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Letter from Camp Bowie, Texas, June 28, 1942

Ralph Mouw

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June 28, 1942
Hq Btry, 1st Bn
77th Field Artillery

Dear folks;

It's a very windy Sunday afternoon out here in Texas, and really quite warm. I happened to pull my turn on week-end "change of quarters" so naturally I haven't been able to go into town at all, but that really gives me plenty of time to write letters. Did Myna have her operation already and how is she getting along?

Really had quite a busy week up here and to make it worse I managed to catch cold. I guess I got it from somebody else, but no matter when I got it, it really makes me feel tough in this heat. On Monday we had another 12 mile hike with full packs and the only thing bad about that is the heat.

On Tuesday I tried to get my physical exam but all the examining doctors were out in the field so then I got the physical on Wednesday. It really was quite a thorough exam and I passed it O.K. so I guess I'm in pretty good health. My blood pressure was a little low the Doc said, but not enough to hurt - probably that was due to my cold.

On Thursday we went out to the field for a couple of days. We were on the forward party so naturally we got those delicious dry-bread sandwiches. The heat and wind made the bread brittle, but it was better than nothing. I was placed in charge of about ten men to put in a long survey. We had to move a distance a little over a mile through woods + over a river so we really had fun. Finished that around 6 P.M. and then managed to get a little supper, but I was feeling pretty ragged by that time. After supper I was sent up to the Observation Post to watch the enemy all night so I didn't get any sleep. On Friday morning I got word that I had to appear before the examining board for Officers Candidate School at noon. You can imagine I was in pretty tough shape, having no sleep + a good cold, to appear before the board. But I got through it O.K. and they passed me so I'm already to go to school. Only have to wait for my appointment now - and then the work really begins. It's the toughest course there is. Some fellows come back as nervous wrecks; but I honestly believe I can make - at least I'm going to try awfully hard.

By the way Vernon since I couldn't go to town this week-end your present will be a little late for your Birthday - But Congratulations anyway
Love
Ralph