

12-21-1942

## Letter from Fort Lewis, Washington, December 21, 1942

Ralph Mouw

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December 21, 1944  
St. Louis, Mo

Dear folks;

It is rather late already but I'll try to write a few lines since I wasn't able to yesterday.

We had a very busy week-end. We had to pack every-thing and then there was numerous things to plan for the trip. You have no idea just how much planning it takes to move a unit of a little over a thousand men with all their belongings. We had to make all kinds of inspections to be certain the area was clean before we left - the army always leaves things cleaner than when found.

Sunday morning we got up at three o'clock so that we could get started at 6 o'clock. The staff really ran its legs off getting things in order for march between 3 and 6. But everything was ready at appointed time. I enjoyed the trip over the mountains very much. The scenery was just marvelous. Another staff member and myself rode with the Colonel and kept the column in order. We stopped at Summit which is a very top of mountains to let column go by so I got a few pictures which probably won't turn out so well since we were surrounded with clouds. There were several people here skiing and the snow was several feet deep.



We had a portable radio in our car so we heard the Christmas Carols coming over the mountains. It was the first time I've heard them this year since we didn't have a radio and no church service up there.

We finally arrived here at about seven o'clock last night. We came a total of about 200 miles but what a change. Snow was deep at Yakima and it was cold while out here there is no snow and not even freezing in fact it rains every day, all day. This camp is situated near Olympia and it is very wooded you know tall pines etc. It certainly seems good to see trees again.

I'm in my room now and believe me I appreciate the comforts. I'm going to sleep between sheets tonight for the first time since October.

We have a very nice area here with a Regimental Chapel and now our Chaplain is back from school so we'll have our first service on Christmas Eve, and I'm really looking forward to it and I haven't seen the inside of a church since I was home on furlough.

Must close now - Hope you are all well

Love  
Ralph

P.S. I didn't get Vernon a Christmas Present yet, because I couldn't find what I wanted. You see I'm looking for a wrist-watch so tell him I didn't forget him although it may