

Camp of 154th Reg. U.S.V.  
near Atlanta, Ga.  
August 23rd, 1864

# 42

My dearest Lis,

Just two years ago today I inaugurated my military career by commencing operations with the Regiment at Jamestown. In that short period what a world of experiences you and I have passed through!! For me to look back over this intervening space of time and recount the events and hardships I have passed through it seems as ages!

One month ago yesterday I pitched my little tent just where it stands this morning and then our entry into Atlanta looked as soon as now! Since then there has been several short sharp battles at different points along our lines-- always successful on our part yet notwithstanding each army lays securely behind its own works today and those works scarcely  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile apart!! I say securely for the rebs cannot dislodge us from our position, neither can we them!! An assault from either side, as matters now stand, would be disastrous to the assaulting party. We have a strong position and so have they. Our lines are nearly 16 miles long in a semi-circle and theirs nearly as long as our and just inside. There is constant cannonade going on and frequent skirmishing.

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We throw shells into Atlanta as often as ever 5 minutes night and day which produces frequent fires both in the main city and the suburbs. From the immense volume of smoke produced by some of the fires it is conjectured that store houses of grain, clothing, bacon, etc. etc. have been burned by our shells. At any rate we know that caissons are frequently blown up by them.

Our cavalry have just returned from a successful raid in the rear of the rebs destroying their R.R. for a long distance. Still our gratification at the result is not unmingled with apprehension as we hear this morning that the rebs have again cut the R.R. in our rear and if they continue to do so it may interfere with our Hard Tack arrangement!! What is strange during the whole campaign this army have never suffered for supplies and understand that now we have supplies for 30 days at Marietta! *Pavilion. N. Y.*

As you will infer we have never been able as yet to completely surround Atlanta--there is an open space of about three miles on the Southwest of Atlanta that we lack troops to close. To make a good strong line would require about 30,000 men to re-inforce us. The Generals seem to be in no hurry about pressing matters here to an issue--holding our own ground and annoying the rebs as much as possible seems to be the policy. We shall be successful in the end here and we hear favorable reports from Virginia lately.

The weather is not intolerably hot--one can exercise in the middle of the day without great inconvenience. There has been a smart shower as often as every 48 hours for the past month. I see the paper represents the country south of the Chattahoochie above Atlanta as level and open. This is not true. It is very uneven, irregular ranges and hillocks and deep ravines and covered by a thick forest of pine, oak, chestnut and magnolia and has a perfect tangle of briars and grapevines--the best position in the world for defensive operations.



8/23/64

It is incredible story that we are in many places within 1-3/4 miles of Atlanta with the rebs before us and yet both armies are in dense wilderness and Atlanta one of the largest cities in the south. We can see it from a hill near us. It looks like a magnificent place from the distance.

It is reasonably healthy in the army--a slight increase in sickness lately of a malarious character, intermittent and remittant fever of a mild type and bowel complaints and also of a mild character. I am usually well and very anxious to get home. If Providence spares my life until the close of this campaign I shall make a persistent effort to leave the service and before if my health fails, but now and during this campaign it is almost impossible for a medical official to get a resignation through. With officers it is not so difficult as the Regiments are small and there are generally more of that class of officers there than are necessary and if not their places can be more easily filled than the place of a Surgeon. The one requires education and experience, the other simply experience.

*Par. Cts. Antique Shop*

For the past four weeks I have been dreaming of home about every night and it is strange how visibly truthfully the present picture--the street, the house and you and Dora and Charley and even Charley's cat--appear just as if I were among you once again. This morning I was dreaming that I was home again yet it was morning--thought I was asleep or in a semi-conscious condition--and you were up getting breakfast and the children were up already. I could hear you at work in the kitchen and the children talking in the next room. Pretty soon I thought you came into the bedroom to wake me. I felt your hand smooth my hair and soon you slipt your arm around my neck. I felt the pressure of your lips and your warm breath on my neck. I rose up to return your embrace--the effort awoke me and dispelled the pleasant illusion and I lay down again lonely and despondent--hoping the long, wearisome days and weeks were past and this campaign was brought to a successful close and I was once more with you. Then I think the world may "wage as it will" it shall not effect me in for I shall look to you and home safely.

*Pavilion - 7-4.*

How does the purchase of substitutes in the draft progress? Write often. Kiss the children for me.

Affectionately

Henry