

Camp, 13th O.V.C.
In the field
August 28, 1864

Dear Del,

I am afraid you will think ~~that~~ I am neglecting you as I have written you nothing for nearly two weeks but one poor miserable little note on

the back of an order. I often thought of writing and sometimes had time if I could have used it but that was out of the question as all the paper we brought with us had been wet and thrown away and if it had been written how would I have sent it as the regular mail did not go.

The first days we were out we were wet to the skin all the time, and at night were so cold that we could not sleep and dare not build fires. Untill (sic) yesterday the men were not allowed to take their things off for a minute and when not moving were not allowed to leave the line of battel. (sic) When we stopt (sic) for any time the guns were stacked and the men allowed to lay down beside them but not to leave, as there was no telling what time the Johnnies might light down upon us. We came just in time the day of the first fight. The Johnnies had nearly surrounded the fifth corps and would have captured nearly the whole of it had it not been for the timely arrival of the 9th. They were right in the rear of the fifth and had captured one whole Brigade when we came up but most of them escaped as they were not anxious about prisoners when they found we were getting between (sic) them and Petersburg. At first they seemed disposed to fight us but I think they thought we were part of the fifth corps trying to get out. They stayed to (sic) long for their own good. At one time they had several thousand prisoners in their hands and might have kept them had they sent them immediately to the rear. Some very amusing incidents occurred during the day. The battlefield most of it was a swampy wild mess. Nearly as bad as the swamp near Akron and some places full as bad if not worse. By the time we got there they were well mixed up. They took the whole of a Pa regt. put it under guard and started it for what they supposed to be the rear and what was the rear when they went through and marched them through the swamp into a corn field where our 2nd Brigade lay in line of battle. They did not discover their mistake (sic) till the men got up rite (sic) before them (they were lying down) when it was to (sic) late to escape. Some squads

were captured and recaptured three and four times. I have had some pretty narrow escapes as all must have who go into battle. In the charge on Friday a Johnny stept(sic) out from behind a large pine tree about four yards? ahead of me and drew up his rifel (sic) to shoot me as deliberately as though he had been put there for that special purpose, but boys were to (sic) quick for him and before he could fire was shot through Brom boath (sic) sides and instantly killed. In the fight on Sunday a six pound solid shot took my hat off my head but such escapes are very common in every army and not considered worth mentioning here. Though the manner in which an officer conducts himself under such circumstances is. So far the rebs have been whipt (sic) in every attempt they have made to drive us from the Weldon road. Their loss must have been very heavy as they were obliged to charge our fortifications in the last two fights. There (sic) last assault on the 2nd Corps was a desperate one. They made five charges with from four to seven lines of battle deep and we had twelve pieces of cannon throwing grape and cannister at a fearful rate. We are now building a new line of works; our part of the line is about two miles from the railroad. Our fortifications will be finished tomorrow when we will be glad to see the Johnnies try them. Col. Hixon? has gone to Columbus and will not return till some time next month. And till he dose (sic) return I will be in command of the regiment. The Major is still here as he has not heard from his resignation yet. He has no disposition to take command and could not if he wished to as the regt. would not be commanded by him and he is so well known at headquarters that their wishes would be respected. I have very nice quarters built of pine boughs with my tent in the rear for a dressing room and sleeping appartment. (sic) Our regiment is the largest in the brigade and has the reputation of fighting well, which is a very unusal (sic) thing for dismounted cavalry. But I am writing to (sic) much of war and nothing else. If I could only see you I could tell you more in ten minutes than

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I can write in three hours. When I can come home is hard to tell but it may not be long. I will come as soon as I can after the Col. returns, if there is no prospect of our leaving this army. He will make an effort to have us transferred to the western army and we hope he will succeed. I would like to see you all very much and if nothing unusual (sic) happens it will not be long till this campaign will be ended. I was sorry to hear that Asbury was going to enlist as it will be hard for him to get a position now that will pay him. If I was in Columbus just now I think I could get him made Commissary of our regt. as there is one to be appointed and we have no man for the place. His rank and pay would be the same as other Cav. 1st Lieut., \$130 a month.

There will be a chaplain wanting as soon as the rgt. is full though I believe the Col. has a man he intends to or has recommended; all I know about him is that he is a Methodist. If I can do anything for him I will, You must be careful of your health as I want you to be real fat when I come home. You must keep up your spirits and take plenty of out door excersise (sic). I will send you lots of kisses, hoping it will not be long till I shall have the pleasure of giveing (sic) instead of sending. I hope Hen will suit and be of some help to Pa. Tell him that old Dave has been nearly dead, and is so poor now that he would not know him. Boyd takes care of him but he dose(sic) not like him and if he felt as he used to he would kill him. I hope he will get well for I think more of him than all the other horses I ever saw.

Give my love to Pa, Mother and Annie and keep lots for yourself write as often as you can.

Your loving husband,
S.R. Clark