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Letter from Fort Sill, Oklahoma, October 19, 1941

Ralph Mouw

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Oct. 18, 1901
"Our Tent"

Dear Dad, Mother and Simon;

I was very glad to get your letter yesterday afternoon, it seemed like such a long time since I had heard from you folks. However I was very fortunate yesterday in getting 2 letters from Geneva & 1 from Henry & V, and yours, so that made 4. This morning I got a letter from Jennie & Ted, also a box of Rice-King's bars and the Capital so you see I have been doing alright.

I certainly was surprised and shocked to hear that Uncle Fred had died - certainly was sudden & I suppose it was a doubly hard shock to you folks since you had just been there and he had seemed so well. Seems very strange that I won't see him again but I suppose "his task on earth was finished". He certainly followed mama very soon. I don't suppose Aunt Minnie will be around home long but in case she is - Dad will you give her my sympathy; I would have dropped her a card

but I didn't know her address.

I noticed by your letter that you are pretty busy — well I am too! They really keep us hopping around here. We get up in the morning at 6:15 — that is when the whistle blows and in 10 mins we have to be dressed & in ranks to stand reville at 6:25. Then we get cleaned up — make our beds shine our shoes & clean up tent and have breakfast and have tent inspection and we have assembly at 7:30. then we have Calisthenics and they really are strenuous exercises. Then marching for an hour and then some instruction etc then dinner and then in the afternoon some more drill & instruction & lectures until 4:15. Then we have an hour to get cleaned up, and shave and shine our shoes and have personal inspection at retreat. So you can easily see what we do to keep busy.

This past week I drove an army "4 wheel drive" truck and spent several hours studying the big guns and studied the different portions of the different men in firing one of these guns — it takes 6 men to operate one of these 75 mm guns.

However in actual warfare we don't operate
the guns - we aren't even near them. We're
out on some high hill where we can see the
enemy or some target and by using instruments
we know how far it is away and in what
direction and we send this calculation down
to the guns which may be far away and then
they shoot the gun - so you see we have
mostly brain-work in this Battery "E."

You asked about where this Fort Sill is.
Well it's about 100 mi south of Oklahoma
City. We are 40 mi from Texas, and
not so far from the camp where Lawrence
Van Dyk is at.

I understand H. S. Van Dyk has
gone to see him. Fort Sill is about 720 mi from
Crane City so it isn't so far, however I won't
get home again until February or later.
I'm getting along just fine except for

a cold. We had a couple of days of cold weather
but it's nice now again. Must close now.

Pvt Ralph J. Mow
Battery E, 52nd Battalion
8th F.A. Div. Regt.
Fort Sill, Okla

Love
Ralph

P.S. Jennie also sent me "the Upper Room"