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Letter from Fort Sill, Oklahoma, November 23, 1941

Ralph Mouw

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8TH TRAINING REGIMENT



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

BTRY. E 32 BN.

November 23, '41

Dear Folks;

Sunday morning and just returned from church so will now answer your letter. First of all in answer to your question concerning when work is considered finished around here, well on Wed. and Saturday we are finished at noon provided there is no extra-work to be done. Other days of the week we finish at approximately 5:30 p.m. Lights go out at 9 P.M. and we have to be in bed at 10:30 p.m. or else we get extra K.P..

Have had quite a week this past week. Studied quite a bit and also had an exam. I managed to get a 96%, which was quite well. The test was comparatively simple though and I should have gotten a perfect score — but I am satisfied.

We went out to the Range on Tuesday and observed the fire of the 75 mm guns. They were firing at targets $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles away and we were observing the hits through strong glasses and telescopes. We were a little behind the guns. Those guns make quite a noise and belch quite a flame. Really was quite interesting since it was the first time I had been near big guns when they were actually firing.

Had a very nice Thanksgiving. I don't suppose it was the gayest I have ever had but I'm certain I realized more than before how much I had to be thankful for. We marched to church in the morning behind a band. Services were held in the theatre to accommodate the large number of men. About 1000 men were at the service and we really had a very nice service.

at 1 P.M. we had our Thanksgiving dinner — Really was some dinner! First there was oyster soup and fruit salad, then there was candied sweet potatoes and

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mashed potatoes with turkey gravy, turkey and stuffing, cranberries and peas and green beans, chives & pickles and honey rolls. For desert we had pumpkin and mince meat pies. To top that all off we each got a package of cigarettes and a cigar. For drink we each got a regular dinner glass full of wine. Some fellows drank a couple of glasses too many and as a result they got a little sick. It really was a good a meal as I expect to see.

This past week I have written ten letters - so you see I get quite a few and have to answer many. Got a letter from Ruth Van Rockel and another from John C. Kover lately and still have to answer those.

It froze here for the first time this morning, but the sun is out and it is just nice and brisk. Ans. soon
Love
Ralph