

7-26-1945

## Letter from Marseille, France, July 26, 1945

Ralph Mouw

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26 July 1942  
Marseille France

My dear folks;

I was very pleased to get your letter today after not hearing from you folks for a few weeks. With all this moving around and transferring to another organization it took a little while for my mail to catch up.

Our weather out here remains the same - very nice but it does get a little tiresome to have the same kind of weather day in and day out even if it is nice.

At present we are working as Quartermaster troops handling supplies. It's kind of draggy work so that makes the time go so slow. Of course we haven't anything to bitch about because we practically live like kings. Our food & imagine is far better than what can be had in civilian life due to rationing and to top it all off living here at the Mediterranean Sea where millionaires and royalty come to spend their fortunes. But all these things don't amount to a hill of beans when you want to go home. However I will have sufficient time to spend in Europe whether I like it or not. The way



it looks right now I won't be returned until 1986, but that's what I get by not volunteering for the Pacific.

You asked if I have seen Bill lately - no not since May. We both have moved several times and I haven't been able to locate him. As far as other Orange City boys go - we never seen any. I believe I told you about a Lt Drayton in this outfit who comes from Cherokee - he knows a few O.C. people like the Vogels, + De Jong Bros from business contacts.

So Vernon is seventeen ~~old~~ years old already time really flies. If he grows very much I'll hardly know him when I get back. Surely is nice he likes to work at Everett's place on the farm - it's really good for him too.

You writing about your fishing trips really make me home sick. The last time you took me fishing is years ago - remember when you Uncle John Lubben Ray and I went down for a day? I really could go for some fresh fried bullheads about now. My wife told me about you 4<sup>th</sup> July fishing and having a grave-digger eat the fish. Sorry to hear about Aunt Henrietta's heart attack - be sure and give her my best wishes!



You asked in one of your letters if this transfer is for the better or for worse — well I hope for the better. I believe I told you in one of my letters that this is a Category II unit which will be eventually sent to the states — all we have to do is wait around for the boat ride. I am hoping they will discharge me but that almost seems too much to hope for.

Am glad to know the small grain crop looks good back home. Some places in Germany it looked pretty good too — of course corn is practically unheard of in Europe.

Well I must close for now — I was glad to get your letter too Mother and glad you liked the scarf. And I'll take you up on those creamed peas when I come home — I still love them.

Hope you had a grand time on your fishing trips — did you go hungry?

Love  
Your Son  
Talbot

P.S. My new APO is 772 —