

Collection #
M 1077
OM 0538

JOHN C. AND BETTY BUHNER LETTERS, 1938–1945

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Processed by

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 6 manuscript boxes, 1 oversized folder, 4 folders of photographs.

COLLECTION DATES: 1938–1945

PROVENANCE: John C. Buhner, Indianapolis, Indiana, December, 2013

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2013.0430

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John Colvin (Jack) Buhner (b. 1920) grew up in Seymour, Jackson County, and North Vernon, Jennings County, Indiana. He graduated from Franklin College in 1942 and enlisted in the United States Army in May, 1942 and served in the U. S. Army Air Force in the China Burma India Theater as a radioman rising to the rank of tech sergeant. After the war, Buhner furthered his education and attended Indiana University receiving a Masters Degree in 1949. He then joined the faculty of Indiana University Northwest teaching Political Science. Buhner received his PhD from Indiana University in 1963 and served as Chancellor of IU Northwest from 1967–1967. He then moved to IUPUI where he served as Vice Chancellor and Dean of Faculties from 1969–1976. Mr. Buhner is currently retired and resides in Indianapolis.

Betty Bevis Buhner (1920–2012) was born in Sullivan, Sullivan County, Indiana and attended Franklin College graduating in 1942. Betty and Jack were married in the spring of 1942 shortly before he entered the service. Betty Buhner taught school in Sullivan and Gary, Indiana, and later became an interior decorator in Gary, Indianapolis and Punta Gorda, Florida.

Sources:

IUPUI Faculty and Staff Directory.

Indianapolis *Star*, 8 May 2012.

Ancestry, Library Edition.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection, containing over seven hundred letters, consists of correspondence between Jack Buhner, Betty Buhner and Jack's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Buhner, 1938–1945. Letters written by Jack to his parents in North Vernon and Seymour begins with his years at Franklin College, 1938–1942, and deal with classes and activities. His letters written to his parents during his time in the military, 1942–1945, relates his daily activities while training at Scott Field in Illinois, May-October, 1942, the U.S. Army Air Base at Waycross, Georgia, October, 1942–July, 1943, and from bases in India, China, and Burma, October, 1943–October, 1945, with the 528th Fighter Bomber Group.

The majority of the letters to Betty Bevis Buhner are from Jack and are romantic in nature and cover the years 1939–1945. They begin during the summers during their college years and continue through Jack's military career. During the World War II years Jack also writes about meeting during his leave times while in the U.S. and inquiries about her well being and financial arrangements while overseas and relates his daily activities. There also are a few letters to Betty from her family while in college as well as some from friends and her mother in law while Jack was away in the service.

Letters to Jack Buhner are from 1938–May, 1943 with the greatest concentration from February, 1942–May, 1943. Apparently Jack left these letters with Betty and did not retain any once he was sent overseas. Most of the letters are from Betty but there are a significant number written by his parents. A few others are from friends. Most of the content from Betty is romantic and contains news from home and her daily activities. The letter from 1 July 1942 is humorous self portrait by Betty including lipstick and nail polish. Letters from his mother and father also contain local news. Other items include printed materials from Franklin College, his induction papers and military papers. There also are several photographs removed from letters.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Letters to Mr. and Mrs. John H. Buhner, 1938–1945

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Letters to Parents, 1938	Box 1, Folder 1
Letters to Parents, 1939	Box 1, Folder 2
Letters to Parents, 1940	Box 1, Folder 3
Letters to Parents, 1941	Box 1, Folder 4
Letters to Parents, Jan.–May, 1942	Box 1, Folder 5
Letters to Parents, May–July, 1942	Box 1, Folder 6
Letters to Parents, Aug.–Dec. 1942	Box 1, Folder 7
Letters to Parents, Jan.–April, 1943	Box 1, Folder 8
Letters to Parents, May–Dec., 1943	Box 1, Folder 9
Letters to Parents, Jan.–March, 1944	Box 1, Folder 10
Letters to Parents, April–June, 1944	Box 2, Folder 1
Letters to Parents, July–Sept., 1944	Box 2, Folder 2
Letters to Parents, Oct.–Dec., 1944	Box 2, Folder 3
Letters to Parents, Jan.–April, 1945	Box 2, Folder 4
Letters to Parents, May–June, 1945	Box 2, Folder 5
Letters to Parents, July–Oct., 1945	Box 2, Folder 6
6 photos removed from letter of 24 July 1945	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1
Letters to Mr. and Mrs. John H. Buhner, 1938–1942	Box 2, Folder 7
4 photos removed from letter of 24 Sept. 1941	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 2

