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Letter from Camp Bowie, Texas, March 22, 1942

Ralph Mouw

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March 22, 1942
HQ Btry, 1st Bn
77 Field Artillery
Camp Bowie, Tex

Dear Folks

Sunday afternoon and time to answer my letters. And I have plenty of letters to answer, I usually write three or four letters through the week but since we were out in the field all week I didn't get to answer any letters.

We really had a busy week. Starting Monday we went into the field about 20 miles from here and made our camp. We pitched our pup-tents there and that was our home for the next 4 days. We really got brown out there from the wind and sun. Did a lot of surveying work

out there and learned enough about the stars and so on
so that I can tell direction any time of night or day.
Rode over some pretty rough country putting in those
surveys. On Thursday we had a sham battle
with blank ammunition which was good training.
In the afternoon of that day we studied sending
code messages with flags. On Friday we
had class all day on handling the different
duties of a fire direction team. While we were
out in the field we got our mail there and
our Post Exchange truck came out every night
after supper so we could get candy, cookies, pop
& cigarettes. Some of the fellows caught a hard
shelled Armadillo (has a snout like a pig
only longer and more pointed) it was about 2 1/2
inches long. We really had quite a bit
of fun out there but it was a little rough
in that wind and kind of hard shaving with cold
water. We came back to Camp Bowie Friday
night in a blackout march. Everything went
o.k. except one jeep crashed into a cement culvert
but no one was hurt other than a bruise.

On Saturday we went on a hike again
with full packs and rifles. In the evening
our entire regiment received shots for yellow
fever — so now we're ready to go to the tropics

if we have too.

On Monday (tomorrow) we are going back to the field again for a few more days. I just sent Henry a carton of Cigarettes for his birthday it will get there a little late since I couldn't send it last week.

My Will Ver Meer certainly died in a short while, didn't he.

Must close now, I am getting along just fine - Lots of Love
Ralph