

Morristown Jan 11. 1864.

Dear Father

Seyt Vernon goes home tomorrow, and I have a chance to write a couple of sheets. Since leaving Chickamauga, our marches and retreats and changes have been on so extensive a scale that I cant recount all of course. And where am I to begin if I have to break into the history? I think it would be the biggest volume of trials and sufferings and disappointments that could be made from the history of any troops. When we had nearly reached Knoxville the discomfiture of Bragg at Missionary Ridge deprived us the victory, and misfortune seems to have seized us all around. Victory nowhere and defeat everywhere for us. Then comes the condition of our army here, badly clothed and barefooted most of them, actually barefooted and but little prospect of relief at hand. This Army will have to remain in statu quo. until better provided in those respects.

The Brigade G. M. is making a feeble, weak attempt to shoe the men but I believe he has only shod a general or so from heels to belly and two or three men in each company while so many are wanting. He will just provide for the wear and tear. The weather is excessively severe; for two weeks I do not suppose the thermometer has stood above 32° at any hour of the day or night. One morning at sunrise it was at 0° and at 12 o'clock at 4°. It hardly seems the same country it did last winter.

So much more severe is it now, than during our winter
at Cumbelland Gap. I rejoice to say that as yet we
have had select and enough provisions for man
and horse. and that at last is the great point with
us. We can hold out as long as we can be well fed.
As I have said we are doing well in that department
now and I hope will continue to do well.

Screens left for home this morning on a 30 day leave of
absence. I don't suppose however that he will ever
return as he probably will be Gov Watts private Sec-
retary. we all regret his leaving the Regiment.
I applied for today to go home but was refused.

At Bean Station I acquitted himself with credit. Our
Regiment and Col Saufords did all the fighting that was
done and ours most of it as skirmishers.

I was in command of his own and Capt Gullings company
on the left of our Regiment got separated during the
engagement from the Regiment and fought near the 17th
23 Tenn. Regt of Johnsons Brigade. Maj Lowe of that com-
mand spoke well of I was and said he was going to mention
him to Genl Gracie for gallantry; he has not done it "You
see and I suppose has forgotten it."

I was in the fight and in the front rank but don't
know that I attracted any special notice from the
distinguished. Longstreet in a general order alluded to our
"gallant conduct" at Chickamauga, Bean Station."

Jim Hall is here with us came down yesterday, is perfectly
barefooted and as we tell him on that account has the
appearance of the most honest cavalry man I've seen
I expect Jim is a good & faithful soldier

Bolliq and you are both well. The order to consolidate
the Battalions have not yet been received.

But we are now acting as Regiments and under the
name of Regiments. Bolliq has just been appointed
President of a Court Martial. It will not interfere with
him with his Regiment much as we are in winter qua-
rters and not probable to fight soon.

I lent Serenus \$250. which he will pay over to you
and you can pay for my uniform and clothing if you
have bought them for me.

I need both badly. 3 pr drawers and 4 or 5 pr socks.
The other night I was deprived of the pleasure of going
to a Ball not having a uniform suitable.

I have to close suddenly as Serf is leaving

Yr.

C. Stace.



Morristown Jan 11. 1864.

Dear Father

Sergt Vernon goes home tomorrow, and I have a chance to write a couple of sheets. Since leaving Chickamauga, our marches and retreats and charges have been on so extensive a scale that I cant recount all of course. And where am I to begin if I have to break into the history? I think it would be the biggest volume of trials and sufferings and disappointments that could be made from the history of any troops. When we had nearly reduced Knoxville the discomfiture of Bragg at Missionary Ridge deprived us of the victory, and misfortune seems to have seized us all around. Victory nowhere and defeat everywhere for us. Then comes the condition of our army here, badly clothed and barefooted most of them, actually barefooted and but little prospect of relief at hand. This army will have to remain in status quo until better provided in those respects. The Brigade Q. M. is making a feeble, weak attempt to shoe the men but I believe he has only shod a general or so from heels to belly and two or three men in each company while so many are wanted He will just provide for the wear and tear, The weather is excessively severe; for two weeks I do not suppose the thermometer has stood above 32° at any hour of the day or night. One morning at sunrise it was at 0° and at 12 oclock at 4°. It hardly seems the same country it did last winter

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so much more severe is it now, than during our winter at Cumberland Gap. I rejoice to say that as yet we have had select and enough provisions for man and horse, and that at last is the great point with us. We can hold out as long as we can be well fed. As I have said we are doing well in that department now and I hope will continue to do well. Screws left for home this morning, on a 30 day leave of absence. I don't suppose however that he will ever return as he probably will be Gov Watts private Secretary. We all regret his leaving the Regiment. Jno applied for 40 days to go home but was refused. At Bean Station Jno acquitted himself with credit. One Regiment and Col Sanfords did all the fighting that was done and ours most of it as skirmishers.

Jno in command of his own and Capt Gullidges company on the left of our Regiment got separated during the engagement from the Regiment and fought near the 14 & 23 Tenn. Regs of Johnsons Brigade. Maj Lowe of that command spoke well of Jno and said he was going to mention him to Genl Gracie for gallantry: he has not done it however and I suppose has forgotten it.

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But we are now acting as Regiments and under the name of Regiments. Bolling has just been appointed President of a Court Martial. It will not interfere with him with his Regiment much as we are in winter quarters and not liable to fight soon.

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C Hall