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Charles Albert Converse Papers, 1939-1940  
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November 25, 1939

# Converse, Charles. Letter to Family.

Manchester, England

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November 25, 1979

Dearest Dottie and Kiddies,

I received a very great and extremely Disappointing piece of news this morning but we mustn't get too down hearted. I have been transferred to Manchester. I could hardly believe it as you can readily imagine. Nevertheless there it is and I have to proceed there in January on the arrival of my successor, Palmer, who is now at Saigon, French Indo China. A good break for him and I suppose that he deserves it after serving there. I have had along talk with Mr Erhardt and also Herschel and they don't feel that it would be wise to try and do anything about it. Both seem to feel that it is a excellent opportunity for me to do some excellent work and that the assignment will not be a long one. There is no need to dwell on my disappointment and I know your disappointment for we had so banked on my having a transfer that would take me through the U.S. so that you could rejoin me. We will just have to face the situation bravely and put those thoughts out of our minds for the time being. One thing that we must not do and that is bellyache to the Department for I do not want them to feel that I am a chronic kicker. I only hope that when things settle down a bit they will realize the situation and do something about it. I had a very nice letter this morning from George stating how happy he was that I was coming to Manchester and that he was sure that we could accomplish great things up there. It was really a very heartening letter and I am really extremely fortunate to have George as a chief. He is one of the finest men in the service. Well at any rate I won't be leaving for at least another month and a half and many things can happen in the meantime.

I haven't received but one letter from you yet which I answered in my last letter. The mails are so indefinite that we just can't count on any regular service. I am going to continue to send my letters air mail for the time being so that there will be some regularity of reception. It is pretty expensive and when we can be sure of a regular service, I will send by the regular sailings. You must explain to the children that the reason that they do not get individual letters from Daddy is that he has to limit his letters according to weight. Fortunately the love that I send can't be weighed on postal scales and they must realize this. Daddy's little messages to them carry oodles of love and pride in their continued success. Ed hasn't had but one letter from Helen either so I suppose that he is also experiencing the same transportation difficulties that I am. Things go on as usual here. The three of us still live our placid quiet life. We are all settling in now and are reading far more than we were when you were here in England. By the way there is a fine article in one of the recent Saturday Evening Posts on VMI that you must get hold of and read. There are a fine number of coloured pictures as well. I don't know off hand the date of the number but you can easily find out. I expect that this is old news to you by now but I just wanted to be sure that you don't miss seeing it. It is really very worth while.

I never did hear when Herbert and Cythenia sailed but I presume that they have by now. Boots is sending back the children on Saturday via the Veendam, Holland America Line, and is naturally a little nervous in view of all of the recent sinking by mines. Mrs Boardman is traveling east for Sis's wedding, will collect the children upon their arrival and take them back with her to California. Boots is hopeful of getting back soon. Mr Boardman is going over to New York in the near future and has offered to see what he can do for John re a job over there.

Bob has heard that Cile is undergoing a curetment(phonetically spelled) and he is naturally worried as to the outcome.It is really a shame that she should find herself in this diffifult situation so soon after little Roberta arrived.However there is a very bright side to it and that is, she is at home and can have the best of attention.Bob said that Cile had called on you with her Mother and that you were leaving soon for Tampa because of an opttion Cile had on a flat for you in Tampa.I hope it turned out fine and that you have found something you like.You will be able now to make a more attractive proposition to your landlord now as to time at any rate.

Col.Simpson writes that \$25 per month is all that he can safely undertake to guarantee to send to you each and every month.It is not what I had hoped but at any rate it is definite which is much better than a questionable \$50 per month.I am going to write to him to try and boost it to \$35 at least. I will naturally try to send more next year if I get a promotion or anything happens so that I can put a little money aside.When I go to Manchester,I presume that I will be placed on a single mans rent allowance which is about half of my present one and then too I will get a much reduced post allowance. From that angle the transfer might be a blessing.It certainly shouldn't cost as much to live up there.

