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9-23-1864

A Letter of Dirk Van Raalte to His Parents

Dirk Van Raalte

Nella Kennedy

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September 23, 1864, Marieta [sic], Georgia

A letter of Dirk Van Raalte to his parents, asking them not to worry about him even though he has been wounded. His right arm was amputated but he is doing very well. His brother, Ben, is with him and taking care of him. His handwriting is poor because he is learning to write with his left hand.

Translated by }

Calvin College Archives, ACVR collection, Box 9, fldr 155.

Marietta, Ga.
September 23, 1864

Dear Father,

Today I received your letters of Sept [12?]. I was surprised that you did not know yet that I had been wounded. I hope that mother will not worry too much about this. I am healing well, and my wounds look exceptionally good. I walk around a lot, and I look so well that no one would take me for being wounded. The amputation of my arm did not weaken me very much, for I have been walking around all the time, and thus far I have not lost any weight.

Our corps inspector performed the amputation of my arm

[2]

and he did an excellent job. At least, every doctor who looks at it praises him for this able amputation.

Benjamin is still with me, and takes very good care of me. He will stay with me here until I can go home. In October I shall try to get a furlough, and then I will go home.

Excuse my sloppy writing because I wrote it with my left hand and that is not going so well yet. It is raining today.

Greetings to everyone,

Dirk Van Raalte

*[Revised translation: Nella Kennedy,
March 2009]*

Marieta, Ga
Sept. 23d-64

Lieve Vader

[12]
Vandaag ontvingen wij uw brieven van Sept ik was verwonderd dat juilue het nog niet wisten dat ik gewond was, ik hoop dat Moeder het haar maar niet teveel zal aantrekken. Ik beeter goed, en mijn wonderen zien er bij uitstek mooij uit. Ik loop veel rond, en zie er zoo goed uit, dat niemand zou zeggen dat ik gewond was, mijn arm afzetten heef mij niet veel verzwakt want ik heb al tijd nog rond gelopen, en ben er tot dus ver ook nog niet mager van geworden. Onze Corps inspector heef mijn arm afgezet

[2]

en heeft het bij uitstek goed gedaan teminste elke Doctor die er naar kijken roemen er op, dat het zoo mooij geemputated is. Benjamin is nog bij mij en past mij zeer goed op, hij blijft hier bij mij tot dat ik naar huis ga. In October zal ik en furlough zien te krijgen en dan kom ik is naar huis. Vergeef mijn slordig schrijven want het is met mijn linker hand en dat gaat nog maar moejelijk. Het regen van daag.

West allen gegroet,

Dirk Van Raalte

*[Transcription: Nella Kennedy,
March 2009]*

Strong Wind - Amputation

Marieta Ga
Sept 23^d 63

Dieve Vader.

van daag

Ontvingen wij uw brieven van
Sept. ~~23~~ ik was verrondert dat
jullie het nog niet wisten
dat ik gewond was, ik hoop dat
moeder het haer maar niet teveel
had ontdekken. Ik beeter ~~goed~~
~~groot~~, en ~~ga~~ in wonderen hier
er bij uitstek mooij uit. Ik
~~loop~~ veel rond, en zie er zoo
goed uit, dat niemand zou
zeggen dat ik gewond was, mijn
arm afzetten heef mij niet veel
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tijd nog rond gelopen, en ben
er tot dus ver ook nog niet ma-
ger van geworden. Onthe Gosp.
inspector heef myn arm of gezet

en heeft het bij uitstek
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Doctor die er naar kijken roe-
men er op, dat het Zoo mooij
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Vergeef mijn slordig schrijven
want het is met mij linker
hand en dat gaat nog maar
moejelijk. Het regent nu
daag. Weet allen gevoel.

Dirk Van Raalte

Calvin C. Arch
SCVR coll.
Box 9, fldr 155

Marietta, Ga., Sept. 23rd, 1864.

Dear Father,

Today I received your letters of September 12. I was surprised that you did not know yet that I ~~have~~ been wounded.

I hope that Mother will not worry too much about this.

I am healing ~~very~~ well, and my wounds look ~~very~~ nice. ^{good}
I walk around ~~very~~ ^{a lot}, and I look so well ~~that~~ ^{especially} no one would take me for being wounded.

The amputation of my arm did not weaken me very much, for I have been walking around all the time, ~~and so far I did not lose~~ ^[2]
~~any~~ weight yet.

Our Corps Inspector ~~him~~ performed the amputation of my arm, and he did ~~a~~ ^{excellent} job. At least, every doctor who looks at ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{it} me, praises him for this able amputation.

Benjamin is still with me, and takes ^{very well good} care of me. He will stay with me ^{till} until I can go home. In October I shall try to get a furlough, and then I hope to come home.

Excuse my sloppy writing because ~~I~~ ^{+ has been written w/} ~~wrix~~ got to use my left hand and that does not work too well. ~~is not going to well yet~~

It is raining today.

Kind regard to everyone.

Greetings to everyone.

Dirk Van Raalte.

Ezra C. Arrowsmith
SCVR coll.
Box 9, fldr 155

Marietta, Ga., Sept. 23rd, 1864.

Dear Father,

Today I received your letters of September 12. I was surprised that you did not know yet that I have been wounded.

I hope that Mother will not worry too much about this.

I am healing very well, and my wounds look very nice.

I walk around very much, and I look so well that no one would take me for being wounded.

The amputation of my arm did not weaken me very much, for I have been walking around all the time. And so far I did not lose weight yet.

Our Corps Inspector ~~was~~ performed the amputation of my arm, and he did a superb job. At least every doctor who looks at ~~xxxxxx~~ me, praises him for this able amputation.

Benjamin is still with me, and takes ^{very well} care of me. He will stay with me until I can go home. In October I shall try to get a furlough, and then I hope to come home.

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