roads and railroads immediately behind the German lines and north of Rome.

### Absentee Vote Question Up Before Senate

Washington, Jan. 24—(AP)—The Senate dealt down a one man effort to block immediate consideration of service vote legislation today, temporarily shelving the ever-compelling food subsidy issue.

The Democratic steering committee decided to beat the House to the punch and get a vote on its version of an absentee voting measure, The Oregon Senator (Ohio, R.) raised the "unanimous consent" bar by refusing to give his permission. He also sought to bring up the subsidy legislation.

Majority Leader Barkley then invoked a parliamentary weapon which forbids debate on motions during the so-called "morning hour"—before 2 p. m.—and got his motion to bring up the service vote bill approved by voice vote.

The Senate passed a modified soldier vote bill last year which struck out a proposed Federal war ballot for service men and women and substituted a simple directive to the states to use their own absentee ballots. That bill is pending in the House.

The new bill which caused today's controversy again provides a Federal ballot but would leave with the states the power to pass on the qualifications of voters and the validity of each ballot.

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### Japanese Retreating In Wake of Strong Australian Drive

Advanced Allied Headquarters, New Guinea, Jan. 24—(AP)—Aussies who cut their tactical teeth on the problem of routing Rommel are drawing victoriously nearer Bogadjim, south door to Japan's big base of Madang, New Guinea.

Climaxing a year-long drive up inland New Guinea from Buna, the Australian ground units which once battled Rommel in Africa, sent the Japanese fleeing in panic from the Faria river headquarters—less than 25 miles south of Bogadjim—General Douglas MacArthur's communique said today.

Outflanked by the Aussies' victorious onslaught across squagmires and up almost perpendicular, hotly defended heights, the Japanese abandoned 100 dead in their hasty retreat.

From Bogadjim, the finest surfaced highway in the whole region offers a quick trip north to Madang, only 15 airline miles distance.

Meantime, a great flight of Liberator bombers pulverized much of Boropon airfield which helps guard the foe's big shipping base at Rabaul, New Britain.

Kara airfield near Kahlil on southern Bougainville, in the Solomons, another possible hindrance to complete neutralization of Rabaul, also was hit—by more than 60 torpedo and dive bombers, escorted by more than 20 fighters.

Neither raid drew air opposition and all planes returned.

Allied air blows also fell on the Buka area of northern Bougainville; Gasmata, New Britain, 200 miles southwest of Rabaul; Kavieng, in northern New Ireland; several northeast New Guinea coastal bases; Dutch Timor, 400 miles northwest of Darwin, Australia; and Halmahere, in the Moluccas, 900 miles of Darwin—the longest northward hop to date in the southwest Pacific war.

### FINAL PAYMENT ON DUKE NURSES' HOME

Richmond, Va., Jan. 24—A check for \$2,612.33, the fourth and final payment on a Federal grant of \$63,650 to Duke University to assist in financing the construction of additional facilities for student nurses, has been forwarded by the region I office of the Federal Works Agency to S. W. Myatt, secretary of the university's building committee at Durham, N. C. Regional Director Kenneth Markwell announced.

The new nurses' home, a two-story brick and frame building containing accommodations for approximately 115 nurses, has been in operation since last October. The university contributed 50 per cent of the cost of construction and supplied all furnishings and equipment.

### Nazi Officers Evacuate Rome

Madrid, Jan. 24—(AP)—German officials were reported streaming northward out of Rome today in an exodus preparatory to military evacuation of the city should this be made necessary by the Allied landings on the Italian coast to the south.

Diplomatic advices from Rome said the Germans already had removed their quartermaster corps headquarters to Florence, approximately 140 miles northwest of Rome. The communications center for the German army command was said to have moved back to Chiusi, 82 miles above Rome.

These advices declared that the main highway leading out of Rome was filled with the cars of both German and Italian fascist authorities and added that only military functionaries concerned with the actual defense of the city were remaining behind.

All telephone service between Rome and the north was reported closed both to civilians and Italian officials on order of the German military commander of the area. Neutrals were permitted to send only the briefest diplomatic dispatches from Rome.

An Associated Press dispatch from Stockholm quoted reports from Switzerland as saying that the new Allied amphibious attacks below Rome had inspired the populace in northern Italy to violent anti-German demonstrations.

### CIO Officials On Record For Fourth Term

New York, Jan. 24—(AP)—Pledging their full support, 2,500 Congress of Industrial Organization officials were on record today for a fourth term for President Roosevelt.

The group, delegates to a New York City CIO special conference on wages and political action, adopted a resolution yesterday urging the President to seek reelection saying he was needed to assure:

"A continuance of responsible and effective leadership in the war effort and to assure fulfillment of the President's promises for peace and the return of our nation to a fully productive civilian economy."

The CIO leaders also passed a resolution endorsing with qualifications the President's proposal for a national service act.

## Appian Way Is Brought Under Fire

### Nazis on Offensive In Violent Attacks Along Cassino Front

Allied Headquarters, Algiers, Jan. 24—(AP)—American and British troops, driving four miles inland, are less than 30 miles from Rome and have brought the Appian way under shell fire from their long beachhead above the Pontine marshes. Allied headquarters announced today.

But fighting with the fury of a cornered fighter, the German Tenth Army has gone over to the offensive on the whole Cassino front. In a series of violent day and night counterattacks, the Germans threw the Americans back across the Rapido river.

"It is apparent that the German command hoped to disrupt the entire Fifth Army front to gain time to turn around and deal with the threat in their rear," said a military commentator at Allied headquarters.

