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Letter from Camp Bowie, Texas, July 5, 1942

Ralph Mouw

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July 5, 1942
49th Div, 1st Bn
77th field Artillery

Dear folks;

Sunday morning and time to write a few letters. First of all I want to tell you that my appointment came this week to attend Officers Candidate School at Ft Sill. We leave here next Sunday night, July 13th and then for 90 days of hard work and training we will be located at the field Artillery School Officers Candidate School. What my address will be I can't say until I get there.

Last Tuesday we spent the day at Lake Brownwood practicing floating trucks, cars & jeeps across the lake. We also made a little boat out of canvas & hoops of the truck. How other fellows and myself swam this across the lake (about a $\frac{1}{3}$ mile) pulling a heavy reel of

of wire. It was my first time in deep water but I managed to get across o.k. - I kept a pretty good hold of this flimsy craft but I'm not kidding when I say I was awful tired when I got across - I still can't swim very much unless I have to. We float cars and jeeps by merely wrapping a canvas around the bottom of the body and then shove off and float it. Across steep narrow banks we used cables and swung them across high in the air - so you can see we enjoyed it. Only one draw back I got an awful sunburn on shoulders, back & legs - even blistered a little.

Say Vernon, they have been keeping me awfully busy around here and when I do get to town the stores are closed so I'll just send you the money and tell you to buy something you can use in the Boy Scout line.

Must close now - Hoping this finds you all well
Love
Ralph