

War Letters



*A collection of letters written during
World War II*

Scanned by Alice Gander in 2002

Contents

January 8, 1945: Bruce Gander to Josephine Gander.....	3
January 14, 1945: Jim Buckman to Josephine Gander.....	6
September 24, 1945: Charlie White to Josephine Gander.....	9
September 27, 1945: Jim Buckman to Josephine Gander.....	16
January 14, 1946: Jim Buckman to Josephine Gander.....	21
March 24, 1946: Jim Buckman to Josephine Gander.....	25
July 25, 1946: Jim Buckman to Josephine Gander.....	28

January 8, 1945: Bruce Gander to Josephine Gander



U. S. NAVAL AIR STATION
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

1/8/45

Dear Cliff + Joe.

Will try to drop you a few lines tonight
I had intended to write sooner but haven't
gotten to it. I got your letter today
was glad to hear from you. Will try to use
your letter as a base for this one. That just
shows you how little I have to write about.

I bet dad & Cliff really felt like big
time hunters after getting two coons + a mink.
in one night as little as I care for night
hunting "of that type" I expect I would ~~have~~
liked to have been in that one. I know I would.

Well I made it back to Jax O.K. though
I was a dirty cutter by the time I got here
I want to thank you both for all the help
& consideration you give me. Thanks for the
use of your car. I come at a time when I
know you both had other things + things you
wanted to do. I sure enjoyed the short time
I had. The next time I hope I have more time.

I got back with your box of candy still
wrapped up. It was really nice Joe. Jack Burditt
picked all the nuts off the tops but I got all

of the Bottoms. it was a very different boy from
any I ever received before. so let me say
thanks again but in the position I am in now
I don't even want to think along such lines & figures

well I saw the ocean for my first time
sunday boy that is sure some thing to be
in the way of to have to take a bus out to
the beach in order to see the ocean. it was
a very bad day rained all day & foggy. it was
very interesting to me I intend to go out more
after.

I went home with a fellow who works in
my shop last night boy did I ever enjoy
that breakfast of hot biscuits, butter, sausage,
eggs S.S. up, grits, jam & coffee. I guess I
should have went back for dinner for Bob
told me that his mother had been expecting
me back if it hadnt been raining so I
might have went but I was all wet & wanted
to get back to the house to some dry clothes.

Cliff when you fix up that note you draw
it from the date you got the check. Make it the
Principle collectible at that date in 49. with the
interest paid annually you can give it to dad &
let them put it in the bond box.

they say that farmers are going to be hit hard
by the draft this year well fellow you do all
you can to stay out & dont let any hero or
honor stuff get in your head when you get
those questionnaires fill them out as strong as you
can make it in your favor. Brother that
draf is rough duty if you dont believe me



U. S. NAVAL AIR STATION
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

you ought to have seen some of the guys
that I have seen who have been seen
their or take a look at Don Terrell inducted
a week before I was with the first army
in France was when that report came to
the papers in Dec 15 since then the
first has been cut to ribbons

will follow just stay out if you can that's
what I have to say on the subject.

Well it is almost time for the lights to go
out so I will have to close here hoping
it doesn't get too cold there for you.

Lots of luck in hunting on that you have
the best of luck & success in the year of
1945

Love to all
Bruce.

(This is just one of some two dozen letters Bruce wrote to Cliff and Jo Gander during his two years in the Navy.)

Bruce's photo is on the front cover.

January 14, 1945: Jim Buckman to Josephine Gander



THE
ARMED FORCES

Jan 14, 1945

Dear Aunt Jo,

I'm sorry I haven't written sooner to thank you for the candy. The candy sure was good. I have been trying to write you but didn't have much time. We have been working about 18 hours a day and getting six hours sleep so I haven't had much time to do anything.

I went to Fort Worth yesterday and got back just a little while ago. I had a swell time and there are lots of girls down there. I went to a U.S.O. dance and had a good time. I didn't get up this morning until 9:30 and it sure felt good to get some sleep.

The weather down here is swell. Today it reminded me of spring it was so warm and the grass is green. Went to Mass this morning and it sure felt good to go to church.

I hope you get moved alright. Sorry it had to be so cold and freeze the pipes over at the other place.

I like the army fire now that I am in it. Of course there are some times it is pretty hard going but if there have been other fellows that have gone through it I can too.

I am having a hell of a time thinking of something to write. There isn't much to write but I better write. It is hard to write here with all these fellows making noise and carrying on. You know how it is when there ~~are~~ a bunch of fellows are together.

I better close and get some sleep for the next week.

