

Camp Randall

Madison, March 23, 1864

Dear Father,¹

I thought I would cause a few lines to be wrote to you. When we left town, we² got to Bluff River Station the first night. The next night we got to Black River, then to Sparta. From Sparta, we go to Madison in the evening and on our arrival there we were marched to the camp.³ This camp is an enclosure of picket boards about 12 feet high and guarded all around by Sentinels.⁴ The Camp is about 1 and a half miles from Town. In this camp is the necessary buildings for government purposes.⁵ We cannot go out of the camp without a pass from some officer. It is not always very easy to get one.⁶ So far I have not been able to get one since I have been here.⁷ There is about 4 or 5 [...] ⁸ and men in this camp of a good many different Regiments. They are coming and going every day.⁹ The next day after got here we learned that Gibbs¹⁰ (Mr. Miller's son-in-law) had died in the city a few days before we got here. He is reported to have died of Lung fever.¹¹ Mrs. [Mark...] ¹² is at present in town. The McCann boys¹³ thought that they saw George Downer¹⁴ in Town, but they are not certain. So far I am well and am getting over a severe cold I contracted in coming here. Everyone of the whole company (114 men) caught

¹ Charles' father was James Ermatinger, the founder of Jim Falls, Wisconsin who came to the Chippewa Valley area to work as a fur trader.

² These two words are difficult to read in the manuscript, but "town" and "we" do make sense in context.

³ The 36th Regiment left the Eau Claire area on March 15, 1864 "amid general enthusiastic rejoicing and well wishes from those they left behind" (Bailey 141). They marched to Bluff River Station (of which I can find no mention besides this letter) which was somewhere between Eau Claire and Black River (now Black River Falls). Black River Falls is about fifty miles from Eau Claire. They then went to Sparta (about thirty miles from Black River Falls). The final leg of the trip was Sparta to Madison (about 100 miles.) The 180 mile march took no more than six days or so as Charles Ermatinger is writing on the 23rd, and it seems as if he has been in the camp for at least a couple of days.

⁴ Ermatinger's description is consistent with others. There would have been a sentinel (guard) about every 10 to 12 yards around the perimeter of the camp (Mattern 39).

⁵ Mattern includes a section of photographs and drawings of the camp in her book.

⁶ During the earlier months of the camp's existence, soldiers were encouraged to come "downtown" and mix with local citizens. The men used passes to shop to supplement rations and go to breweries (Mattern 10). However, by the time the 36th arrived in Madison, the townspeople had grown tired of the antics of the soldiers who came to town. Passes were restricted for this and other reasons. No more than ten men from a company were allowed out at one time, and they had to return to camp by 9:00 PM (42).

⁷ The depressing condition of the camp and the general sense of foreboding would have made "getting away" especially attractive.

⁸ Due to the physical condition of the manuscript, this word is indecipherable beyond a guess.

⁹ Adding to many soldiers' sense of gloom about the war was the fact that they saw many soldiers returning from the front on their way to their homes.

¹⁰ I was unable to find any mention of Gibbs. Presumably another young man from the Chippewa Valley area.

¹¹ Most likely, Ermatinger is using this term to refer to pneumonia.

¹² This name is unclear in the manuscript.

¹³ Stephen, Arthur, and Jordan McCann; members of Company K as well

¹⁴ I could find no mention of George Downer except this letter.

