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SLUG(BENNETT LETTER)

"IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN WORSE" WRITES CAPTURED NEWSMAN
LONDON, ENG...HERE IS THE LETTER RECEIVED BY LEO
DOLAN, CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE LONDON
BUREAU, FROM HIS STAR REPORTER, LOWELL BENNETT, WHO
WAS SHOT DOWN OVER BERLIN DURING THE BIG ROYAL AIR
FORCE RAID ON THE GERMAN CAPITAL, DECEMBER 2-3.

BENNETT TOSSED A COIN WITH A COLLEAGUE FOR THE HONOR
OF GOING ON THE MISSION. IT WAS HIS "LUCK" THAT HE
DREW ONE OF THE 44 BOMBERS THAT DID NOT RETURN.

W.1.24.44.

PHOTO RADIOED FROM LONDON

"SOMEWHERE IN GERMANY"
11TH 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 teach me that's all that counts? Also I pray that ELISABETH 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 hers will take longer to arrive. Maybe I'll be able to get out some MAIL STORIES - The boys here are first-class copy. Please telephone MRS. WALKER (MOTHER-IN-LAW) and tell her for me that I'm O.K. Hope my typewriter, which was at the airfield, is being saved for me. MRS. WALKER will save my clothes, etc. for me if they can be sent to her (19 GARDNER MANIONS, CHURCH BLW, N.W.3.) I'VE STARTED WRITING ANOTHER BOOK - IN LONGHAND - AND THIS 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 goddam 8-4 trick anymore! I'll try to give INS some good coverage of the 2nd FRONT! TELL TURNER I'M SAVING MY EXPENSE BOOKS. AND WATCH OUT FOR THE "SECRET WARREN"
Please write, 735 - LOWELL