

A good war letter from
"the front" 1864.



PORT
Mrs. Olivia Newome

(Orleans Co)



Andria
New York



Deep Bottom Va

Aug^t 27: 1864

My dear Lizzie:

I received yours of 21st last evening. I feared you would be very uneasy about me. but indeed I could not write sooner than I did.

You have doubtless received two letters from me this week, one of them enclosing Allotment and are relieved from all anxiety on my account. We left the trenches before Petersburg at dark on the evening of the 24th & after a tedious & fatiguing night march through woods & fields, over the worst of roads, crowded with troops of all descriptions, Artillery - ~~Iron~~ Ammunition - forage & baggage trains going both ways. We reached Point of Rocks about 3 o'clock A.M. & camped on the north bank of the Appomattox. resumed our march soon after day-light & reached this place about noon

We are on the East Bank of the James
River - ten miles in a straight line from
Richmond - Some three ~~or~~ four from
Bermuda Hundred (across the river) and
2 1/2 from Dutch Bend where Butler is dig-
ging the Canal. We occupy two little
forts or redouts near the banks of the
river, & are supported by a ^{Division} ~~brigade~~ of
Colored troops, Two Gun Boats & one
"monitor" We are delightfully situated
with abundance of fine Spring Water
handy - Strong works, "Good fishing &
every thing pleasant so far. The Rebs
~~are~~ in our immediate vicinity are quiet
& seem well disposed. (Not a gun fired
from either side since we came here
It seems strange to be where there
are no screaming - whizzing shell
or solid shot hurtling through the air
no Minnie balls buzzing about our
ears continually night & day. Though
how long this state of affairs will
last, is very uncertain. It was only

Yesterday afternoon the Colored troops
from came here & relieved a division of
whites from the 10 Corps. The Rebs are
particularly bitter on the nigger soldiers.
Yesterday & the day before our boys on
picket were on the best of terms with
the Rebel pickets. We went close to
their lines & exchanged papers with
them. — gathered Green Corn. unmolested.
Yet only last Tuesday ^{three days previous} the 10th Corps
had a desperate fight here — losing
several hundred men — & Sunday the
Second Corps fought at Strawberry Plains
within sight & about a mile from
where I am now writing. Perhaps
when you receive this we may have
an opportunity to use our pieces. Though
all is now so quiet — nothing to indicate
that hostile forces are in our neighbor-
hood — occasionally ~~at~~ long intervals
we hear the booming of Cannon ~~at~~ in
the direction of Dutch bend & Fort Parke.
The next night after we left Petersburg

The 5th Corps had a desperate fight
for the possession of the ~~possession~~ ^{point on the} R.R.
They had taken some days before. From
what I hear I gather that they were
getting the worst of it, till reinforced by
the 9th Corps, who saved them from per-
haps an annihilation. They still hold
the Rail Road & I believe have made
some advance. Lee is reported to have
said "he would retake the road if it
cost him 50,000 men. I think he
can scarcely afford to lose so many
just now.

I am deeply grieved at the news
from home. Dear Grandma I pray
she may be spared to us a little longer
& that I may be permitted to see her
yet again. I have thought many a time
(I grieved over it not a little that I did
not) that I ought to have stayed one day
longer (regardless of consequences) at home
in Utica last February. I did not even
have an opportunity to bid Grandma
"good bye" and yet at the time I could
not but think, I might never see her
again. And poor dear Mother with her
many cares & anxieties - And miserable
health. How I grieve for her. How gladly
were it possible, would I bear her burden
I shall feel the deepest anxiety for all
till I hear again. Do write me imme-
diately if you get news. In regard to
Cap - I thought it strange I heard nothing

from him. as he promised to see me
I could not possibly visit him since
as I have been in the trenches all the
time except when I was sick. I think
very likely he is in hospital at Old Point
Comfort or City Point. though the 5th Corps
have a field Hospital some two or three
miles from Corps Hd Qrs - I shall
do all I can to find out about him.
If you write to Mother or Emil, tell them
to write to him if they wish & direct as
usual - It will reach him.

My health is good again and
getting strong & hearty. - have pretty
good living now. I bought a Shoulder
from a Contraband on the March for
a dollar - (It would cost five at the
Sutlers) bought flour & Sugar. - had a
Catfish for breakfast which I caught
last evening. I have a voracious ap-
petite since my sickness & find it
difficultly in satisfying it. I only hope
we may stay here a month or two
in quietude. then I will be willing
to go in the trenches again or wherever

I may be needed. We are on
the home stretch now - the last
year. & the time will pass swiftly
till another summer, about 1st July
June - then will be three months the
last three - will drag - but I will
not anticipate.

God grant you & the children
good health - enough to eat & ~~to~~
wear for your comfort & a speedy
end to this cruel war. And I
will not regret that I have given
three years of my life - or my life
itself if necessary to my country.
But I want to see the war ended.
as it should be - ended for all time

^{Wife}
The union of all the States
Slavery abolished: Copperheads and
dishonest politicians - abbreviated

I intend to go for another Cat
fish tonight - if the johnnies remain
quiet - I must improve the time
while here - for it is seldom indeed
I have opportunity to indulge my
favorite passion.

These shells came from the trenches
near Petersburg - I have a little
trinket made from clay 60 feet under
ground - under the fort Burnside blew up
which I want to send - if chance offers
With much love to all

Ever Your devoted Henry