more or less cold, and the second day we came here, one young man from Mud Creek got sick and was taken to the hospital. His complaint was the Lung fever occasioned by a cold. There is a great many sick people in the hospital and a great many die of the measles, fevers, and other diseases.¹⁵ The general impression of the soldiers here is that it is almost certain death to go in that hospital.¹⁶ If a person is carried there, his friends are not allowed to go and see him. He may die from want of nursing.¹⁷ It is a hard hole. There is here a place in camp enclosed with very high pickets which they call the "Bull pen"¹⁸ in which is imprisoned all grave offenders such as deserters, etc. Oran Bingham¹⁹ is in there now. He is in for desertion. We are in the 36th Regiment, Company K. Colonel Haskell, First Lieutenant E.A. Galloway. We do not know how long we are to stay here or where we will be ordered.²⁰ There appears to be no chance to get a furlough²¹ very soon. At present, I am well. We were all examined stark naked by two Surgeons and quite a number were rejected as not fit for being Soldiers. 13 were rejected from the Eau Claire crowd and four from ours. The men rejected from our men²² were Jim Brainard for rupture,²³ Benjamin Sprague for same, and Hodges for overage²⁴ and Calvin Rodgers for Rheumatism.²⁵ I am very well satisfied of my present position, and, as far as I am personally concerned, I am glad I came.²⁶ It appears that the Drafted men have very hard times of it.²⁷ The Substitutes²⁸ for drafted men are also kept in the "Bull pen" under guard, and they are not allowed to go to town unless under guard. I have seen nothing

¹⁵ Measles and scarlet fever were especially devastating as many of these men came from small towns and had never been exposed to these "childhood" diseases. Mumps, pneumonia, diphtheria, and small pox were also common (Mattern 42).

¹⁶ Ermatinger is not necessarily exaggerating here. Starting in the winter of 1863, a man per day died of disease at Camp Randall (87). Disease was especially hard on the 36th Regiment during their stay at Camp Randall. (See note 7 in introduction.)

¹⁷ Not surprisingly, there were simply not enough nurses.

¹⁸ Ermatinger's description is accurate. Those placed in the "bull pen" would have been under constant surveillance by armed guards (98). Men who tried to desert would have been treated especially harshly. Other "grave offenses" may have included things like staying out of camp past 9:00 on a pass, repeated failure to follow orders, and, at some points in the camp's history, possessing alcohol.

¹⁹ Bingham (of Chippewa Falls) was recruited into the 8th Regiment, which was mustered into service in September of 1861. We can assume that Bingham deserted some time before this, as he was not on any company roles (Rusk 602). It is difficult to determine how long he had been in the "bull pen" at the time Ermatinger is writing.

²⁰ Men spent a lot of time speculating about when they would be ordered to go to the front, and, naturally, this would have been the source of anxiety. The 36th left Camp Randall on May 10, 1864 (48 days after Ermatinger wrote this letter).

²¹ A furlough is a pass to visit home. Of course, this would have been highly sought after.

²² Awkward phrasing here. Ermatinger refers to other men from the Chippewa Valley area probably assuming that his father will be familiar with their names.

²³ Most likely refers to a hernia.

²⁴ Hodges must have been older than forty-five. Soldiers had to be between 18 and 45.

²⁵ Stiffness or pain in the joints.

²⁶ This statement seems contradictory to Ermatinger's desire to get a furlough. Perhaps he is simply trying to put his dad's mind at ease.

²⁷ Drafted men were also put in the "bull pen," and those men who volunteered were likely to feel resentment towards them.

²⁸ Prominent (wealthy) citizens would often try to buy their way out of the draft. Substitutes were men who were paid to replace another man who had been drafted. It was assumed that they would try to escape thus avoiding service but keeping the money.

yet, but I think I have seen more than I could in Chippewa in one whole year. All the boys with me are well so far.

Mr. William Richardson²⁹ is here, but he will soon go home, and, as soon as he gets home, you will please go to him and draw my Tour Bounty \$105.00.³⁰ I have told him to give it to you,³¹ and he said he would. You will also apply to someone, say Mr. Whipple³² or Mr. Richardson for your State money³³ \$5.00 per month which, of course, you are entitled to. If you meet any difficulty in the matter, all you have to do is go before any Justice of the Peace of Your Town and prove that I was your support, etc. This matter is all in your hands. We have nothing to do about it here. But I hope you will not neglect the thing and may it help you some. I hope you will write to me as often as you can³⁴ and at present direct to—Charles O. Ermatinger—Company K 36th Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteers Camp Randall—Madison, Wisconsin.

Your affectionate Son,
Charles

Your state fund will commence from the time of our muster³⁵ on March the 22nd, 1864.

²⁹ Based manuscripts in the Ermatinger collection stored at the Special Collections department in the McIntyre Library at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, it seems that William Richardson was a person (perhaps a lawyer or accountant) who handled the financial affairs of many of the prominent citizens of Chippewa Falls. Besides this, I could find no other information.