Love
Jimmy

September 24, 1945: Charlie White to Josephine Gander

C. W. White Jr. Cap USN12
Co 4-I 121 USMC 13
707 P.O., San Francisco, California



Mr. Cliff Gander
Route #4
Maurice City,
Missouri

4

Sunday September 23, 1946 Larson

Dear Aunt Jo,

I was so glad to receive your letter written 7. J. day. Veronica has talked much of you and I think she takes special interest in Hope. She seems to take a motherly interest in all babies and talks of them as if they were her own. Now I guess she's practically taking charge of Sam and I'm glad for her. She needs something to occupy her mind as long as I have to be in the Service.

Of all Veronica's Aunts she's mentioned you quite often so I feel as if I almost know you too, all we need now in the introduction, that's up to Veronica. I know I am lucky to have Veronica. You would never know or maybe I should

say it would surprise you to know how many marriages and families have been broken up by men being away to war for so long. In my Battalion alone I know personally of several cases where a man's wife has asked for divorce because he has been away for so long. Other cases are as bad and worse. There's nothing they can do about it out here, so they are the losers. I know it's a trial for any one, but it's one way to get rid of an undesirable. I know Veronica is the best and that's why I say I'm lucky.

I never even had an idea when I left the States I'd still be out here when the war ended. Things looked pretty black then & they were. Since then I was in the invasion of the Marshalls at Rai and Namur. After a rest in Maui, Hawaii we came on out in the Invasion of Saipan. After the Island was secure, we had two weeks rest and then we

went on over to Simian. Our outfit
 was shot up pretty bad then so we
 were detached from the Mariner. We had
 less than half a Battalion left, so we
 stayed on Simian until we could get enough
 replacements to fill the gap and also another
 company in reserve. We went into the
 Navy 6th Brigade and half of 4th Batt.
 went to work on construction of airfields.
 While I was on Simian I was on sniper
 patrol. There were six men with me. We
 had to go job of flushing snipers out of
 the hills and caves. We set ambushes for
 them and traps. It wasn't as dangerous
 as front line combat we had been
 through but we took our chances. It was a
 lot of fun and I actually enjoyed it.
 Most of the Japs left in the hills would
 give up if we kept on them, but we
 had to shoot it out with several groups. In
 six months our patrol lost one man killed
 and one man wounded. We moved back

over

IV

to Saipan and patrolled 15 sq. miles
of hills here until the war ended. Since
the war ended less than a hundred have
given up so we didn't do such a ~~bad~~ bad
job ~~at~~ after all. I let what I've
done in the last 22 months and I'm
ready to go home now. I've told them not
to send me any Christmas packages because
I have hopes of getting home by Christmas
or soon after. I only lack 3 points by
the point system of getting out of the
service, but I'm eligible to go home on
rotation now. I'm waiting on transportation.

Lately we aren't doing anything
special. I played ball this morning with
our Company Team. We have a big
sports program to occupy us until we
can start home. I have driven a semi
trailer for the last week, but that was
just to have something to do. I haven't
seen snow for almost three years now,
this Christ here will most of the time

V

if you like warm weather. We have a lot of trouble with our blood here. It gets thin and regardless of how well we take care of our bodies we have a lot of blood sores and rashes. I've had a lot of trouble with my face, but it's clear now. I think if we had hot water to wash and bathe in it would be different, but we don't. The last hot water bath I had was over a year ago in our Hawaii rest camp. I'm not itching, because all in all I think we've been lucky when I think of the guys that fought in the cold weather in Europe. Then there are the ones who have died fighting for their Country they'll never see again. I hope this is the war to end wars, but I know it isn't and I don't think there is nothing you or I or anyone else can do about it. It's not a pleasant thought, but I'd rather face the truth than try to avoid it.

VI

The one thing I want to do when I get home is to take up where I left off, ~~about~~ that is about my religious standpoint. Since I've been in the Service I always find an excuse so I won't have to attend church services, if I don't have one I make it. I used to go every Sunday at home.

You mentioned meeting my family and you also mentioned my dog. You thought his ~~was~~ name was Frigger, but it's Zoro. I'll forgive you, I was the one that named him, and I still always call him my dog, because he used to sleep with me. If I wasn't in bed he slept on it anyway. Herin hoping your crop turn out better than expected this year. I guess it was a rough season on everyone. There is always a tomorrow we can look to, the next few seasons may more than take care of this bad one. I'll hope right along with you. I'll close now hoping this finds you and your family in the best of health. My love,

C. S. White Cox

Charlie Jr.

September 27, 1945: Jim Buckman to Josephine Gander





AMERICAN RED CROSS

Sept 27

America Div.

Walter J. [unclear]

Dear Aunt Jo & all.

I received your most enjoyable letter the other day and now I have a little spare time so thought I had better answer it.

Well guess I will get to see snow this winter after all. The weather is quite a change from what it was in the Philippines. I like it better when it is cool though, but I guess I will leave that black tan I had there. I went with my shirt off almost all the time there but here until I get used to it I had to keep it on.