Series 2: Letters to Betty Bevis Buhner, 1939–1945

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Letters to Betty Bevis Buhner, 1939–1940

Letters to Betty Bevis Buhner, 1941

Letters to Betty Bevis Buhner, Feb.–July, 1942

Letters to Betty Bevis Buhner, Aug.–Oct., 1942

Letters to Betty Bevis Buhner, Nov.–Dec., 1942

Letters to Betty Bevis Buhner, Jan.–Feb., 1943

Letters to Betty Bevis Buhner, March–April, 1943

Letters to Betty Bevis Buhner, May–Oct., 1943

Letters to Betty Bevis Buhner, Nov.–Dec., 1943

Letters to Betty Bevis Buhner, Jan.–March, 1944

Letters to Betty Bevis Buhner, April–June, 1944

Letters to Betty Bevis Buhner, July–Aug., 1944

Letters to Betty Bevis Buhner, Sept.–Oct., 1944

Letters to Betty Bevis Buhner, Nov.–Dec., 1944

Letters to Betty Bevis Buhner, Jan.–Feb., 1945

6 photos removed from letter of 17 January 1945

Letters to Betty Bevis Buhner, March–April, 1945

Letters to Betty Bevis Buhner, May–June, 1945

Letters to Betty Bevis Buhner, July–Aug., 1945

CONTAINER

Box 3, Folder 1

Box 3, Folder 2

Box 3, Folder 3

Box 3, Folder 4

Box 3, Folder 5

Box 3, Folder 6

Box 3, Folder 7

Box 3, Folder 8

Box 3, Folder 9

Box 3, Folder 10

Box 4, Folder 1

Box 4, Folder 2

Box 4, Folder 3

Box 4, Folder 4

Box 4, Folder 5

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 3

Box 4, Folder 6

Box 4, Folder 7

Box 4, Folder 8

Series 3: Letters to Jack Buhner, 1938–1943; Printed Materials and Records, 1938–1945

CONTENTS

Letters to Jack Buhner, 1938–1939

Letters to Jack Buhner, May, 1942

Letters to Jack Buhner, June, 1942

Letters to Jack Buhner, July, 1942

Letter and Drawing, 1 July 1942

2 photos removed from letter of 17 July 1942

Letters to Jack Buhner, Aug., 1942

Letters to Jack Buhner, Sept., 1942

Letters to Jack Buhner, Oct., 1942

Letters to Jack Buhner, Nov., 1942

Letters to Jack Buhner, Dec., 1942

Letters to Jack Buhner, Jan., 1943

Letters to Jack Buhner, Feb., 1943

Letters to Jack Buhner, March, 1943

Letters to Jack Buhner, April, 1943

Letters to Jack Buhner, May, 1943

Franklin College Materials, 1938–1943

Induction Papers, May, 1942

Military Papers, 1942–1945

CONTAINER

Box 5, Folder 1

Box 5, Folder 2

Box 5, Folder 3

Box 5, Folder 4

OM 0538, Folder 1

Photographs:

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 5, Folder 5

Box 5, Folder 6

Box 5, Folder 7

Box 5, Folder 8

Box 5, Folder 9

Box 6, Folder 1

Box 6, Folder 2

Box 6, Folder 3

Box 6, Folder 4

Box 6, Folder 5

Box 6, Folder 6

Box 6, Folder 7

Box 6, Folder 8

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 1077).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.