³⁰ This is the payment that soldiers received from the federal government for enlisting voluntarily.

³¹ Many soldiers sent their money home, as they knew they wouldn't need it at the front (Mattern 58).

³² Like Richardson, Whipple is also mentioned in some other Ermatinger letters. (See note 28). His role in the community seems to have been similar to Richardson's.

³³ A monthly payment each soldier received from the state.

³⁴ Soldiers were always "desperate" to get news from home and would often share their letters with others (Mattern 87).

³⁵ The "muster" or "mustering in" is the day the men are officially made part of the army and divided into companies. "Mustering out" is when they are released from military obligation.

Gaines Farm³⁶, Hanover Co., VA June 8th, 1864³⁷

S.S. McCann, Esq.³⁸

Dear old friend, I am idle this evening for the first time since leaving Camp Randall.³⁹ We have done more marching and fighting than any new regiment that ever left the State. Now this is no bragging. It is admitted by the old veterans.⁴⁰ We marched from Belle Plain on the Potomac to Fredericksburg, and, from thence, to Spotsylvania⁴¹ the first day and night with 60 rounds and three days rations. We went to the front next morning and maneuvered around 2 days then started on a great flank to pounce Lee out of his strongly fortified position. We started out at midnight and crossed the Mattapony,⁴² driving the enemy from the bridge⁴³ and taking a position on the south bank where we fortified,⁴⁴ held it one day and a half. In the meantime, Lee fell back to the North Anna River. Following him up, found him fortified on both banks now. Grant did not propose to go by that [route],⁴⁵ but it was necessary to make a demonstration to hide the real object⁴⁶—that was to cross the Pamunkey.⁴⁷ Well, the 36th drew up to support a battery and were soon under the first real fire.⁴⁸ We were very tired, and I think a majority of the boys slept while the shells were screeching and screaming through the air. Well, they were dislodged by a charge by a part of our corps, and, next morning, we crossed the river.⁴⁹ We held out position 2 days. In the meantime,⁵⁰ our Company was out on picket duty⁵¹

³⁶ Gaines Farm would have also been known as Gaines Mill. This site is known for being part of the Seven Days Battle of 1862. (Symonds 35).

³⁷ Wednesday, June 8th was a relatively calm night during the Battle of Cold Harbor that lasted from May 31/June 1 until June 12. Thus Galloway had the time to write.

³⁸ Stephen Smith McCann; father of three members of Company K of the 36th Regiment (Stephen, Arthur, and Jordan).

³⁹ May 10, 1864.

⁴⁰ Most of the men in the 36th were “rookies.” The “veterans” were those men who chose to re-enlist even though their obligations to serve had been fulfilled. (Wells 68). They would have already been engaged in fighting and would have more perspective than Galloway or the other men.

⁴¹ See timeline in appendix one for the specific dates of each stop. The 36th was made part of the Army of the Potomac in Spotsylvania.

⁴² In the time between midnight (May 21/22) when they left Spotsylvania and the time they crossed the Mattapony River at noon on the 22nd, they had marched eight miles.

⁴³ The 36th helped take the Chesterfield Bridge on Sunday, May 22. This was a “victory” for the Union, as confederate troops had to retreat quickly, and many drowned or were captured (Trudeau 227).

⁴⁴ Fortifying would involve setting up a “works” from which to fight the enemy. (See note

⁴⁵ This word is nearly indecipherable in the original manuscript. It seems to be “route,” and that does make sense in the context of the sentence.

⁴⁶ As stated in the introduction, the Army of the Potomac (including the 36th Regiment) was being used by Grant to “lure” Lee into the open field by moving to the south (Trudeau 238).

⁴⁷ It is the larger Pamunkey River that splits into the North Anna and South Anna Rivers. See the map on page 88 of Craig L. Symonds’ *A Battlefield Atlas of the Civil War*.

⁴⁸ This was on Monday, May 23rd. The 36th was involved in the skirmish the previous day, but confederate troops withdrew without much resistance (Trudeau 237).

