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Letter from Yakima, Washington, November 28, 1942

Ralph Mouw

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November 28, 42
Yakima, Wash

Dear folks;

Its Saturday evening and since I'm too tired to go into town I'll just sit here by my fire and answer your letter. My cold is still pretty bad and gives me back ache frequently from coughing, but that is to be expected in this wet climate — hardly a day passes without some moisture coming down.

Well we finally had a holiday out here we were off from Wed night until Thursday night. So I made good use of that time off and got myself a nice warm Hotel Room with bath. So once again I got to sleep between clean sheets and get a warm bath and incidentally, laying in bed until I felt like getting up. That day, thanksgiving, we had dinner over here at 2 p.m., and we had a very nice dinner — turkey with all the trimmings.

It really snowed that day, about 8 inches. and then today it snowed a couple of more inches so we really have quite a bit of snow. I know out on our range it is well over a foot deep on the level.

This past week we have been busy again with Brigade problems. On Tuesday we got to do a lot of firing and the major let me take over firing of our Bn which was a lot of fun. As a grand finale that day we fired a Brigade Concentration on an area target - that means 72 guns firing at once on same target - things were really popping out there at that time.

On Friday my Fire Direction was set up about 200 yds ahead + 200 yds to the side of one gun Btry, and believe me I was glad we weren't a yd closer since they had a muzzle burst and we could really hear those pieces of hot steel whiz through the air. As it was no one was hurt but we did all scare.

Tomorrow morning we go out in the field again in preparation for another Brigade problem on Monday, so you see they can keep us busy.

Jennie sent me a nice Angel Food Cake on Friday - I really was surprised how fresh it stayed since it had to come so far.

Must close now and go to bed. Thanks for letting me know about the Christmas drawing. Hope this reaches you in good health.
Love
Ralph