

Camp near Germantown Va  
Oct 15<sup>th</sup> 1863

My dear Augusta:

I suppose you wonder why you do not hear from me, - at any rate you will before you do. I will explain my silence satisfactorily tho' not as fully as I will after we have finished this Campaign if I am lucky enough to get thro' - Last Saturday morning, General ordered at 2 A.M. very unexpectedly. We started about half past 3 o'clock, and marched to within a mile or two of Raccoon Ford. There we laid until afternoon & returned to our old camp. Our tents had been repitched and we were proceeding to make ourselves comfortable, when an order came to strike tents. We spent the night sleeping on cedar & pine boughs before a big fire. The night was very cold & we all felt badly. General next morning at 6. Advance at 8. He marched thro' Culpeper to a place about two miles above Rappahannock station on that river. Got into camp late & had another night without tents & little to eat. General next morning at 4, Advance at 5. - recrossed the R. on a pontoon bridge & went into line of battle on the south side, - remained in this position

until 9 P.M. when we formed into line of battalion masses, & marched back to Brandon station where there was a skirmish going on between cavalry, - reached Brandon 5. between 5 & 6 - could hear the guns & see the shells smiting about two miles in front. We got the better of the rebels in the skirmish. Brivona crossed in the woods Monday night. Ordered at 1 A.M. to march immediately both out noise. The ~~March~~ <sup>March</sup> from the Rappahannock had been very hard on the men; the return over the same road was much more severe. The night was very dark & the country full of mud holes & ditches. Reached our camp of Sunday night at 5 A.M., Officers & men covered with mud & generally disgusted. Started at 7 & marched past Horwents Junction to Ballies station near which we camped. At Ballies we saw a very stirring sight. The entire plain appeared to be covered with wagons, mules & horses, and long trains were arriving and departing by every road. All were at full speed. Brandon with all its stores & people was not so inspiring a sight. Wednesday morning we marched at 6 o'clock; crossed Deep Run at 9.45 & rested. Hearing a tully firing in our

I have tried to keep a diary which I will have sent to you  
I got 2 letters from you last night  
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again my memory & happy remembrance to my family & friends

clearer. This rest was near Stratton sta-  
tion. Soon after resuming our march artillery  
firing was again heard in our rear. Halted  
at Manassas Plain & went into line of bat-  
tle, guns being run into the earth works on  
our flanks. Remained in line of battle for 3 to  
4 when the order was given to march towards  
the skirmish, smoke of the guns visible & also  
the flashes of the shells. Halted & after we went  
ahead & finally brought up in the woods. Here  
we waited until the artillery firing had first  
grown faint & then ceased. It was the 2<sup>d</sup> Corps  
engaged with the rebels, whom they had been fight-  
ing all day & whipping all day. Gen Harrier supposing he  
was in a tight place, telegraphed for assistance.  
Accordingly we went forward but were not need-  
ed. About 7 P.M. we resumed our march in this  
direction, crossed Bull Run at 13 across Burn-  
Ford & reached our camp last night, just  
beyond Centerville at 1 A.M. We immediately  
& I put our shelter tents & rubber blankets  
on the ground, covered ourselves with  
our blankets & were soon sound asleep.  
Had a good night's rest & got up at 7.  
Our <sup>sergeant</sup> had a cup of coffee ready for

and how dear it is to you & the blessed child & the last father

us when we got up & we soon 4  
were as gay as larks & ready for an-  
other march. Started about 8 & marched  
a right through to our present camp,  
New Germantown 15 or 16 miles to Warhite.  
We are the Reserve of the Army & li-  
able to be ordered to march any mo-  
ment. We occasionally hear firing  
in the direction of Centerville. — Now  
I suppose you are satisfied with my ac-  
cuse for not writing & also that I have  
had a pretty rough week's campaign-  
ing. I am sorry I have neither pens, pa-  
per or ink to write you a more par-  
ticular account of our exploits. I  
will do so whenever I have a chance.  
Now, my Darling, this may chance to be  
the last you shall ever receive from  
me. If so, rest assured that my last thoughts  
will be of you and our dear little ones.  
I have more than most men to make  
life desirable, but feel that I ought to  
risk it for the sake of our distracted  
country. I don't want to close my eyes  
however until I have seen this wicked  
rebellion crushed and our country