Jania, Joseph. Papers, 1943. .33 foot.
Soldier. A collection of 57 letters (1943) written primarily by Joseph Jania to his wife from Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, during World War II. The letters describe Jania's training at Camp Gruber.

Minor Box J-24
Folder:

1. Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) regarding the move from his induction camp to his new station, playing the harmonica, Camp Gruber, the Rainbow Division, and stolen money. September 9-14, 1943.

Chaplains of the 232nd Infantry, Raymond A. Punda, Henry C. Dixon, and Elmer N. Bentley, (Camp Gruber, OK) about Joseph Jania’s arrival at Camp Gruber, what the first 3 months of basic training is like, and recommendations of what to include in letters soldiers. n.d.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about what taking Sunday off really means, trying to become an officer, new army supplies, and trying to catch the Camp thief. September 12, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about using his ten minute break during a drill to remember walks they took together and to send an “I love you” to her by way of the Moon Man. September 15, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about receiving all of her letters at one time, detail work cleaning rifles, being 1 hour late to drilling because he was daydreaming about her and having to take on extra detail work in the kitchens as punishment. 10:45 pm on September 15, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about his new job as mater of ceremonies, putting on a U.S.O. show, Oklahoma dust, and all the new things he has to learn to do. Also, includes a newspaper clipping from the Camp Gruber newspaper Rainbow Reveille, which has a picture of Joseph and his friend Sol with a group of Army musicians. September 16, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about how his looks have changed since beginning basic training and about the dusty Oklahoma weather. September 17, 1943.
Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about what the trip was like from Camp Grant to Camp Gruber, Oklahoma weather, and general Camp life including a description of the barracks, his new friends, the food, games, drills, punishments, commanding officers, church, and what German prisoners think of the U.S.  September 18, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about being made acting Corporal of his Squad, the air show, and school.  September 19, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about being master of ceremonies, a description of a patch he wears, and remembering the night they met.  Includes 1 rainbow Army patch.  September 20, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about spending too much money on new shoes, beginning basic training, and becoming the “Best Man.”  September 21, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about buying books for class, allotment papers, getting shots, and trying to make a call from Oklahoma to Illinois.  Includes a newspaper clipping of Joseph marching to barracks.  September 22, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about school, and shoes.  September 23, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about getting references to work at his trade, waiting to hear from Rand McNally, and K.P. duty.  September 24, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about his day on K.P. duty.  September 25, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about his day of rest after K.P. duty, his new friends, the composition of the men in his company, and Army life.  September 26, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about learning to protect himself, WAACS, Florence’s parents, and a description and drawing of where to place the rainbow patch on a shirt.  September 27, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about getting over being homesick, being acting corporal, and training films that show them how to shoot and go on shooting missions.  September 28, 1943.
Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about doing drills in rainy weather, the job of an acting corporal, and about not getting paid until he has been in for 30 days. September 29, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about receiving letters, going on inspection, and machine guns. September 30, 1943.

3. Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about inspections, the work of a soldier, plans for their future, his job as acting corporal, being put in charge of Company headquarters, and teaching classes. Includes 1 detail sheet for October 2, 1943 listing Jania as acting corporal in charge of quarters. October 1, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about the job of an acting non-coms, K.P. duty, the attitude of German prisoners, learning to shoot, one man’s alleged scheme to get out of the Army, prophylactic kits given to men before getting a pass, and finding a flat for his wife. October 2, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about the C.Q. job, A.W.O.L.s, guard duty, and furloughs. October 3, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about going camping, learning marksmanship, and missing her. October 4, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about being out on the range, the different levels of rifle shot skill, the number of men at each level of skill, the number of men normally shot at the rifle range, practicing parade marching, and the thought of his wife cutting her hair. October 5, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about coaching at the rifle range, his black eye, and finding a place for her to live. October 6, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about how quickly military life moves. October 7, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about the transition range, furloughs, and thoughts about their future together. October 8, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about his promotion to acting sergeant, Staff Sergeant Soloman, not gambling, and hiking. October 9, 1943.
Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about talking to her on the phone for the first time, having dinner with a friend’s family, and learning that his job will be in making maps. October 10, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about finding a house for her to live in near the base, stricter rules about calling someone by their title, and inspections. October 11, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about drills, the weather, learning to be a good Sergeant, an act of kindness, how the work is difficult for the older men, and the best way for Florence to get to Muskogee. October 12, 1943.

4. Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about drills in the field, teaching men about rifles, talking to her on the phone, the duties of a sergeant, Battalion Headquarters, and map training. October 13, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about teaching men who have never held a gun before to shoot. October 14, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about wiring money for rent on a house, the weather, starting a fire to keep warm against base rules, machine guns, and the unwritten rules about being a Sergeant. October 15, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about the mail system, the machine gun range, different types of guns on base, the song “You’ll Never Know,” and going to see the movie Top Man. October 16, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about winter clothes, making a phone call, what to do on a day off, and writing a letter to Rand McNally. October 17, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about watching an Army movie about machine guns and about her imminent move to Muskogee. October 18, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about events back home in Chicago, waiting for two Sergeants’ wives to find them a home, and a list of his general orders. October 19, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about guard duty and going to the dentist. October 20, 1943.
Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about retreating at the end of the day, being appointed as a salvage man in case of fire, and being tired from drills. October 21, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about going to an Army movie, learning to make nets for helmets and camouflage, charge of quarters, and getting ready to see her soon. October 22, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about charge of quarters duty, handing out passes, a 3 day bivouac, and dreams of his wife. October 23, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about her trip to Muskogee and some items for her to bring. October 25, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about the weather, bivouac, a trick to get men to dig a latrine, and living in pup tent. October 26, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about camping, the weather, tasks they had to complete while camping, and going to the dentist. October 27, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about bivouac, getting shots, wants a wedding ring for Christmas, and waiting for her to arrive in Oklahoma. October 28, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about inspections, and new plans for when she arrives in Muskogee. October 29, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) about Mrs. Solomon’s appendectomy, how hard it is for older men to adapt to the Army, staying with a sick soldier, field pack inspections, and waiting for her to get to Muskogee. October 30, 1943.

Florence Jania (Muskogee, OK) to Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) about staying with Mrs. Gewehr and looking for a place to live. November 8, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Muskogee, OK) about the weather, what he can write in letters, the Service Club, and doing everything “on the double.” November 9, 1943.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Muskogee, OK) about being sick, her moving to Harriet’s, and Christmas. December 22, 1943.
Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Muskogee, OK) about going on a hike and trying to get a pass. December 28, 1943.


Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Muskogee, OK) about riding in Jeeps, an 8 hour problem, and having a wonderful weekend with her. January 13, 1944.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Muskogee, OK) about classes on field mines, Army indecisiveness, and getting to see her. January 14, 1944.

Florence’s mother and father (Chicago, IL) to Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) about Joseph’s disappointment with the service, encouraging him, and telling him to forgive himself and others. February 5, 1944.

Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) to Florence Jania (Muskogee, OK) about receiving a letter from her mother and the beauty of the country. February 8, 1944.

Florence Jania (Muskogee, OK) to Joseph Jania (Camp Gruber, OK) about celebrating his 30th birthday apart, spinal meningitis, and the Service Club. February 9, 1944.

Florence Jania (Chicago, IL) to Joseph Jania (Camp McCoy, WI) about getting a job, Joseph’s technical studies, and about her household chores. May 31, 1944.