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Letter from Fort Sill, Oklahoma, November 12, 1941

Ralph Mouw

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8TH TRAINING REGIMENT



U. S. FIELD ARTILLERY
REPLACEMENT CENTER
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA

BTRY. E 32 BN.

Dear Folks:

Saturday evening and while I'm waiting for supper I'll begin my weekly letter home.

This morning we had inspection again, only this time it was a lot more thorough than it has ever been before. We had to have everything arranged just one way in our footlockers and all our field equipment displayed on our bunks. Also had to be dressed in full uniform and had to have all our shoes shined and standing at the foot of the bed. Our platoon passed it all right but some of the others didn't so they had to work this afternoon and we didn't. I'm glad we didn't have to work because it gave me a chance to catch up on my letter writing. I have already written a letter to Willard, Myne + Jennie + Genevieve and this is the fifth one. I received a letter from Dick Mullenburg's this past week and also

one from Lester Foreman and one from Willard.
It certainly felt good to hear from those
people.

We have finally been taken out of quarantine
and have been issued passes so that now
we can leave camp once in awhile for a
few hours.

Have had another very busy week. We've gone
through the gas chambers. They had tear gas
in these chambers and our mask protected us
from it but just before we got out we had to
take off our masks and we all came out coughing
and crying. Later on we each got sniff at
the poisonous gases, one smelled like sweet pebbles,
another like geraniums, another like horse-radish
and another like newly cut hay or corn.

On Thursday we ran the obstacle course
which consists of running across ditches, over embankments,
over fences, over 12 ft high ladders, over 10 ft walls
through tunnel tiles and such stuff — really
makes you tired. Later on we have to run
it with full pack and rifle.

Have been studying maps and instruments lately.
Am getting along fine. Weather here is just fine.
Must close now.

Love
Ralph