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Fort Eatten Allen

Fort Eatten Allen Va. July 9<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Father, I thought I would write you a few lines this evening, for fear that you & mother might be missing your sleep a heart sore and thinking that I was in these fights, as in some place just as bad. But I am not, I am having good times here we dont know hardly any duty to do cant hardly get you an appetite for our Bean soup & salt pig we have a plenty of Army (gentle) here they have formed us into a Battalion they call us Co. A. First Minor Battalion there is five companies of us here & there is five more at the Distribution Camp. I dont know how long they will keep us as a Battalion some think till our term of enlistment is out. But I think as soon as this fight is over & our Regt get to a stopping place they will break us up and send us to our Regt. We are getting good news more every day, news papers are in great demand here, I am glad to see our Generals all making to gather so nobly, that is the way when they all take hold and pull together they will do something. We are all surprised at the great General ship of Grant he is doing, Bullies and we are giving many hearty cheers for Gen Grant and the sounds of Vicksburg

Genl Lee has got ~~himself~~ himself into a fine  
 trap I hope and says will succeed in Distroying  
 him & his Army the Potomack is very high  
 I dont see how he can possibly cross it I saw  
 goat down to the Potomack & I never saw so  
 much water in it at once as there is now  
 we are all so receiving good news from Rosecrans  
 he is giving the Rebs gobs in Tenn. Genl Keys  
 is on the Pennsylvania. Things cannot look dark  
 for the Paas Rebs now and it is encouraging  
 for us I feel just as though I would like  
 to be in the field again ~~when~~ when I hear  
 how our fellows are giving them such  
 splendid playings I am well and hearty as  
 a Buck my shoulder is all most as good  
 as it was before and I guess after a little it  
 will be better than it ever was  
 well I wont write any more this time  
 for I guess you cant read this

I havent had my letter from home since  
 I left N. Y.

I wish you would  
 write just as soon as you  
 get this case I want to  
 hear from the folks

Advers

Adrian J. J.  
 Fort Catharine Allen Va  
 Washington D.C.  
 care of Capt. Birtzell

I wish I was in the land  
 of laws  
 shooting bullets into Rebels  
 asses  
 look a run  
 look a way to Dixie