

Charles Albert Converse Papers, 1939-1940  
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January 24, 1940

# Converse, Charles. Letter to Family.

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*Note date of  
return these  
place*

January 24, 1940

Dear Folks.

I have done lots of flat hunting the last few days and think now that I have found one to my liking but I'm afraid to do anything final until I hear from the Department as to the rent allowance that I will receive. This flat is in an old house that at one time must have been a very lovely home. It has now been converted into five flats with central heat, constant hot water and an electric refrigerator. The house sits in quite large grounds and the living room looks out over the Mersey River. There are three bedrooms (one a very tiny one), living room, dining room, kitchen and bath. There is a hall running the length of the flat and all rooms open on to the hall. The rent is £210 a year. I will of course do nothing until I get my allowance for if I only get a single man's Allowance, I won't be able to take it. I hope that I do get sufficient to take it for it is a lovely place and as I have said before you must be comfortable up here at home otherwise you would find it pretty miserable. It is snowing now as a matter of fact it has been snowing all the morning. It has been as cold as charity since I arrived up here.

I haven't done anything socially as yet. George has introduced me to several of his contacts at lunch and they seem to be a pretty fine bunch of men. I have been turning in early and getting plenty of rest. I have been drinking quantities of water. George said that he did the same thing when he first came up here. Must be the smoke in the atmosphere. The flat is 3 miles from the office and on a very good bus route. George lives out at Bowden which is 10 miles out. I don't want to go that far out. The idea of commuting is not an attractive one to me. I had enough when we lived at Northwood to last me for a long while. There are no nice modern little flats here. I did inspect one block of modern flats and they were like pigpens. I just couldn't live in one. They were filthy dirty too. I might possibly rent a room but that would then bring up the question of food which is an important one. There are a number of places to eat lunch but few where you can eat dinner and over the weekend the place is closed tight, not even any cinemas on Sunday. It looks to me as though I will almost have to have my own place. I don't want to go to the expense or trouble of a house.

*John M.*