St. Ala Regt Pn Trenches
Oct 6th 1864

Dear father.

It has been some time since any of us have recived a letter from home. Since I last wrote we have changed position again, & had one or two alarms, though as turned out, false. Day before yesterday evening about dark or a little after just as Crenshaw & myself sat down to drink a cup of Coffee & eat some bread we were aroused by hearing volleys of musketry on the right of the line which came down the line like lightning. We soon had the regt formed and were prepared to recived the yanks should they have come. Both sides immediately began a terrible

shelling with mortars & artillery, which was kept up for an hour. Our regt did not fire their guns, being better drilled than to fire at nothing & seeing that the Yankees were not advancing in our front. We expected at first, that we would have the pleasure of repulsing a charge. But were disappointed. Very little damage was done by the enemies shells. One man was killed in the 41st Ala & Lieut. Jones of my company was killed by the fragment of a shell striking him on the head. He never, even groaned after he was struck, although he lived several hours. His brain were knocked out. Later in the night a man of the 60th was killed while in our regt. I now have no officer left in my company. And it looks

like it will be hard to get one who will assist me. Several of my men are bare footed & without clothes. I wrote you several days ago about the clothing Capt. Wise left in your care. I wish if there is any safe way of sending it. You would send it on to me. I am expecting some of the men to come from home soon. If you see them you might send by them, & telegraph to Sam Holt so that I can meet the men at the depot & make proper arrangements for getting the clothing to camp. There seems little chance of getting a supply of clothing from the government. & I dont know what I shall do this winter for blankets for the men. Several are without anything in the shape of bedding.

It is now half after 3 o'clock P.M. & one of Capt. Crumpler's men (James Ray) is to be

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shot at 4 oclock. The time is near at hand
His crime was, desertion & Cowardice.
I am sorry for the boy for I do not really
think he has any sense. He will be shot
here in the trenches before the Regt - I would
give almost any thing to be absent when
it is done. Though he deserves death, I
dont want to see him shot - Sgt Bowdoin
has just come in & says. Genl Gracie
has ordered the execution of (the sentence against) Ray put
off until 6 oclock, that he may try to have
it reprieved. I fear he will not succeed
Bolling is a member of Court martial &
therefore does not stay in trenches.
We are getting along tolerably well. Have
no Maj - yet. But application for Crumplers appoint
ment has been forwarded - Pums & close. Write
soon to

Your Affect Son
J Elmore Hall

ALA. DEPT. ARCHIVES & HISTORY MSS

Oct 5th 1864
Hodock P.M.

Father I have just witnessed a sight which I pray I may never again be called upon to see. Ray was shot to death by a detail of 15 men made for the purpose. As minister prayed with him & he was tied to a stake with his hands behind him a white cloth put over his face & the order given the detail to fire upon him. Several balls to effect but a few moments after life not being extinct entirely, He was again shot the last trial finishing life I was a sad sight.

With this I send you a list of the Killed &c in my company since 11th may