To Uncle Tom Riggs

Hindmans Division
Walthalls Brigade
Camps Near Dalton Geo

March 19th 1864

My Dear Uncle
I arrived in Camps yesterday evening and found Every thing about as usual Every thing appears very quiett in regard to our army as movements depending as any one know off but still that is nothing uncommon for it is so hard and difficult matter for any one Except Gen. Joseph E. Johnston to find out. and One of my Lieut told me that Gen Johnston completely surprised both our army and the Yankees in this last fight. The army all thought that Johnston was going to retreat from the way he Maneuvered them He first ordered

Every thing to get in readyness and be in the right trim for fighting move out most Every thing from Dalton down towards Atlanta which made the boys all think more positive that He intended to retreat down towards Atlanta Also had the roads prepared and put in good order and sent all the wagons to the Rear In fact I expect that Johnston thought himself he would have to fall Back but did not and all at once moved to the front with His whole command and gave the Yanks a very bad whipping although it was a small fight only part of two Divisions was Engaged Stephen Stevenson and Part of Stewart and one Brigade of Cleburns Division You saw an account where Hindman gave

Some Brigade and Brigadier Gen
great praise for their Gallantry &
meritorious conduct during the
Engagement that was all true
but Hindmans Division was not
engaged Hindmans at that
time was comanding a Corps
My Brigade was about twelve
or fourteen miles below Dalton
working the roads but if the fight
had off lasted a day longer it
would have got in to it the Brigade
was ordered to the front the Second
and last day of the fight the
boys all says they felt just like
they was going in but fortunat
ly the Yanks gave back they
got near enough to hear the
Shell Whistle but did not
get in the Engagement.
Every body is a great Deal better
pleased with Gen Johnston now

than they was before Every
one Seems to thinks that he is
the man now, and the army
is in better Spirits now than
they have been in Some time
previous there is great confidence
place in Johnston now both
by the Officers and Privates
and I am inhopes we will be
able to hold our position here
after if we move let it be
further north for I would
hate to fall back any further
South, The Supposition in
Camps is we will move in town
and form a Junction with
Longstreet but nothing certain
about it. it is only a move
I would like very well to
make to move for I think
if we could get with Longstreet
that the Yanks could not

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To Uncle Tom Riggs

Second Sheet

Bring force enough against us to whip us but I dont State this as true for you can hear most any thing in camps you wish to I will drop this Subject

I will tell you about my trip I left Rattville on the 16th and got to atlanta at two oclock on the 17th & could have come on up to my command that night but I thought A Soldier would be acting very green to return to camps before his Furlough was out and having A good opportunity off Staying with one of my company without any expense I thought I would do So I came up yesterday the day my furlough was out - went on

Duty this morning that I was
reported for duty, but as it
is Saturday there is no drilling
to day. The first thing I heard
this morning was fall in to
roll call boys but as I was
some what acquainted with the
call it did not surprise me
very much although I hated
some ~~what~~ little to get up
but as my bed was not as
pleasent as I have been ~~accus~~
accustomed to for the last forty
days I rose more willingly than
I would have done other wise.
I will tell you what I had
for breakfast it was quite nice
indeed and so many different
dishes in the plate We had
beef and bread second bread
and beef and very scant of
beef but as for breads a plenty

Of it and I never Saw the boys in better health in my life. Every one is as fat as Pigs. It will take me a few days longer to get all right in Camp. it Seems as if I have some thing on my mind that I dont know to get rid off but I know in a few days longer I will be all Sound on the goose question.
Give my love to Aunt Matt Sallie & all the rest of the Children. Tell Capt Powel I wish it was So I could enjoy a drink of his corn cordial with him but as it is impossible at the present for me to do So he will have to take it alone and think of the night we wear at Mr James Saffolds. Also Give my love

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to Mrs Sezwell & Mrs
Saffold
Tell Miss Clemmie I wish
to be remembered to her
also that I am very much
disfigured but still in the
ring well in fact give my
best respects to all the girls
of my acquaintance
So as I have written more
than is interesting I will close
Nothing more only I hope
to hear from you soon
Your afft Nephew
James, R, Riggs
P.S
Direct your letters to
Dalton Georgia Co (G) 27th
Miss Regt Walthalls Brigade
Hindmans Division
Yours &
J.R.R.