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Letter from Camp Bowie, Texas, February 22, 1942

Ralph Mouw

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February 22, 1942
404440 Bty, 13th Bn
77th Field Artillery
Camp Bowie, Texas

Dear folks at Home;

Sunday afternoon and time for me to answer your letter. First of all I want to thank you folks for a nice box of candies. I really have been getting my share of candy, cookies lately. Last week I had a box from Jennie and another from Genevieve too - so we always have some sweets in our tent. You asked about my getting a furlough - well the only kind of a furlough you can get is an emergency furlough. Aside from that no furloughs are granted.

We have had a very busy week here again. They suddenly decided that we should do Battery work in the morning and our orderly work in the afternoon. So that keeps us pretty busy. Also this week our Battalion had to guard the camp so we (every body) had to do guard duty for 2 days & nights. We had our first guard on Tuesday night and Wednesday. It was fairly nice weather up till midnight and then a 40 mile an hour gale hit the camp and in 15 minutes the thermometer dropped 30° and buckets of water standing around for fire prevention were frozen solid. You can imagine how much fun it was to walk with a gun (loaded) on your shoulder in such weather from 3-5 A.M. Some of the fellows suffered frost-bite but I managed to keep up a little circulation by beating my hands and feet. On Thursday we were out in the field all day so we had to take some more of that cold weather. On Friday we went back again on guard, but I had a nicer post to walk and it was quite a little warmer, so that wasn't so bad. We got off guard duty last night at about 5 P.M. after getting cleaned up we went to town and had our dinner in a Hotel. It cost 80 cents

but it was worth it since our ~~food~~
food here lately has been mostly
slum and not very appetizing either.
This morning I attended church service
at our own regimental Chapel. There
were only a few there but nevertheless
we had a nice service. Our
Chaplain is a very young fellow and really
nice. He goes on the long hikes with
us too.

Is there still a lot of kicking going
on about the draft board?

One of the officers for whom I was working
left for a new outfit but before he left
he gave me \$2 even though I only worked
for him 10 days - nice fellow.
Must close now

Love Ralph