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Converse, Charles. Letter to Family.

Manchester, England

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This last letter he wrote -

ALTRINCHAM 4195

He dated this weeky Thursday
Postmark was RALLY Feb - Jan 15th
Feb 17th

GROVE HOUSE,
PARK ROAD,
BOWDON, CHESHIRE.

Dearest Folksees, Please excuse the pencil but believe it or not here I am getting over a nice spell of "flu". I was in bed a week and went out today for the first time. The stationery is George's. I came out to stay with him for a week on his insistence and naturally he has insisted that I remain until I am right again. I plan to move to an hotel, a private one not far from here over the weekend. It is called the Bowden Hydro. Unfortunately the expensive Midland is about the only place to stay in town. It seems as though everyone scoots right out of Manchester after business. It is like a deserted village over the weekend. Horrible place.

All in all my stay in Manchester to date has been a perfect "poet" but I have hopes that it will improve with time. George likes it I keep telling myself and he came here from Paris so I should learn to like it. Any-way I hope for the best and expect nothing so you can't go very wrong on that.

I had a pretty bad time of it with the flu but the Dr says I am recovering nicely. He has given me a very formidable array of medicines to help build me up. I am waiting for the spring and nicer weather then I feel that I will be able to get on my feet again.

It is grand that the kiddies are getting so much out of home but don't give them too much. Laura, for example, should not take ballet dancing she is no more suited for it than I am. Tap yes. I am happy that she and son are getting on so fine in piano. Tell them not to go so rapid as not to be thorough they will regret it if they do. Nothing will take the place of rehearsing.

ALTRINCHAM 4195

GROVE HOUSE,
PARK ROAD,
BOWDON, CHESHIRE.

Tell Louie not to pay any attention to what the boys tell her they are just a big bunch of fibbers. I know because I was one, never let a boy have his way. Do what you know is right and be damned to him. They'll come to heel quick enough if you stick to that Louie. I expect big things from all three of my tiddlers so naturally I don't want any one of them go out and make a monkey of himself or herself. If any problem or question arises always go to Mother with it. If she wants advice she can write to Paddy. Both of us will always try to answer fully and any way we will always answer honestly. So don't forget and don't let the Bourne troops down.

Note here - Ruth -

Had a letter from Ed
and one from Jimmie C. this week.
Things seem to be rocking along as usual
in London. Ed said that they have taken
no one in my place and that I have a
bed whenever I want it down there. I
miss London terribly and when I feel I
can afford a couple of £'s I'm going for a
weekend.

This afternoon an elderly friend
(about 65 yrs) of George's a Mrs. J. Harold
Brown took me for a little drive after
having lunch at her home which is
only five minutes from here. She is
a very alert and wide awake lady and
lots of fun. In one respect she is like
Mrs. Cross, her untiring efforts to find
me a nice place to live. She has a flat
in her own home a lovely old
Georgian residence that she has
offered me that I might be wise to
take but I want to thoroughly cover
the ground before deciding. Then too
I still hate the idea of being so far
out of town. Bowden is 12 miles
out but it is the place to live.

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GROVE HOUSE,
PARK ROAD,
BOWDON, CHESHIRE.

It is next door to the country and I understand Cheshire is very beautiful in the spring & summer. No one if they can possibly help it lives in Manchester because of the terrible smoke and filth.

It would be very lonely if you could come over but I'm afraid it is out of the question first because the government wouldn't give you a passport in all probability and secondly but most important it would be absolutely out of the question to leave the children. Without one parent is bad enough without both absolutely impossible. They need us now more than they ever will again in their lives. You know, it's hard to realize but, in a very few years they won't need us at all.

See to it that they have the rights associations so that if any romance should show itself, as it is bound to, it will at least be with their own kind. Don't forbid but just

show them that in their own is the
only place where they can be happy
and find people who think and feel
as they do. Teach them that since
they are of the best they must associate
only on terms of close friendships with
the best. Then they won't have any
unnecessary heartaches. I wish I was
there to help you but don't worry just
go about it calmly and lead but don't
drive. Connie is I'm afraid the one
you will have to watch although Lana
in her big generous way might quite
innocently take up with some tramp.
Tell Sonnie to hold himself very dear and
to think things out carefully then when
he decides go to it. I only wish that I
had had the benefit of the concerted efforts of
two parents intelligently trying to aid
me in finding my feet. Love sometimes
is not in itself sufficient to set a
headstrong impetuous child on the
right foot.

Ruth this no little what I told you he talked to me of

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GROVE HOUSE,
PARK ROAD,
BOWDON, CHESHIRE.

I still haven't heard from the Department as to what my next allowance will be so there is really very little I can do until I hear. I'm almost tempted now to leave the matter in abeyance until the spring and just stay at the Hydros which is extremely reasonable. There are a lot of old fogies around who would of course make the place unattractive but I suppose I could stick it for a month or so. I must do something this unsettled condition is so good. But I just feel unsettled and I think every one at the office in London feels the same way just sort of being from one day to the next. There is lots of talk of things breaking loose in the spring but I for one don't put much stock in all the chatter. Personally I feel that the best thing to do is just to sit steady in the boat and watch events.

I hadn't intended calling in
a doctor with my flu but the fever
stayed around 102° for three days so
George & I thought it best. Mrs Brown
recommended a man Dr Mitzgley and
he is a pecker although a Quaker. I
like him immensely & I think he is good.
He is a very friendly nice type about 50 yrs.
and has a good practice out here. The
flu that is very prevalent over here now
seems to make itself in with four days
head fever and after that the principle
thing is to be careful that you don't go
out too soon and come down with
pneumonia. There have been a number
of cases where this has happened. He
is certainly taking ample care to see
that it doesn't happen in my case for he
feels I need lots of building up. I of
course, gave him my medical history.
He said that he must build me up.
It seems that my pulse is too faint
in other words my heart is doing just
enough but that's all. My blood pressure is
very low which is to be expected. He said
my type run best to worry about
a stroke. Today is the 15th and

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I expect to be back on the job on the 19th
Monday. That is the earliest the Doctor will
give his O.K. and I am not going to take
any unnecessary chances, the work is not
too pressing.

It looks as though every part
of the world is being frozen out this winter.
This is the worst in England since 1894. I
do hope the citrus isn't hurt. Gee how
I would love about two years from now to
retire to a nice Florida grove. Haven't
you any friends down there who want to
turn their estate over to us? What fun it
would be. From all I hear Florida is having
another small boom at least on the east coast.

Well if you can decipher this
letter you've a good one but under the
circumstances do the best that I can do.
For me it is much easier than the
typewriter for you it will be much
easier to read I'm afraid. This paper

is so heavy I'm going to send the
letter by ordinary post. As a matter of
fact I don't think there is much in it.
The fact that it is air mail just makes
it seem more important. Check this and
see how long it takes to arrive and then
compare with the next air mail of course
they have been very irregular. I had a letter
from Anne this week. She received my
Christmas letter on about the 17th of Dec
or Jan 17th and received an ordinary post
letter thanking them for that present on the
very same day. Of course the air
mail was held up for weeks because
of weather conditions. That's the explanation.

I'm so pleased you enjoyed
the birthday greeting although I
certainly thought I wanted them in
ample time. Did you? Goodbye
for the moment read a lot and
think a lot till Eidda's display
too much and help Mother all you can.
Louds + Loads of Love + God Bless you
Charlie