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Letter from Camp Bowie, Texas, February 15, 1942

Ralph Mouw

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February 15, 1942
HQ Btry, 1st Bn
77th Field Artillery
Camp Bowie, Texas

Dear Folks and Boys;

Sunday morning and I have just come back from church. There were only a few in church since half of our regiment went to Ft Sill to fire on the range there. Our own Chaplain was sick so we had a Baptist chaplain as our speaker.

Nothing of much importance has happened around here this past week. Most of the Battery had to work quite hard putting up tents for a new outfit that is joining our Brigade. They have the large 155 rifles. However since I am an officers orderly now, I didn't do any hard work. All I had to do is keep the officers quarters clean and keep their buttons and shoes shined. I get \$6. a month extra for this, and it is real easy work; but I would rather do work with the Battery.

We have been going on conditioning hikes, to get used to walking etc. On Friday we went on a 4 mile hike and yesterday we went 8 miles. Of course we only walk at a rate of 4 miles per hr. so it isn't very hard

on us yet. We have to make these tubes even though we are excused from other Battery work.

Well we are quite well settled now and sort of getting used to the camp. Yesterday was almost a dreary day since it rained practically all day. Made it sort of nasty - living in these tents since mud seemed to track in all over the place and everything gets so darn dirty.

Right now its pretty nice again as far as the weather goes. Really seems like a strange winter to me, but I believe I like the north better, where you have four distinct seasons.

The change in time hasn't effected us much except that we go to bed later and get up at seven instead of six. Of course its still pretty dark at that time, even here in Texas.

Is Alfred going to start work over at Andrew Pe Dier soon. Certainly will be nice so close into town.

Say I never had a letter from Vernon for a long time, so don't you think you had better write once Vernon? You can tell me all about basketball & football. Must close now - I am in good health again Love Ralph