Direct to Gracies
Brigade Richmond Va
Give my love to carrie
& all the Children
May God bless & protect
you
J E Hume

Chaffins Bluff Camp 59th Ala Regt
Sunday May 29th 1864

Dear Laura

I have just returned from the front, where we will have some warm work this evening or early in the morning - Our gun boats are going down to attack the Yankee fleet of gun boats & iron clads - Our regt ("The Glorious old 59th") has been detailed as skirmishers to go down on land and drive off yankee sharpshooters & protect our boats from any land forces - Three companies of our Regt were left in camp - as all were not needed, and as my company was one of the last on duty before - it was left this time - Lt-Col Trimmier of the 41st Ala Regt - Commands our Regt now, - and he asked me to go down with him this morning to assist him if any fighting was to be done - Of course I went, But Told him "If my company was called off I should go with it - As long as my company stays in camp I am willing to go with him & help to whip the Yanks - The gun boats were not expected to go down - this evening as I suppose they are not ready, so I returned to camp to get something to eat - I promised Col - Trimmier to go back to him if I found the gun boats were going down this evening - I shall go in the morning any how - I would not miss it for any thing - I may be killed or badly wounded but this a soldier never calculates to happen - I wish father was down here to see it - If I had known in time this morning I should have sent for him, But have not time now shall send at any rate early in the morning - I imagine it will be a grand sight to see a dozen iron clads fighting Our skirmishers will go right down the banks of the river so that those who are not killed will be able to see every thing - I shall go with this line of skirmishers that I may not only be able to see for myself, but to assist Col - T - with the skirmishers. We will certainly have bloody work here ere long - But rest in good spirits & be confident Our southern boys are ready & willing to sacrifice their lives

in defense of their homes & dear ones there - Our armies are in fine spirits, cannot be whipped by any thing like equal numbers Grant is swinging around to the Peninsula - and of course Lee is keeping between him & Richmond - They will soon be down here with us - Lee is only ten miles from here now or rather from Richmond - We will be in the great fight, and last fight, of the war yet - God grant that we may be victorious - and finally establish our independence I wish to live to enjoy peace at home with you all once more But if it's God's will that it shall be otherwise - then none should grieve - If killed in battle, what more glorious death could you wish me die? But I do not expect to be killed right off. All men that go into fights are not killed. Why should I not be one to escape? I feel some uneasiness about Jim - as from reports Johnston has been fighting for the last day or two - I hope he may pass the fiery ordeal safely - as he has passed many in times by gone. I went to Richmond day before yesterday to see Bolling, Crenshaw & father - Bolling & Crenshaw were getting on very well I was very glad to see father & find him looking well. I have written you twice in the last five days, besides this - and wrote Hines yesterday - You must write immediately I am so anxious to hear from home - Give me all the news - Dont wait for me to write, but write every day or two any how - I dont wait for you to write, but write every chance I have Tell Hines to write also - You have no idea what little spare time I have for writing, especially when expecting a fight as now - I have no officer with my company (except myself) so that I have all to do, but you know that has been the case ever since I have been with the company almost. How are the girls getting on? Vacation has nearly come, has it? I wish I could spend it with you. There is no vacation for the soldier Neither is there sunday - Here to day is sunday & we have been expecting to fight all day - May yet fight before the day closes Ask "Our set" why they do not write? I wrote to them before we left East-Tenn - I gave father the Curiosity I said I would send you I expect he will loose it - Give my love to Miss H, T, & A. - Goodbye

Your Affct brother

J Elmore Hall

ALA. DEPT. ARCHIVES & HISTORY