

Camp 39. Ala Regt
Sept 9th 1864

Dear father

W. Davis leaves for home soon I shall write a few lines by him. Wrote day before yesterday ^{Laura} to thinking he would get off there. But circumstances prevented & he leaves this evening. Our Regt. is camped in the edge of town, as reserve for Brigade. We got this position by every other regiment in the brigade expressing an unwillingness to occupy it. Ours objected strongly to leaving the trenches too, but of course, the 39th has the drudge work to do for Gracis Brigade - You may after the acct's you have heard of the trenches, think it strange that all are so

ambitious to remain in them. But this
can be explained in a few words,
In the first place we only come
out for two or three days. Some other
Regt takes our place upon the line
When we return we find the plank
& we have for little comforts, burnt
& almost every thing torn to pieces
so that we have to re-march entirely
moving, there, so often, is not pleasant
to the soldier, to say the least of it
In the second place the reserve
is to be thrown to any part of the line
that may be threatened - at any time
or state of weather. In case of an
assault upon our lines, the reserve
would have to march through
open fields, exposed to the full
fire of the enemies arms of all sorts
until they reached the outer line of

our fortifications. Last night, for an instance, it had been raining all day yesterday - was cold. The rain continued through the night. At nine o'clock - we received orders to go immediately to the trenches & take position in rear of Elliott's Salient. It was so dark that we could not see our hands before us. After tumbling over stumps innumerable slipping down times without number & falling into several mud holes, some smaller than whetstones take, we reached Elliott's Salient about 11 o'clock, wet, muddy, tired & very sleepy - having slept little the night before, it having rained that night also. Thus you see the beauty of being in reserve. We are without any shelters, whereas in

the trenches we had our bomb proofs
which afforded some protection from
falling rain. Tell Botling (confidentially)
that I have it from good authority
that Genl Spruce (expecting soon to be
Maj Genl) is working hard to have
Lt Col Huguley appointed with
temporary rank of Brigadier to com-
mand our brigade. It beats any thing
I ever heard of. However, I shall not
comment. If you have not an earlier
chance, you can send me clothes by
M-Dave. Dr Dixon & Davis promise
to call to see you, when they get to
Montgomery. Laura's of 26 Aug last
recd I am uneasy about Jim.

Things are gloomy in the South, but
don't be despondent. Love to all. Good bye

Your aff^d son

John Blincoe Hall



Camp 59 Ala Reg^t
Sept 7th 1864

Dear father

Lt. Davie leaves for home soon I shall write a few lines by him. Wrote day before yesterday to ^{Laura} thinking he would get off then. But circumstances prevented & he leaves this evening. Our Reg^t. is camped in the edge of town, as reserve for Brigade We got this position by every other regiment in the brigade expressing an unwillingness to occupy it. Ours objected strongly to leaving the trenches too, but of course the 59th has the drudge work to do for Gracies Brigade - you may after the acc'ts you have heard of the trenches, think it strange that all are so

[page 2]

anxious to remain in them. But this can be explained in a few words. In the first place we only come out for two or three days. Some other Regt takes our place upon the line When we return we find the plank &c we have for little comforts, burnt & almost every thing torn to pieces so that we have to remodel entirely moving, then, so often, is not pleasant to the soldier, to say the least of it In the second place - the reserve is to be thrown to any part of the line that may be threatened - at any time or state of weather. In case of an assault upon our lines, the reserve would have to march through open fields, exposed to the field fire of the enemies arms of all sorts until they reached the outer line of

[page 3]

our fortifications. Last night, for an instance. It had been raining all day yesterday - was cold. The rain

continued through the night. At nine o'clock we received orders to go immediately to the trenches & take position in rear of Elliotts Salient. It was so dark that we could not see our hands before us. After tumbling over stumps innumerable slipping down times without number & falling into several mud holes, some smaller than whetstones lake, we reached Elliots Salient about 11 o'clock, wet, muddy tired & very sleepy, having sleep little the night before, it having rained that night also. Thus you see the beauty of being in reserve. We are without any shutters, whereas in

[page 4]

the trenches we had our bomb proofs which afforded us some protection from falling rain. Tell Bolling (confidentially) that I have it from good authority that Gen'l Gracie (expecting soon to be Maj Gen'l) is working hard to have Lt. Col. Huguley appointed with temporary rank of Brigadier to command our brigade. It beats any thing I heard of. However, I shall not comment. If you have not an earlier chance, you can send me clothes by Lt. Davie. Dr D- , & Davie promise to call to see you, when they get to Montgomery. Laura's of 26 aug last rec^d I am uneasy about Jim. Things are gloomy in the South. But don't be despondent. Love to all. Good bye

Your aff'ct Son

John Elmore Hall