

NAME: Leo

RANK: Private First Class

ORGANIZATION: 3353rd Quartermaster Truck Company (DUKW)

OVERSEAS WARTIME SERVICE: Mediterranean and European Theaters of Operations

- The following excerpt is directly from an original wartime letter written by Leo. This is the only letter from Leo in the site curator's possession.
- The following excerpt is presented under fair use provisions for educational purposes.
- No controversial material has been omitted from the following excerpt. No grammatical or spelling errors have been corrected.

Leo writes his cousin in the United States:

“April 5, 1945

Received your most welcome letter of March 20 so will take the greatest pleasure in answering it today...

...I am now in Germany, have crossed the Rhine River a number of times. The country is better than most that I have seen. We aren't allowed to talk to the civilians of which I feel is a very good plan. They should be made to suffer as they have many others. Two of my buddy's & I share the kitchen of a German home. It really is modern, running water, white enamel cook stove, hard wood cabinet & table, with white marble four feet high around the walls. It is Paradise compared to some of the places where I have stayed...

...Many Thanks for your kind offer...but at the present time, I can't think of any thing that Im in need of. We get cigarettes, shaving articles & etc throu the P. X. Don't always get my favorite brand of cig but have learned to like them all since been in service.

I don't have any pictures of myself or the country at the present time. Mother sent me a camera which I received when was in Anzio. I left the films to be developed in Italy & came to france leaving them so never expect to see them again. The last roll that had taken, the camera didn't work so think they were ruined. My luck at taking pictures seems to be very poor. Well must close for this time.

Your Cousin, Leo.”

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- It is not known whether or not Leo made it through the Second World War.
 - **For visual context, this link connects to an original wartime film in the public domain that covers the type of equipment which Leo's organization operated (viewer discretion advised):**
<https://archive.org/details/FB-60>

- For additional detail, this link connects to the Wikipedia article that also covers the type of equipment which Leo's organization operated (reader discretion advised):
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DUKW>