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Letter from Fort Lewis, Washington, December 31, 1942

Ralph Mouw

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December 31, 1942
Ft Lewis, W^{yo}

Dear Vernon;

I suppose that you have thought by this time that your big brother had forgotten all about you this Christmas, haven't you. Well bet you said I bet he forgot to get me a Christmas present. Well no you wrong. I have been trying to get you a present for a long time and just can't get what I want for you so I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll send you the money and then you can go and have Dad buy it for you. So I'm going to send you a check for five dollars and I want you to go and buy

a wristwatch for it. Oh yes
you have to promise to write
me once in a while and tell
me all about School and basketball.

Do you get to play much
basketball this year? And is
school very hard or are you
making good grades now?

I suppose you went down to
look at the big plane that
went down near there. They
make those planes up here in
Washington and not very far from
here so every clear day there
are always a few of them in
the air guarding the coast.

We have an awfully lot
of wet weather up here. So far
I have seen the sun once.
It isn't very cold here and we

have no snow— very seldom we even get white-frost. However if its clear weather I can look out of my window and see the snow on Mt Rainier something like 80 miles away from here. That mountain is over 14,000ft. high so if its clear weather it can be seen for well over 200mils.

I get to see the Pacific Ocean to every one in a while. If you look on some maps you will see some water they call the Pacific Sound and we are right near the City of Olympia. You better see if you can find it on the map.

Also have lots of tall pine trees (evergreens) which grow much bigger than the trees at home.

We are getting a lot of new

men in this outfit and I have to plan their training for them and see to it that they are trained in four weeks so I'll be very busy the next few weeks. I hope I'm capable of handling it alright, but it certainly is a big job.

tomorrow will be the first day of 1943 so here hoping you have a happy New Year.

Must close now - answer as soon as you get your present
your brother
Ralph.

P.S. Let the folks read the letter too