⁴⁹ North Anna River

⁵⁰ Monday the 23rd to Saturday the 28th.

⁵¹ Picket duty would require the men to be “look-outs.” Soldiers placed on picket duty were often those viewed as intelligent and sociable. They would often converse with those on picket duty for the “enemy.” They would have been very aware of everything that was going on in an isolated area, as they were the first line of defense, this duty could be dangerous (Griffith 68-69).

and had a [warm] time behaving well,⁵² and I am sorry to say that Jordan was wounded in the shoulder.⁵³ Nothing serious. He is doing well and will soon be well. Well, we then re-crossed the North Anna. In the meantime, the left wing had dropped down and crossed the Pamunkey where we joined it. Next day,⁵⁴ after a night's march just in time to get a position before the wily Lee got up,⁵⁵ our cavalry drove the advance back.⁵⁶ When we advanced and took a position at the extreme front where we lay one night under the bullets of sharp shooters. Next morning⁵⁷ we advanced across a stream⁵⁸ and entrenched amid a sharp fire from the enemy and held it until the afternoon when we ordered to charge a line of rifle pits⁵⁹ that was about 60 rods⁶⁰ in our front supported by a battery. The 36th moved off in gallant⁶¹ still all alone. 4 companies of the right wing were repulsed after being badly cut-up. Our wing was more fortunate. We took the pits without great loss. We have 2 men slightly wounded in our company.⁶² We held out ground until dark when we were ordered to fall back to the left of the [Army].⁶³ We marched all night⁶⁴—halting near this place at nine next morning⁶⁵ until dark when we were moved and massed in a ravine where we lay all night in a drenching rain without tents⁶⁶ and, at day, were ordered to charge the enemy's works⁶⁷ about 100 rods⁶⁸ in our front. We were the fifth line of battle when we started.⁶⁹ The ground over which we moved was raked by artillery and muskets.⁷⁰ When we got up near the worst, the old veterans had sifted through until we were in the front without any support.⁷¹ The works very strong just

⁵² Galloway could be implying that the weather was “warm” (which it was in Virginia in May) and that the men of the company did a good job (behaved well) on picket duty, but this is only a guess.

⁵³ Jordan McCann was wounded on May 28, 1864. Galloway's statement that his injury was “nothing serious” turned out to be correct as Jordan survived this injury to be discharged in December of 1864 (Rusk 602). Although Galloway doesn't mention it, other sources (Rusk 602; Butler 148) indicate that Stephen McCann was injured the same day and was also discharged in December of 1864.

⁵⁴ Monday May 30

⁵⁵ Based on context, Galloway is probably using “got up” to mean “woke up.”

⁵⁶ This was an “indecisive skirmish that cost each side about 2,000 casualties” (Symonds 89) near Totopotomy Creek about five miles northwest of Cold Harbor.

⁵⁷ Tuesday May 31.

⁵⁸ Totopotomy Creek (Symonds 88)

⁵⁹ These are trenches deep and long enough for many soldiers to stand in and shoot while being afforded some level of protection from incoming fire. (For an illustration, see Griffith 128.)

⁶⁰ One rod equals 5.5 yards or 16.5 feet, so 60 rods is 330 yards.

⁶¹ Bravely; perhaps a bit of boasting on Galloway's part.

⁶² One of these was Harald T.E. Tillerson who was wounded but survived (Rusk 603). The identity of the second soldier is unclear.

⁶³ This is unclear in the original manuscript. “Army” is only a guess based on context.

⁶⁴ By this time, Grant was in a hurry to get his army to Cold Harbor before Lee got his there (Symonds 89). The soldiers were miserable as they were already exhausted from the day's fighting and the march was difficult. One soldier recalled, “The night was dark and sultry, the way intricate, and the road a part of the distance led through swamps” (Trudeau 265).

⁶⁵ The morning of Thursday June 2.

⁶⁶ Recall from introduction that many soldiers were pessimistic about what they would face the next day.

⁶⁷ The area where the confederate soldiers were entrenched. Obviously, attacking these works is dangerous.