What is the name of the man whom you know at the gas company and how can I get in touch with him.They have sent me a bill of £6.7.0 amount balance due hirepurchase deferred payment on reffigerator.I don't that it is worth paying that much out still,Do you.Let me know what you think.I am afraid that it would be pretty hopeless to get any sort of decent price for it at the present time.Write me what details you know re the machine.How much it cost originally,how much we have paid,etc.I think that I will just have the furniture packed for shipment,sent up to Manchester,and take a small furnished flat.I imagine that I won't have much trouble doing that and then I won't have to tie myself up on a long lease of any sort and will be able to go immediately the word is received.I will try hard to put aside enough money so that I can come home when home leaves are once again permitted and then I will see what I can do to get out of Manchester if I am still there.I am going to try and be as optimistic as possible over the entire thing which is not a very easy matter as you can readily appreciate.If I can get a few days off during December,I am going to run up to Manchester and have a look around and see just what is available.It is a large and important industrial city but like every other city except London in this country the living is not up to our standards by any means.

The time was set up the usual hour last week and now we leave work every evening after dark.I mean it is really dark too.It is much lighter a couple of hours later when the moon comes up.Mr Kennedy is leaving tomorrow for the US.He is flying back so I suppose this letter will go on the same plane with him.I wonder what his plans are and if he is coming back over here.Jack Bowie,my old friend from Capetown, just dropped in,He has come up to join the RAF as he did in the last war.Twee came up on the boat with him. Jack says that she is on her way to Paris.She has divorced Gordon and is free again.Gordon is still in Capetown and according to Jack is just the same and doing fine.Jack has now become a partner in Henry Hemmann's business and appears very prosperous.I am going to have supper with him one night this week and talk over old times again.He said that he heard down in Capetown That I am not drinking any more.I suppose the Daggitt's told it.I can't think of anyone else whom we saw that would have told it.He said Capetown is unchanged.

Paul has now bought a saddle horse and a pony. He is certainly one person whom we know that has come out darn well so far. I talked to him yesterday over the phone. The family is still down at the cottage and getting along nicely. He has been able most week ends to go down Thursday or Friday to be with them. Mary is now up in Lincoln working and I hope getting along nicely. I suppose that she feels safe up there. We had no trouble getting her permit through for her. I had a note from Finus yesterday and she wanted to know all about you all and how you are settling in. I hope to have a letter from you within the next few days and I will then write her the latest news. She has some sort of night work looking after lots of evacuated children. She likes the work but has to spend most of the day sleeping. She says she really feels like she is doing work on the home front with all of the potties that she has to look after.

I just received an awfully nice letter from George Tait expressing his pleasure over the prospect of working together. Well who knows it might be a lucky break and I just don't have sense enough to realize it. Provincial England is a pretty gloomy prospect after London even with the blackout. We went to see the picture Golden Boy last night and it was certainly a good film, prize fighting, etc.

I hope that you are finding my letters newsy. There is very little happening. Everyone just seems to be carrying on and waiting, for what they don't know. This is the most peculiar situation that has ever existed of that I am quite confident. What a queer war. I have been doing some good reading but not too much as my eyes are inclined to get pretty tired. I think, when I get home that I will have them looked to. Reading glasses might be advisable.

Give Cile my love and I hope that she is finding the happiness that she deserves in her marriage. Also give my love to John and Andrew and I hope that they are both doing nicely. I hear that Florida is extremely popular again so things might look bright for everyone down there. Col. writes that there is a terrific amount of building going on at Valdosta. We might be beginning on a wave of prosperity. It is an ill wind that blows nobody any good.

Please write details as to your experiences getting settled in. I hope that by the time you receive this you are comfortably settled with everything running smoothly. Get all the sunshine that is going and take good care of yourselves. Loads and loads of love and then some more,

*Devotely*  
*Charlie & Biddy*

Needless to add  
this is a terrific  
shock to me. If  
I ever felt like  
deliberately getting  
drunk I do tonight.  
Thank you for  
going to the  
hospital. I must  
have seen  
you there  
-  
writing to you  
unintentionally -  
Return this to  
me please. I'll write  
soon again.