

Cumberland Gap Kentucky

May 25th 1863

My dear Father

We arrived here day before yesterday evening about dark from Knoxville after a march of about three days. We are camped in our old winter quarters on the Kentuckian side of the mountain. The other Battalions are on the other side of the mountain. It is thought that two or three regiments of Yankees are three miles this side of Cumberland Gap, that is about three miles from here. Three or four hundred Yankees pushed up here a day or two before we got here, surrounded our pickets, burnt down here, where we used to picket and captured all of them except those on horse. One was a very bad man shot. A citizen (Gomer) who lived about three miles from here had down in when our pickets went that this man in to war was wounded. The first night we got here, we were assailed twice in the night by the Yankee firing.

The first time, Bolivar had his Battalions
drawn out in line to battle and kept
us there over an hour. When dismissed
us, cautioning the men to sleep with their
carbines capped at their heads & guns where
they could put their hands on them in a
minute. We had not lay down before a
savagely man came up & told us that
the Yankees were certainly out at the
icket post, on the Richfield road.
Bolivar made us all bring Post over
our rifles again & form them in
line which we did very quick. We rem-
ained in line over an hour, and again
retired, seeing or hearing nothing of the
enemy. Probably all of our men were eager
for a fight. I had to send one to the guard
house - he not going out with the company.
It was told: It is the general impression
here that we will have a fight soon,
where the fighting will be I do not know.
Sutcliffe has promised to give us a
showing certain. He says our Mat- shall
be in advance. Our Mat- gained a
very favorable name during our last
stay at Knoxville among the Citizens.

They said our Boat was the most quiet and
orderly body of troops that had ever
sailed Passaic. They wish
as to stay where they said, so that
worse troops could not take our place
I think our Boat - is very well disciplined
I reckon you know Maj. Stubbfield
had resigned. His resignation has
not been heard from yet. It is the best
thing he could have done for the Boat
Capt. Dillard. I reckon will be our Maj.
The examining board I understand I
decided against Capt. Walden & it now
remains with the Secy of war to throw
him or let him remain. Genl. Conner
feels he shall not (that is Capt. Walden)
go up as Maj. I think Capt. Dillard will
make a very good Maj. He has a very
poor education, that is the worst ob-
jection to him, otherwise he will do very
well. I reckon you have seen Capt.
Wise before this time. I did not see
him before he left, or I should have
written by him. It is now Sunday
and John Fitzpatrick is with us. He
will eat dinner with us. His health

is good, and seems to be in fine spirits.
I got a letter just before we left Knoxville
from Tom. But have not heard from
him in a long time, except through
your letters. Wheat crops up here
look fine. I hope good crops will be made
all through the south, with good crops
we can keep up a long time. Give my
love to Laura & Carrie & tell them to
write to me. I have not heard from
Carrie in a long time. Does she go to
school? Boss of our company says he
sent some things to Mont. by
express, directed to you & as he knew
no one else there to send them to, he
wishes you to send them to Fernon
directed to Mrs Amanda Bos. He said
he wrote you himself, but wished me
to mention it as his letter might not
reach you. I must close. Good bye.

Your Affec^t - son
John S. Hall



Cumberland Gap – Kenty
May 24th 1863

My dear Father

We arrived here day before yesterday evening about dark from Knoxville after a march of four days. We are camped in our old winter quarters on the Kentucky side of the mountain. The other Battalions are on the other side of the mountain. It is thought that two or three regiments of Yankees are three miles this side of Cumberland Ford, that is about eleven miles from here. Three or four hundred cavalry rushed up here, a day or two before we got here, surrounded our pickets (a mile from here, where we used to picket last winter) and captured all of them except three or four. One was very badly wounded. A citizen (Twiner) who lives about three miles from here had him in upon our picket and shot this man who was wounded. The first night we got here, we were aroused twice in the night by the pickets firing

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The first time, Bolling had the Battalion drawn out in line of Battle and kept us there over an hour. Then dismissed us cautioning the men to sleep with their cartridge boxes at their heads & guns where they could put their hands on them in a minute. We had not lay down before a cavalryman came up & told us that the Yankes were certainly out at the picket post on the Kentucky road. Bolling made us all bring out our companies again & form them in line which we did very quick. We remained in line over an hour, and again retired, seeing or hearing nothing of the enemy. Nearly all of our men were eager for a fight. I had to send one to the guard house for not going out with the company. It was Holly. It is the general impression here that we will have a fight soon. Where the fighting will be I do not know. Gen'l Gracie has promised to give us a showing certain. He says our Bat. shall be in advance. Our Bat. gained a very favorable name during our last stay at Knoxville among the citizens.

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They said our Bat. was the most quiet and orderly body of troops that had ever camped near Knoxville. They really wished us to stay there, they said, so that worse troops could not take our place I think our Bat. is very well disciplined I reckon you knew Maj. Stubblefield had resigned. His resignation has not been heard from yet. It is the best thing he could have done for the Bat. Capt. Dillard I reckon will be our Maj. The examining board I understand decided against Capt. Walden & it only remains with the Sec'r'y of war to throw him or let him remain Genl. Gracie declares he shall not (that is Capt Walden) go up as Maj. I think Capt. Dillard will make a very good Maj. He has a very poor education that is the worse objection to him. Otherwise he will do very well. I reckon you have seen Capt. Wise before this time. I did not see him before he left or I should have written by him. It is now sunday and John Fitzpatrick is with us. He will eat dinner with us. His health

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is good, and seems to be in fine spirits I got a letter just before we left Knoxville from Tom. But have not heard from Jim in a long time, except through your letters. Wheat crops up here look fine. I hope goods crops will be made all through the South. With good crops we can keep up a long time. Give my love to Laura & Carrie & tell them to write to me. I have not heard from Carrie in a long time. Does she go to school. Box of our company says he sent some things to Montgomery by express, directed to you as he knew no one else there to send them to. He wishes you to send them to Vernon directed to Mrs Amanda Box. He said he wrote you himself, but wished me to mention it as his letter might not reach you. I must close. Good bye.

Your Aff'c't Son

John E Hall