⁶⁸ 550 yards

⁶⁹ When they were ordered to move at around 5:00 AM, the soldiers of 36th were near the rear (Trudeau 289).

⁷⁰ Perhaps evidence of the violent fighting that was already going on.

⁷¹ After realizing that they were all alone, Colonel Haskell, who had taken over for brigade commander Colonel Henry McKeen, slowed the men to a stop (Trudeau 289).

across the swamp. The result was we were repulsed with great loss. We lost our Colonel⁷² (killed) and Adjutant⁷³ (wounded). We have lost on the 2 charges in killed and wounded 250.⁷⁴ Arthur, Stephen, and Columbus Miller came out all right.⁷⁵ George P. Warren severely wounded in the shoulder.⁷⁶ Charles Ermantinger has lost an arm above the elbow. Adams wounded rather badly in shoulder. Lewis Pratt badly in hip. John S. Raines in side. Those are all injuries from Chippewa County. We have lost 22 men in killed and wounded from our Company. I cannot see how I escaped. I was in the rear of the left wing of the Company and more than half of it was killed or wounded. The boys standing their ground until they were ordered to fall back, and I believe they would have stood until they were all cut down had they not been ordered back. The Chippewa boys are all first rate grit so far. Tell Mrs. McCann that she is a poor judge of her boys. She thought that Arthur and Jordan were all right, but Stephen would fail. Now the fact is Stephen will kill both the other boys soldiering. He is tough and [fought] well. This thing has got down to a siege. Lee will not fight any more in the open field. He fortified continually. We are now about 7 miles from Richmond on Fitz John Porter's old battlefield. Our front lines about 30 or 40 rods apart. They have charged us and skirmished with us (the charges in the night) from the 3rd until yesterday. The boys got [tired] of the [fire] on both sides and agreed to cease picket-firing on our front. Since when we can stick out head up without expecting a bullet. We have been so closely pent up that we had to dig trenches to our back house. You will perhaps like to know opinions of the campaign. I believe we will finally capture Richmond but when I can't tell. Grant is trying to outflank Lee if he can do it. We will do the [...] soon if not, and we have to [seize]. It will perhaps [...] months. They are so strongly fortified that we cannot storm without too great a loss. We are within 7 miles of Richmond with [...]

E.A. Galloway

⁷² Frank Haskell. He was shot in the head as he ordered his men to lie down to protect themselves (Truedeau 290).

⁷³ Benjamin D. Atwell was wounded but survived. He was later taken prisoner but did live to be mustered out on July 12, 1865 along with many men from the 36th. (Rusk 578)

⁷⁴ This number refers to men lost from the 36th regiment alone. As mentioned in the introduction more than 5,600 were lost from the Army of the Potomac.

⁷⁵ Arthur McCann would be wounded on July 18 during the siege of Petersburg and had his right leg amputated. He did live to be discharged on September 26, 1864. This must have been Stephen McCann's second injury (See note 18). He lived to be discharged on December 4, 1864. Columbus Miller was also later injured on June 18, 1864. His right arm was amputated, and he was discharged on December 6, 1864 (Rusk 602).

⁷⁶ George P. Warren was shot through the left lung, and the bullet shattered his shoulder blade. He was taken to the rear and left to die, but he lived and was later discharged ("George P. Warren" 220).

APPENDIX ONE

**Timeline of Wisconsin 36th Regiment, Company K
March 1864—Summer 1865**

Timeline⁷⁷ of Wisconsin 36th Regiment, Company K
March 1864—April 1865

March 1864

- 15th—Left Eau Claire area for Camp Randall
- 23rd—Charles Ermatinger wrote letter to father

May 1864

- 10th—Left Camp Randall for Washington, D.C.
- 13th—Arrived in Washington
- 14th—Took boat to Belle Plains Landing on the Potomac River
- 15th/16th—Arrive in Fredericksburg; helped a New York regiment in recovering supplies stolen by the Confederate troops
- 19th—Moved to Spotsylvania Court House; made part of First Brigade, Second Division, Second Corps of the Army of the Potomac under the command of General Winfield Hancock
- 20th—Marched toward North Anna River
- 23rd to 28th—Battle of North Anna (Stephen and Jordan McCann wounded on the 28th.)
- 31st—Left North Anna to march to Cold Harbor area

