

6-14-1942

## Letter from Camp Bowie, Texas, June 14, 1942

Ralph Mouw

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UNITED STATES ARMY

CAMP BOWIE, TEXAS

June 14, 1942  
Hq Btry, 1st Bn  
77th Field Artillery

Dear folks;

It's Sunday evening and time for my weekly letter home. Needless to say I'm back in the groove again, working like before — it doesn't hardly seem like I've been home at all.

I thought I was writing you some real news when I wrote that I had a new rating, and raise in pay, but the fellows told me they sent me a card and that must have gotten there on Monday so you knew all about it before even I did.

I didn't go out to the field on either Tuesday or Wednesday, all I did was just catch up on a little filing of records that had accumulated during my absence, and also catch up on plenty of sleep.

On Wednesday night I was Sgt. of the



Guard. Since there is a great amount of formality in guard mount I was a little shaky in calling out the Commands and marching the guard in Review; but I got along O.K. I had 3 cpls, 24 Pts and 11 prisoners under me, but had no trouble. Had to inspect the sentry's on Post a couple of times during the night. In the daytime I had to detail several Guards as Prison Chasers and they had to watch over the Prisoners while they worked.

Thursday evening I got off guard at about 7:30 P.M. and then we had to go to the field and join the Btry. At 9:30 p.m. we moved to a new Position and blackout when we arrived at 11 p.m. then we could start beginning to compute a survey. During the day one of the men on the survey crew got a slight case of sunstroke. Thursday and Friday it was blistering hot here (much hotter than Iowa has in mid-summer). At 2 A.M. we



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finished on the survey and then we got an hour sleep. At 3 A.M. we were back again working out some 30 different fire commands since it didn't cool off at all during the night we just stayed during wet of sweat. The Chiggers are just terrible - I'm literally covered with bites and they really drive you nuts since they itch so much worse than mosquito bites.

We came back into camp again Friday evening. Saturday noon at dinner time I was a bad boy. You see we have a ruling here that we must wear Khaki for Saturday dinners, well I saw some of the fellows go in to dinner dressed in fatigues so I did too. Well as a punishment the B.C. gave me 1 day's restriction to the Btry Area - so all day to day I haven't been able to leave this area even to go to church so I really got plenty of sleep again today.

Last night I went down town and I'm  
sending you folks a present. You can  
consider it a Mother's Day + Father's Day Present.  
I hope you like it.

I also got payed yesterday, it just happened  
the B.C. held my pay for me.

Well I must close now, have hoping you  
are all well,

Love  
Ralph