

7-19-1942

## Letter from Fort Sill, Oklahoma, July 19, 1942

Ralph Mouw

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July 19, 1942

Dear folks,

It's Sunday afternoon and since I have a few minutes before I have to begin studying I'll write a few letters.

We left Camp Bowie last Monday night. At any rate we got on the train about 11:30 and since it was a troop train it didn't leave until 3 A.M. However since we were on a "sleeper" that didn't bother us. We got into Ft Sill around 5 P.M. on Tuesday and were immediately taken to the School here and processed. By "process" I mean we had to fill out certain papers and received bedding. We didn't do much that night except get a little acquainted around here. We live in small huts - six men to a hut. At first we were just placed in huts as we came but today we had to move into Alphabetical Order.

There are about 600 in this Class 33 and there are eleven other classes so there are around 6000 in this school. Because of this large number we have to double time (run) between classes to keep out of each others way. Of course we march everywhere even to mess, otherwise so many couldn't be accommodated in such a small place.

I'm in "Section 13" out here - which is all fixed according to alphabet. There are thirty men in a section and one section marker. Since my name was first on the list I am section marker for a few days. Its good practice in giving commands and learning how to march a group of men.

Our class's began on Thursday so on Wednesday night we had to go to study hall and study a few hours. And that's what we do every night from 7:20 - 11:30. We get up at or a little before six every morning and get everything cleaned up and have formation at 6:45 then march down to breakfast and at 8 our classes begin and go till twelve and again from 1-6. So you can see we really are kept busy and its pretty darned tough. For 10 days we are studying motors. Learning how to drive, lubricate & maintain big trucks, learning all about the types of Military Road Marches etc. A pretty big dish to learn in 10 days. We had our first Exam yesterday morning and I think I made that O.K.

Had to buy a foot-locker yesterday, set me back about \$6.35 - also have to buy lots of equipment. Have you gotten one of my \$25 Bonds yet?  
I had a letter from Jennie and she wrote Myna was getting along fine - I'm glad to hear that. Must close now, will write again when I get time Love Ralph