

Union of Alabama Tuscaloosa  
May 7<sup>th</sup> 1863

My Dear Father

I will spend a little spare time in writing to you again.

The whole community yesterday and the day before were thrown into wild excitement by a mere rumour that the enemy 1500 strong had made a raid into this portion of the country as far down as Elyton and were on their route for this place as fast as they could come. Elyton is 57 miles from Tuscaloosa. The report (brought by a letter direct from Elyton that day) was deemed true by our authorities here and yesterday about 1 o'clock the Corps was assembled and Br Garland very much excited made a blistering speech and informed us that all academic duties would be forthwith suspended and the evening spent by the Commandant issuing orders and the Corps obeying them. Immediately after dinner "long roll" was beat and the A.C.C. were the most excited set I almost ever saw. We were double quickened to the Quarter Master's and furnished with 30 rounds of cartridges and ordered to be prepared to leave with 4 days rations by sun down. We all packed up a little bundle of our

change of under clothing each and by sun down  
were all ready for the "impending conflict." Again  
at about 7 o'clock P.M., Long Roll sent its thrilling  
sounds through the very hearts of this Patriotic Corps.  
Every man fully equipped responded to the call of his  
name as <sup>it</sup> were fully convinced that "great and mo-  
mentous events" were about to transpire. After a  
very few words of encouragement from our worthy  
CO and Commandant, the Battalion started on the  
tramp each man thinking as it seemed that each  
step he took was taking him nearer and nearer to  
the scene of bloodshed and slaughter and many perhaps  
to their long homes. "Oh boys", the cooler, of them would  
utter, "we are going to go off and stay about a  
week and then college will suspend right off".  
But all united in thinking that the enemy  
would have a taste of their discipline and  
training. It was amusing to see such excitement  
about nothing. More excitement by far than our  
men at Mansfield when in 200 yds of the en-  
emy and not loaded. Just to think an organized body  
of men 5-7 miles from any body of men who are  
arrayed in hostility against <sup>them</sup> and in such excite-  
ment. I thought (I admit) that the enemy  
were at Elyton but not the least nor remotest  
idea had I of our men coming in contact or

even in hearing of them. Well we marched  
out that night about 5 miles where we camped  
out for the night and posted pickets up and  
down the road for a distance of 15 or 20 miles  
from headquarters. Our object in waiting over  
there was to send out scouts and ascertain the  
route of the enemy as there were two roads which  
they might have used in coming here. The  
scouts came back next morning (yesterday)  
and reported that they had seen a man direct  
from Edlyton who said that no enemy had  
approached near that place. The report was  
shortly after confirmed by another courier  
and the A.C.C. poor fellows all had to  
give up all idea of honour & distinction  
which they were so wont to obtain.

The most confusion I ever witnessed in  
any set of men. To show that the author-  
ities did not know their business. They told  
the whole Battalion their plans and kept  
~~every~~ nothing secret. Told us if the enemy  
were too strong they would take us to Selma  
and unite with the forces there in repelling  
the foe. No prudent movement was executed  
during the whole time. A few, (but very few)  
of the Citizens turned out to defend their homes

This affair has completely turned the affairs of  
the University "topsy, turvy." After we returned  
to the Univ. (which we did as soon as we heard  
there was no danger) Dr Garland congratulated  
the corps that there had been no loss of blood  
nor life &c. - Was glad to see the Corps so ready  
and eager to meet danger when necessary &c &c.  
And all to do about nothing is and always was my  
cardid and honest opinion from beginning to end.  
I think, a dozen men could come here and  
take Tuscaloosa, (I mean Parkers)

I received a letter from Bro Crumaker and  
also one from brother Johnny since I wrote home  
They were all well. Genl Gracie was trying to  
have his command transferred to Tullahoma.  
I must close. Give my Love to all.  
Yours Affec Love  
Geo B Hall

P.S. Since writing the above I have received your  
letter of the 5<sup>th</sup> and with it the certificate of Deposits for  
\$175. I suppose it will be all right but have not carried  
it to Dr Garland yet.



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Tho<sup>s</sup> B Hall

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