June 1864

- 1st—“Amid sharp fire” from the on the way to Cold Harbor
- 2nd—Arrive in Cold Harbor
- 3rd—Engaged in some of the most violent fighting of the Civil War at the Battle of Cold Harbor. Many members of the 36th Regiment killed or wounded including Colonel Haskell, Henry Butler,⁷⁸ and Charles Ermatinger.
- 8th—E.A. Galloway wrote to S.S. McCann
- 12th—Left Cold Harbor
- 15th—Reached Petersburg
- 18th—Ordered to charge through woods outside of Petersburg to the enemy lines; lost a third of the men that were left; E.A. Galloway and Arthur McCann wounded.
- 19th—Galloway died
- 22nd—“Trapped” by the enemy; many more killed, wounded, or captured. The remaining men were sent back to camp for several weeks.

July 1864

- 30th—Used by Grant to create a distraction

⁷⁷ Produced by consulting several sources including *The Roster of Wisconsin Volunteers* and the letters themselves. The primary source is “Corporal Butler’s Story” written by Henry W. Butler, a member of Company K of the 36th Regiment.

⁷⁸ Butler stayed with his regiment even after he was wounded.

August 1864

Early to mid August—Used to capture railroad lines near Richmond

14th—Met enemy; 28 more men killed

Mid to late August—Several battles ensued as troops fought back and forth for control of rail lines.

25th—What is left of the 36th (along with other regiments) is “hemmed in.” Most of those who were left were captured, wounded, or killed. The remaining were sent back to camp.

October 1864

21st—Marched from camp

27th—Reached enemy fortifications. Fought courageously; captured more men than they had. Returned to camp until mid-winter.

February 1865

Early February—Another engagement with the enemy; sent back to camp until late March

March 1865

Late March—Captured one enemy line after another on way to Appomattox Court House

April 1865

Early April—Confederate troops in full retreat

7th—Crossed Appomattox River

9th—Present in Appomattox Court House when Lee officially surrenders to Grant

Summer 1865

Members of the 36th Regiment, Company K saw no active service after April 9. Those still alive were all mustered out of service on July 12, 1865 in Lexington, Kentucky and disbanded on July 24, 1865 in Madison.

APPENDIX TWO

Diplomatic Editions of Letters

Madison, March 23, 1864

Dear Father,

I thought I would
cause a few lines to be wrote to
you. When we left town we got
to [Bluff] River Station the first
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from Sparta we go to Madison
in the evening & on our arrival
there we were [were] marched
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enclosure of picket boards about
12 feet high & guarded all
around by Sentinels. The Camp
is about 1 & ½ miles from Town.
In this camp is the nessary buil-
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We can not go out of the camp
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and the second day after we came here one young man from Mud Creek got sick & was taken to the hospital. His complaint was the Lung fever occasioned by a cold. There is a great many sick people in the hospital & a great many die of the measles fevers & other diseases. The general impression of the soldiers here is that it is almost certain death to go in that hospital. If a person is carried there his friends are not allowed to go & see him. He may die there for want of nursing it is a hard hole. There is here a place in camp enclosed with very high pickets & very strictly guarded which they call the "Bull pen" in which is imprisoned all grave offenders such as deserters, &c. Oran Bingham is in there now. He is in for desertion.

We are in the 36th Regiment,
Co. K. Col. Haskill, Capt.
Graves, 1 Lieutenant E.A.
Gallaway. We do not know how
long we are to stay here or
where we will be ordered. There
appears to be no chance to get
a furlough very soon. At
present I am well. We were
all examined stark naked
by two Surgeons & quite a
number were rejected as not
fit for being Soldiers. 13 were
rejected from the Eau Claire
crowd & four from ours. The
men rejected from our men
were Jim Brainard for
rupture, Benj. Sprague for
same & Hodges for overage
& Cal. Rodgers for Rheuma-
tism. I am very well satis-
fied of my present position
& as far as I am personally
concerned I am glad that
I came. It appears that the

Drafted men have very hard times of it. The Substitutes for drafted men are also kept in the "Bull Pen" under guard & they are not allowed to go to town unless under guard. I have seen nothing yet, but I think I have seen more than I could in Chippewa for one whole year. All the Boys with me are well so so far.

