

1-17-1943

## Letter from Fort Lewis, Washington, January 17, 1943

Ralph Mouw

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January 17, 1943  
Ft Lewis, Washington

Dear folks;

Am taking a few minutes off today to write a few letters home. Have been kept especially busy here training these new men. Of course I don't actually get out and train with them but I do plan all their training and write out all orders for them. I have 16 officers who follow my schedules in training their new men. I take quite a pride in watching their progress in marching. All of our new men have come from the east coast. Some of them ain't able to speak the American language as yet. Every night I arrange for them to see movies on army life since that is the way they can learn best. I have my own movie operator and get films through higher headquarters so that the pictures are shown right

here in our own Regt. theatre.  
Since all of these men are under  
quarantine - I arranged for services  
to be held in the area with the  
Chaplain. Jewish services were held  
last night and Protestant and ~~Chap~~ Catholic  
services this morning. You can  
imagine I don't have much time  
to waste.

This past week I received a stimulating  
shot for tetanus since it was over a  
year ago that I completed my initial  
series. This time a boy or I should  
say an enlisted man gave me a  
shot. I asked him where he came  
from and was surprised to learn he  
was from Iowa. I told him I was from  
Orange City - he used to live in  
Hull - his name was Pvt. Herman Van Roekel.  
I also took a little time off this week  
and find the pestol. I received several

bulleyes and managed to get 12 out of fifteen bobbing targets. So I qualified as a marksman with the pistol.

In the same afternoon I fired the 50 cal machine gun at Moving targets, I managed to get three hits. For Vernons information this is the same kind of ~~the~~ gun that the bomber had in it and fires ~~for~~ bullets 6 in. long.

This evening I phoned down to the 130<sup>th</sup> Inf to contact Howard since they are about 6 miles from here. However I was told that he was in the hospital. So I caught a ride down to the hospital and visited him for about a half-hour. He has a bad cold, and can't get over it here in this wet climate. He was very glad to see me and vice-versa.

Must close now and write a few more letters.

Love  
Ralph