The Americans have seized a bridgehead across the Rapido, three miles below Cassino, in conjunction with the Allied landings near Rome, but were immediately attacked in force by the Germans who have been augmented by Arec divisions withdrawn from the Rome area only a few days ago.

As a result of the shift of German forces, the seaborne forces at Nettuno were still expanding their miles long bridgehead without meeting effective opposition, headquarters is announced. American and British troops and supplies still are pouring ashore.

The Allies captured Nettuno, it was stated officially for the first time, holding the coast for several miles both north and south of that small port, and have brought the Appian Way under their guns.

This road, the main coastal highway between Rome and the Germans' southern front, is only twelve miles from the beaches, and the four-mile Allied advance placed the Americans and British within eight miles of the aptery.

The road also was within range of warships off shore.

### Russian-Polish Solution Is Seen As Keer to Moscow

London, Jan. 24—(AP)—The return of Ambassador Sir Archibald Kerr to Moscow stirred hopes today for a solution of the Russian-Polish deadlock which appears to center more on the exiled government in London than on the Soviet insistence on the Curson line as a boundary.

The British ambassador has been away from Moscow two months, spending most of his time in the United States.

### Senate Group Opposed To Service Draft

Washington, Jan. 24—(AP)—The future of national service legislation rested today with a small group of senators who are far from convinced that what this country needs is a civilian labor draft.

If they voted today they probably would kill the proposal advanced by President Roosevelt as a part of his new legislative program.

"A bill of that kind would do more harm than good," said Senator Murray (Mont., D.). "It would be a smear on the whole production record in this country."

"I don't think we need it," declared Senator Truman (Mo., D.), chairman of the War Costs Investigating Committee.

Murray and Truman were joined in their opposition by Senators Reynolds (N. C., D.), chairman of the Military Committee; Johnson (Colo., D.), and Kilgore (W. Va., D.). Senator Wallgren (Wash., D.), with-held comments but associates said he is against the bill.

# Carlson Proposes Simplification Of Income Tax Laws

## Changes Suggested Would Make Filing Of Returns Easier

Washington, Jan. 24—(AP)—Drastic simplification of the income tax laws was proposed today by Representative Carlson (Kan., R.) who would:

1. Provide for only one tax on personal incomes, with a single base and single rates and exemptions through merger of the victory tax with the regular income tax.
  2. Eliminate the necessity of filing returns in the case of persons whose tax liability is substantially withheld at the source, but permit returns to be filed at the taxpayers' option. (This would affect 30,000,000 of the approximately 50,000,000 taxpayers and in general cover those who are not now required to file declarations of estimated tax.)
  3. Permit use of the short form of returns by taxpayers with up to \$5,000 gross incomes. (Present limit is \$3,000.)
  4. Strip down both the short and long form of returns.
  5. Give taxpayers until January 15 following the close of the taxable year in which to file an amended declaration of their estimated tax and thereby avoid penalty for any underpayment.
- "This," said Carlson, "will eliminate the guessing contest in the present law which has resulted in so much irritation and confusion."
- Removed from further tax obligations would be those small taxpayers now subject to the victory tax but whose earnings are not enough to come within the regular income tax service.
- The potential loss of revenue would be offset in part by the reduction of the marriage exemption under the regular income to \$1,100 and the remainder by readjustments in the surtax rate.

## Halstead Has Filed For State Office

Raleigh, Jan. 24—(AP)—Representative W. I. Halstead of Camden county, candidate for the Democratic nomination for Lieutenant Governor, paid his \$7 filing fee to the State Board of Elections today.

Halstead thus became the first to file for that office. Another announced candidate, Senator L. Y. Ballentine of Wake county, is expected to file shortly.

## Day Raiders Follow RAF Night Attack

London, Jan. 24—(AP)—Large formations of Allied aircraft swept out across the English Channel to hammer European targets by daylight today after RAF Mosquitoes had stalked at western Germany last night and slipped back through the Nazis' defenses without loss.

British planes also laid mines in enemy waters, the air ministry said. The communique mentioned no other overnight operations, though a wide continental radio blackout and reports from Sweden had indicated previously that targets in southern western Europe might have been under attack.

The day raiders took off shortly after dawn and headed in the direction of the Pas de Calais area in northern France, which was bombed by both British and American planes yesterday.

Coastal observers who saw the planes fleeing out over southern England said they included waves of medium bombers escorted by many fighters. Some of the aircraft were seen returning from the direction of Boulogne, Dieppe and Calais 45 minutes later.

## Rails Fair On Stock Market

New York, Jan. 24—(AP)—Rails continued to do fairly well in today's stock market but even these ran into sufficient profit taking to stall their advance.

Among supported stocks were Southern Railway, American Can, DuPont and Westinghouse. Occasional losers included Bethlehem, Chrysler, United States Rubber and American Telephone.

Railway bonds were steady. Commodities slipped.

## Cotton Prices Lower At Noon

New York, Jan. 24—(AP)—Cotton futures opened unchanged to 15 cents a bale higher. Noon values were five to ten cents, a bale lower, were five to ten cents, a bale lower, were five to ten cents, a bale lower.

	Prev. Close	Open
March	20.14	20.15
May	19.84	19.86
July	19.53	19.55
October (new)	19.12	19.15
December (new)	18.98	

## WEATHER

FORTY FOR NORTH CAROLINA. Partly cloudy and not quite so cool tonight. Tuesday, increasing cloudiness and slightly warmer.