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Catoosa Co. Georgia

Near Chattanooga Tenn

Aug 26<sup>th</sup> 1863

My Dear Father

I wrote to you at  
Kelly's Ferry twice. We left there  
and withdrew to our lines that  
evening I do not write. We  
saw nothing of the enemy while  
at the Ferry, although we were  
expecting them every minute.  
We were deployed as skirmishers,  
kept in line of battle all  
day, but nothing in the  
morning presented  
ourselves. However  
those women in the  
how, who had been  
about their washing  
movements for some time,  
did not walk any grace  
ladylike as our  
women do  
was P

Let a couple of us go over on  
 team who they were, and to  
 see if we could capture them  
 if they were not runners. He  
 agreed for three of us to go and  
 take one gun. We got into a lit-  
 dergent and paddled over. (Tall  
 Wagner and myself) I had to take  
 the lead after we crossed, and  
 got on shore, although I had no  
 weapons, and Wagner with it  
 marched in the water, and  
 without weapons brought  
 rear. We thus appeared  
 supposed enemy, and  
 The conversation with  
 them when the Yankee  
 did not know, but I  
 came down to the river  
 some one to bring  
 tobacco. We soon saw  
 they were

man at first that in an-  
 answering a question she asked me  
 answered "yes sir." They promised  
 to send up into Segwathin Valley  
 at night and learn the forces  
 and whereabouts of the enemy, if  
 we would bring them some tobacco  
 next morning at ten o'clock.  
 I promised them of course but  
 left them unfortunately before  
 morning and so were deprived  
 of information which we  
 could have gained  
 . . . But I don't think  
 have learned anything  
 about the Zampko  
 think they wanted to  
 come there and have some  
 men posted ready to start  
 if we came over, but I  
 am not going to suffer  
 un-interrupted  
 I was

to go prepared for them, as  
 some citizens on our side of the  
 river had told us that their list  
 on the river side were unionists  
 and were supposed to harbor  
 bush-whackers. We are now encamped  
 about 8 miles from Chattanooga  
 in a south-easterly direction. We  
 have gone to policing regularly  
 and as if we were destined to  
 spend a couple of weeks in  
 camp yet. A good many  
 boys are under the impression  
 that we will retreat  
 and not fight. But  
 it is that Bragg will  
 say "Thus far then we  
 but no farther." We are  
 last trench, - We have  
 from trench to trench  
 ally we find more  
 stronghold.

and the day is ours." I think if Bragg fights Rosecrans at Chattanooga he will whip him all to pieces. But is not Rosecrans too prudent to attack him here. Bragg will not fight unless he knows he will whip, and Rosecrans is pretty much the same way. But if Rosecrans makes a mistake and fights Bragg here, I think he will be whipped.

Every body seems to think we are <sup>to have</sup> a big battle before long. Gen Hindman commands our Division, and as far as I see to be a good disciplinarian. I am in hopes you will all be agreeably disappointed in him. I have not seen enough of him yet to form an opinion of him.

We have not heard from him since we left our old camp. The Post Office and Telegraph

Officer Lane took him removed  
 to out of town on the Atlanta  
 rail-road and in consequence  
 our mail has not come to us  
 since we left our old camp.  
 But the office will be opened  
 again tomorrow and I suppose  
 I will get a letter.

I have stood it fairly as far, but  
 we have not had much severe  
 marching to do. The night we came  
 off of Lickell we (our company)  
 marched the whole night from  
 dusk till eight o'clock in the  
 morning. I got tolerably sleepy as  
 well as tired. The whole of our  
 marching has been confined to  
 within ten miles of Chattermunga  
 But we have been going back-  
 wards and forwards forming  
 lines of battle and changing  
 camps until I was terribly sick  
 of it. Ben is not well but

does not give up to it. We do not let him work or cook any thing. He is better now than he has been for the last five or three days.

Poor Milton Brown I fear he will not live much longer. I have not seen <sup>him</sup> since. I sat up that night. I wrote to you how he was then. If I have a chance I will try to go down and see him again. But they are very particular about letting any one go to liquor now.

I am sorry that this move has deprived us of a chance of getting a barrel from home. I think there is no possible chance now to get one. Well I am getting so I can eat a good meal now and will not need the vegetables so much. But as for getting used to eating such food I can't do it. I was in the Service last

summer and fall about five  
or six months and I never could  
get used to eating tough beef &c.  
I was always tired of it. It is some-  
thing like marching with me. I  
have marched many a mile but  
I never have got used to it yet. I  
get just as tired of marching now  
as I ever did; but still I can  
stand it as well as any of them  
now. Tell Laura and Hines to  
write to me. I will be disappointed  
tomorrow if I don't get a letter.  
Bro James and self well. I saw  
Willie Baldwin a few moments  
ago. He is well.