We are living at a university in Japan. It really is a big ~~modern~~ modern building, look like some of the American buildings. Well it probably was built by American plans. There is a big swimming pool right outside and a big gym to play basket ball & climb ropes

FORM 839A



AMERICAN RED CROSS

and a lot of other muscled building equipment.
The platoon I am in has the best football
team in the company. We have played about
6 games & haven't been beaten yet.

I haven't any idea when I will get back
home. I expect by next Aug or Sept. The old
fellows are leaving pretty fast but the faster
they go the quicker I get home. Well it
won't be so bad over here ~~now~~ now that the
war is over. I will be more sure of coming
home now. I don't think we will have any
trouble with the Japs though. They know if
they start something we will open fire and
spit some more of them to our little Jap
crucifixes.

I don't know whether you have heard
much about the Div I am in, but it was the
first div to hit Japan. We were the third Div.
to hit Japan. When we went through Tokyo
there wasn't any American soldiers there at
all and it made me feel kinda funny for
a while.

FORM 839A



AMERICAN RED CROSS

We first landed at Yokohama and rode trucks to here. When we were on the boat coming over here we were singing the song, "Lead by Women down off for Yokohama," but I never thought we would hit Japan the way we did, but I am glad we did because I might have been a little tough.

I have been all over Tokyo and seen the engers poles. It looks like some old time english coral or something on that order. I can at least say I have seen it though.

The poles isn't tucked with banks but cut a couple blocks away for about a half mile around it is burned to a crisp. I guess the bombers wanted to see how close they could come without hitting it.

One of our fellows bought a big radio from some of the boys going home for \$50. and it really is a good one. It goes on when we get up and doesn't get a change to rest until

FORM 639A



AMERICAN RED CROSS

The lights go out at night. We are get stations on it from the states and by is their some good music on it

Mom sent me a bunch of pictures of Sam and they sure cute of him. I can't wait until I get back to see him. Mom said he has been growing like a weed and won't be long before he will be a big boy. I can't hardly wait until I get to see him.

I sure missed all those fishing trips this year but maybe I will get to do some next year. I won't be long until hunting season will be here either.

About all we are doing now is just getting guard and a little physical training. There isn't much else to do. By I have lost a lot of fat but I still weight about the same. When I came into the army I was a 36 pants and now I wear a 32 so guess I am getting a lot slimmer.

AMERICAN RED CROSS

*I had better close and get ready to go
on guard. Tell all hello for me.
With love
Jimmy*

January 14, 1946: Jim Buckman to Josephine Gander





1st Cavalry Div.
Fackin's Paper
Jan 17, 1945

Dear Aunt Jo

I know I need a good spanking for not writing you sooner and I just can't seem to be able to make as any excuses for not writing. I received a letter from you last night that was written on the 6th of July. So you can see how good the mail service is sometimes. Although I still enjoyed it very much. I sure would have liked to ^{have} been there last summer when the men were catching all those big fish. But I may get to help a little this year the way it sounds I may be home by my birthday. The times has sure been flying lately and I hope it keeps it up because there isn't much to do around here. I usually try to find something to do so it seem to make the time go faster when I'm not sitting around wishing I was home.

We had a little excitement the other day though. Some of the buildings across the road caught on fire and was burning toward our quarters and we had to fight fire all one afternoon. Of course I happened to be cleaned up and ready to go to town and they called us out in the clothes we had on. You should have seen me when I came back. I was soaked from head to foot and my nice clean shoes that I had just polished had a inch of mud on them. But we finally got the fire out. I don't know what I am griping about. Really.



if I hadn't gone over and it caught our buildings on fire
I would be laying on the ground now. But it was just the
idea of getting my cloth clean. Ah, yes one of the fellows bought
a iron from a Jap and that really works good. I borrowed it
the other night to press my cloths. You should see me now.
I do alright except for a few scratches and. When in the back
do you get the sleeves pressed. I fumbled around and slipped
it on the floor and every thing else before I got it to suit
me and then I was dead tired, besides that I think I burned
my fingers about five times in the same place. But I had a lot
of fun and the fellows said I did much a nice ~~too~~ job that
they wanted me to press their's. Ah no that was enough for me
until I get up now to press some more. I should make some
girl a nice wife after I get back. After keeping house for
all my army life, shouldn't I.

I finally got the camera Moore sent me and I sure was
glad to get it. I don't know how long I have been waiting
for it. I am going up in the hills Sunday and take some pictures
of some scenery. I bought some Jap films but some of the fellows
said they weren't much good. But I'll have fun taking them and if
they don't my god I'll ^{never} be of towards.

We had turkey for dinner and it sure hit the spot. We also
had ice cream about a week ago and I was on K.P. so I had
all I wanted to eat. Even if it was cold, it still taste good.