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per month. Which of course you are entitled to. If you meet any difficulty in the matter all you have to do is to go before any Justice of the Peace of Your Town & prove that I was your support &c. This matter is all in your hands. We have nothing to do about it here. But I hope you will not neglect the thing & may it help you some. I hope you will write to me as often as you can and at present direct to—Charles O. Ermatinger—Company K 36th Regiment, Wisconsin Vols. Camp Randall—Madison Wis.

Your affectionate
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Gaines Farm Hanover Co., Va June 8th, 1864

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in the shoulder nothing serious he is doing well & will soon be well. Well we then recrost the North Anna in the meantime the left wing had droped down & crost the [the] Pamunkey where we joined it next day after a nights march just in time to get a position before the wily Lee got up our cavelry drove the advance back when we advanced & took a position at the extreme front where we lay one night under the bullets of the sharp shooters next morning we advanced across a stream & entrenched amid a sharp fire from the enemy & held it until the afternoon when we were ordered to charge a line of rifle pits that was about 60 rods in our front supported by a battery the 36th moved off in [gallant] still all alone 4 companys of the right wing were repulsed after being badly cut-up our wing was more fortunate we took the pits without great loss we have 2 men slightly wounded in our co. we held our ground until dark when we were ordered to fall back & move to the left of [Anna] we marched all night-halting near this place ^at 9 next morning^ until dark when we were moved & massed in a ravine where we lay all night in a drenching rain without tents & at day were ordered to charge the enemys works about 100 rods in our front we were the fifth line of [battle] when we started the ground over which we moved was raked by artilery and muskets when we got up near the worst the old veterans had sifted through until we were in the front without any

support the works very strong
just across a swamp the result was
we were repulsed with great loss we lost
our Colonel kild and Adjutant wounded we
have lost on the 2 charges in kild and wounded
250. Arthur, Stephen & Columbus Miller came
out all right. Geo. P. Warren severely wounded
in the shoulder. Chas. Ermantinger has lost
an arm above the elbow. Adams wound-
ed rather badly in shoulder. Lewis Pratt
badly in hip ^John S. Raines in side^ those are all injuries from
Chippewa County. We have lost 22 men
in kild and wounded from our Co. I cannot
see how I escaped. I was in the rear of
the left wing of the Co. & more than
half of it was kild or wounded the
boys standing their ground until they
were ordered to fall back & I believe
they would have stood until they were
all cut down had they not been ordered back
the Chippewa boys are all first rate
grit so far tell Mrs. McCann that
she is a poor judge of her boys she
thought that that Arthur & Jordan
were all right but Stephen would
fail now the fact is Stephen will
kill both the other boys souldiering
he is tough & [fat] well this thing has
got down to a siege Lee will not
fight any more in the open field
he fortifyed continually we are now
about 7 miles from Richmond on
Fitz John Porters old battlefield
our front lines about 30 or 40 rods

apart they have charged us and skirmished
with us (the charges in the night) from the 3rd until
yesterday the boys got [tired] of the [fire] on
both sides and agreed to cease picket-firing
on our front since when we can stick our
head up without expecting a bullet we have
been so closely pent up that we had to dig trenches to our
back house you will perhaps like to know opinions
of the campaign. I believe we will finally capture
Richmond but when I can't tell. Grant is trying
to outflank Lee if he can do it. we will do the
[...] soon if not & we have to [seize] it will perhaps
[...] months they are so strongly fortified that
we cannot storm their works without too great
a loss we are within 7 miles of Richmond with
[...] [...] [...] [...] [...] [...]

soldier

across the
[...] [...]
[...] back on
[...] [...] [...]
on our front
that I am [...]
but say to him
a [...]
& was wounded
also say to Miller
boy & a good
[all] [times] for
[...] in hospital
the first order
[...] [...]
[...] me [...]

E.A. Galloway

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