

Near Knoxville July 10, '63

My Dear Father

We reached here from Tallahoma two or three days since, tired a little with our marches and hardships. for we were subjected to some on the retreat which the body of Genl Bragg's army did not experience.

We brought up the rear and on the whole march and campaign after leaving Knoxville we returned the other night were without cooking utensils of any kind.

The men bore the it all with great fortitude, on the whole campaign since we left Cumberland Gap when you remember the Yankee raiders first entered the East Tennessee to this time we ^{have} lost but four men, two who it is supposed are captured and two of Waldens men deserted between Bridport and Chattanooga. Of course there are some who are sick from the marches and bad fare generally, but our losses do not near compare with the other Regts of the Brigade (43^d Ala & 63^d Tenn)

We abandoned very little to Rosecrans - Genl Bragg had good transportation, fine large mules and in excellent condition

When we first reached Tallahoma all with whom I conversed seemed to have confidence in Genl Bragg and some said he was getting popular. We were there but a few hours before it became evident that the retreat had commenced. Then there was some cursing but it is now said here in Knoxville that Bragg was ordered to retreat - Johnston had weakened his force - and seems so far to have accomplished nothing himself. - I presume from a dispatch from Jackson rec'd here to day that the great fight which is to decide the fate of Mississippi has been fought to day or will be fought in the next few days.

We all feel depressed at the news from all quarters. - from Lee - Vicksburg - Bragg - and Charleston attacked. There is so much confusion now and uncertainty that it is we cannot tell where we stand - what the status is. We have not heard from home since you wrote by Capt Wise.

I know you all feel uneasy in Alabama but I still hope for the best.

I cannot believe that we are destined to be subjugated - the conscript should be raised to 45 and lowered to include over 14 yrs of age. How many Battalions of Mines are and Orgs can be raised in the State?

The other Battalions of the Legion are at
the Gap - 1st & 3^d at Cumberland Gap the
4th at Big Creek - I cannot tell what
disposition is to be made of us all here the
63^d Tenn. left for Strawberry Plains yesterday
Bohly is a little unwell this evening -
Lieut Kerr of Capt Reave's company has just
got in from Randolph with 9 deserters who
deserted at the Gap with the lot of 26 -
This leaves but about half a dozen now
on the deserters list from the Battalion.
- We have here about 150 men most of
whom are effective It is now getting so
dark that I am writing independent of
the ruling - Mr McIntyre's resignation accep
ted on the 18th of June and Jno Henley
Captain of his company - W. W. Sereus elected
3^d Lt. &c Too dark to write more.
We have just rec'd an order to go to
work on fortifications tomorrow -
Love to Joe and Carrie.

W of Don

Coushaw Hall

Saw Jim at Tallahoma looking well and
in good spirits. C H.



P. S. The day that we left Cumberland Gap the 1st Battalion marched with us - and camped with us that night next morning were ordered back to the Gap - but what I was going to mention that day. Bolling & my Troop passed some hard words - originating from some insolent ^{message} threat of Troop who was on a court martial a day or two before - Bolling had failed to send some witnesses or prisoners in proper time as Troop said or thought when Troop told Capt Henley to tell Bolling that that Court was "no respecter of persons" and that he had better look out.

Well Henley did not deliver the message but Troop overheard him (Troop) telling Henley and reported it himself (Henley said he would not tell it as he did not want to raise a fuss)

The morning of the march a day or two after the message was given, but never delivered by Henley, was the first meeting of Bolling with Troop. He did not at first seem disposed to be much angry with Troop - but Troop seemed to want to threaten with his court again. Bolling told him his message was not delivered by Henley but he had heard of it and was not a "respecter of persons" himself nor of the individual members of that court - Troop then was riding off and as he rode said - "no nor of any other gentleman" Bolling replied that "he did not consider many of the members of the court gentlemen". Troop made no reply but in about five minutes rode back (we were halted & resting) and gave Bolling some orders as if he was superior in rank to halt his Batt there till the 1st passed. Bolling told him he should do no such thing - Troop then said "I will report you to Genl Gracie". Bolling told him to report and go to the devil or something of the kind" that he was getting insolent and that he obeyed no orders from him unless coming from Genl Gracie. It was not so much what was said as the tone & manner that got Troop. Bolling talked to him very harshly & Troop did not gain any advantage by that character. Bolling kept all - Have not seen or heard of Troop since - He is an enemy for life - ing

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