Your affec son  
Thos B Hall



Catoosa Co. Georgia  
Near Chattanooga Tenn  
Aug 26<sup>th</sup> 1863

My Dear Father

I wrote to you at  
Kerrys Ferry twice. We left there  
and withdrew to our lines that  
same evening I left wrote. We  
saw nothing of the enemy while  
at the Ferry, although we were  
expecting them every minute.  
*[piece missing]* were deployed as skirmishers,  
*[piece missing]* kept in Line of Battle all  
*[piece missing]* but nothing in the  
*[piece missing]* enemy presented  
*[piece missing]* [-] our fire. However  
*[piece missing]* three women on the  
*[piece missing]* [-], who had been  
*[piece missing]* about there watching  
*[piece missing]* [-ments] for some time,  
*[piece missing]* did not walk very grace  
*[piece missing]* lady like as our [wo-] *[piece missing]*  
*[piece missing]* women [-] *[piece missing]*  
*[piece missing]* Maj *[piece missing]*

***[page 2]***

let a couple of us go over [and]  
learn who they were, and to  
see if we could capture them  
if they were not [-]. He  
agreed for three of us to go [and]  
take one gun. We got into a [li-]  
dugout and paddled over (Tally  
Wagner and myself) I had to take  
the lead after we crossed, and  
got on shore, although I had [no]  
weapons, and Wagner with [-]  
marched in the [-] *[piece missing]*  
without weapons brought *[piece missing]*  
rear. We thus [approached] *[piece missing]*  
supposed enemy, and *[piece missing]*  
the conversation [with] *[piece missing]*  
them where the Yankees *[piece missing]*  
did not know, but [s-] *[piece missing]*  
came down to the [river] *[piece missing]*  
some one to bring *[piece missing]*  
[-]. We soon [s-] *[piece missing]*  
*[piece missing]* they were *[piece missing]*

**[page 3]**

man at first that in an-  
swering a question she asked [-]  
answered “yes sir.” They promised  
send up into Sequatchie Valley  
[-t] night and have the forces  
[-nd] whereabouts of the enemy, if  
[we] would bring them some tobac-  
[-] next morning at ten oclock.  
[We] promised them of course but  
left them unfortunately before  
[-ning] and so were deprived  
*[piece missing]* information which we  
*[piece missing]* could have gained  
*[piece missing]* But I dont think  
*[piece missing]* have learned anything  
*[piece missing]* about the Yankee  
*[piece missing]* think they wanted to  
*[piece missing]* over there and have some  
*[piece missing]* [-s] posted ready to shoot  
*[piece missing]* [we] came over, but I  
*[piece missing]* not going to [suffer-] *[piece missing]*  
*[piece missing]* out-generalled *[piece missing]*  
*[piece missing]* was *[piece missing]*

**[page 4]**

to go prepared for them, as  
some citizens on our side of the  
river had told us that their [li-]  
on the other side were [unionis-]  
and were supposed to harbour  
bush-whackers. We are now [encamped]  
about 5 miles from Chattanooga  
in a south-eastern direction. We  
have gone to policing regularly  
and as if we were destined to  
spend a couple of weeks in *[piece missing]*  
camp yet. A good many *[piece missing]*  
boys are under the [im-] *[piece missing]*  
that we will retreat *[piece missing]*  
and not fight. But *[piece missing]*  
is that Bragg will *[piece missing]*  
crans “Thus far those [w-] *[piece missing]*  
but no farther” We are *[piece missing]*  
last trench. We have *[piece missing]*  
from trench to trench *[piece missing]*  
*[piece missing]* [-ally] we find [ourselves] *[piece missing]*  
*[piece missing]* [-t] stronghold *[piece missing]*

*[page 5]*

and the day is ours." I think if Bragg fights Rosencrans at Chattanooga he will whip him all to pieces. But is not Rosencrans too prudent to attack him here. Bragg will not fight unless he knows he will whip, and Rosencrans is pretty much the same way. But if Rosencrans makes a mistake and fights Bragg here, I think he will be whipped. Every body seems to think we are going to have a big battle before long. [-] Hindman commands our Division, and so far seems to be a good disciplinarian. I am in hopes you will all be agreeably disapointed in him. I have not seen enough of him yet to form an opinion of him. We have not heard from home since we left our old camp. The Post Office and Telegraph

*[page 6]*

Office have both been removed ~~to~~ out of town on the Atlanta rail~~l~~-road and in consequence our mail has not come to us since we left our old camp. But the office will be opened again tomorrow and I suppose I will get a letter. I have stood it finely so far, but we have not had much severe marching to do. The night we came off of pickett we (our company) marched the whole night from dusk till eight oclock in the morning. I got tolerably sleepy as well as tired. The whole of our marching has been confined to within ten miles of Chattanooga. But we have been going backwards and forwards forming Lines of battle and changing camps until I am heartily sick

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*[page 7]*

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Poor Milton Brown I fear he will not live much longer. I have not seen <sup>him</sup> since I sat up that night. I wrote to you how he was then. If I have a chance I will try to go down and see him again. But they are very particular about letting any one go to town now.

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*[page 8]*

summer and fall about five or six months and I never could get used to eating tough beef &c. I was always tired of it. It is something like marching with me. I have marched many a mile but I never have got used to it yet. I get just as tired of marching now as I ever did; but still I can stand it as well as any of them nearly. Tell Laura and Hines to write to me I will be disappointed tomorrow if I dont get a letter. Bro James and self well. I saw Willie Baldwin a few moments ago. He is well.

Your affec son  
Tho<sup>s</sup> B Hall