We had Turkey for Christmas & New years too so we have
been eating pretty good lately. I can't last too long though
and we will go back to eating sparrow & belly beef again.

I sure can't wait until I get back to see Sam. Mom
tells me all about him and she seems to be come by.
I ask her if they were speaking him and she said they weren't
but I'll bet they are. Momma said she thought he was going
to be a super the way he could hit with his feet.

It hasn't been too very cold over here yet this winter. Although
there is a big frost almost every night but we usually wear around
in our shirts in the afternoon. When we first came to Japan
we just about froze though after being in the Philippines.
I hate it now but all the time.

I hear from Jay almost every week and I guess he
has changes toward the girl we had left. From the pig
time he has been telling me about. I think he has been
going down to Ansonia Creek a little since he can take the
car now. Boy the time sure flies by and things have certainly
changed since I left home. Mom was telling me about they were
going to have some new neighbors close to home now. Dad said
something about they had a girl about my age. I can't imagine
what she would tell me that for. I am no woman's man.

Well it's getting about time to go back to work. I mean I can
suppose to work but I don't do any more than I have to. Write
when you have some spare paper and time. Tell every one hello
and I give my regards to all.

Love Jimmy

March 24, 1946: Jim Buckman to Josephine Gander



Jim Buckman in Japan

Taken in Yokohama Japan in 1946.



1st Parsby Dr.
Sunday March 24

Dear Aunt Jo,

I suppose now that I owe you two letters I had better start answering them before you give me back for not writing. We had a big mail call the other night and I had about ten letters. It was sure good to get mail again. I hadn't had any for about a month so you can see how much I enjoyed it. Some of the letters were written way back in Oct. but I still was glad to get them.

I am feeling fit as a king and it is such a beautiful day out for a change. It has been rather ~~very~~ raining or snowing every day for the past week and I never got to take very many pictures but I think I will take off today and take some. Sunday is the only day of the week that I have off at the present but I think in another week I will have a little more time off. The reason I don't have much time off at the present is because I am in charge of building a club for the men but I have it almost finished now so maybe I will have it a little easier. Probably just about the time I get it finished we are going to move some place else. But that is the way it goes. When one place is



fixed up nice you pack up and move.

You don't know how much I enjoyed your letter and especially the picture of the coons and the dog. All but they had a time hunting this year. I am always telling the boys we have good coons in Wisconsin and now they will believe me when they see the picture.

I know you are sure glad to get light in the house because it makes it so much nicer. I guess things will have changed a lot by the time I get back.

I put in for a dependency discharge but as yet it hasn't gone through but if it is it should be through in a few weeks. At least I hope it goes through so I can get back and help Guy. Dad is feeling better now but I don't suppose he has been doing much work. I know Guy has been working pretty hard and I wish I could get back before the hard work starts.

Well I hear we have fixed Chick for dinner so I had better grab my mess kit and see what it tastes like. Write soon because I certainly enjoy your letters. Spring wishes to all.

Love Jimmy

July 25, 1946: Jim Buckman to Josephine Gander



Pfc. James A. Buckman 37757600
My change 2nd by 5th Cas.
A.P.O. 201 7/25 San Francisco
San Francisco Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO
JUL 27 1946



VIA AIR MAIL

Mrs C. Gander
Monroe City Bldg
Miami

Honolulu Japan
July 20, '46

Dear Aunt Jo,

I received your very welcome letter a few days ago but didn't have time to ans. it at the time I received it. I was out by Mt. Fuji working and I didn't have anything out there to write on so I hope you will excuse me if this letter is a little late.

I sure would liked to have been back fishing with the boys when they were catching some of those nice big ones. I sure miss fishing a lot but tell them to save a few big ones for me to get next year and I'll show them again, maybe. Mom told me that Dad and the boys caught a few nice fish lately.

I am ashamed of what I do over here. I haven't done a day work since I have been here and I know I could be a little help to dad if I were back but I will just have wait until I get out and maybe it won't be too long.

I am glad to hear that the crops are good this year because it will help out a lot since everything is as high priced as it is back home.

I hope you got to take your trip to

St. Louis to the Zoo. I know the children would have enjoyed the trip and it is really a nice sight seeing trip. I hope your plans weren't mixed up.

I was just sitting around listening to the radio tonight and I will get a lot of enjoyment out of it. I bought it from a juke and I think I got my money's worth out of it because every min. I am in the room its going. There wasn't any noise tonight so I didn't have much to do so am catching up on my letter writing. I usually go to the show almost every evening because there isn't much else to do and it doesn't do any good to try to sleep with all the noise that goes on around here. There is a beer hall on the ground and the men go up there and leave their troubles there and when they come back its rather noisy around here.

Well I had better close because its about time for the lights to go out. I am fine and hope it is the same with your family. I'll try writing again when I can think of a little more to write about.

Love to all
Jim