

Camp near Petersburg VA
August 3rd 1864

Dear Sister

It is with pleasure that I acknowledge the receipt of your kind favour of the 25th of July. It is the first letter that I have received from home since J Y Horries [?] came.

Am glad to know that all are well and doing well. Am sorry to hear of Uncle James's health, hope he will soon be restored to good health. W.H. Germany came to see me yesterday, is in fine health and spirits. Send his Respect to all the family. I wrote to John a few days ago mainly to let you all know that I was still on the land of the living & I will give you a short account of the two little fights we had last week, both of which I acted my part in.

On the 24 we were ordered to the North side of the James River where we remained in Camp until the afternoon of the 26th. Then we were ordered to move in the direction of Deep Bottom all hands pushing along not suspecting anything until just about sunset when a courier came dashing up and reported the enemy in our front. Preparations were made at once to meet them. A line of battle was formed at once and skirmishers thrown out in the front, that part of which fell to the lot of our company. By this time it was very nearly dark. The skirmishers were then ordered forward through the woods which were very thick and brushy. We advanced as best we could some 400-500 yards when we came to within about one hundred yards of the road that we were ordered to take if possible. Halted for a few moments to align the skirmishers preparatory to making a charge on the road. About that time Sumner came in our front cut off our retreat. It was answered by about a half Doz. muskets and then the charge was ordered which was done in the best style that could have been down there the brush & etc. In a very few moments we were in the road cutting to the flying to halt which some of them obeyed very promptly well that is. Our company captured some 20 prisoners among them a captain that was in command of the Squad- E.P. Boozer was the lucky man to get the captain. As his prize he required to surrender his sword to (B) he then turned round & said here is Newt give it to him- but at that time I thinking we would pressure the enemy and having as much luggage as I could to have ordered (B) to take him the (Capt) to the rear. About that time the Reg't came up and all hands took position in a ditch on the side of the road where we remained until the 26th. Almost every hour from the time we reached the Road until we left the shells were falling around us Sometimes as many as (30) per minute. A great many of them the heaviest kind thrown from the gun boats which made the protection remarkably unpleasant. (2) men were struck and killed instantly. The Yanks captured were troops belonging to Banks Corps from New Orleans, have just reached that point a few days previous. I enjoyed the little frolic very much as there were very few shots fired at us and what was taken had no effect. We fell back from the above mentioned morning of the 26 sum 2 ½ miles. On the 28th we were ordered to the front again to another position where we engaged the enemy for about ½ hours.

Charged across a cornfield about (400) yards for the purpose of capturing a Battery which was done in good style by the 13 SCR which by mistake on our left succeeded in routing the enemy for a time.

Sufficiently long to save the prise. The Sun was verry hot. One of our men fainted just as we stopped but by the application of cold wayter was soon restored. We got no prisoners and killed verry few in our immediate front. There was but 4 men wounded in the Reg't none killed. Our company all safe. The 3 Battallion, 8 SCR & 20 SCR of our Brigade lossed about (100) killed wounded & missing. So ended the 28th of July. On the (29) we was ordered to recross the James for the purpose of going to Petersburg I suppose but owing to Gen'l Mahone's Success it was not necessary.

Consequently hav gon into about 5 mile from Petersburg on the Richmond & R R all hand injoying a few days rest verry much

Yesterday while with my head under a bush trying to keep cooll as the weathe is exceptionally hot & dry, I rec'd orders to Report to Capt R. N. Lawrance at the Division Commissry department which was very acceptable. This is the position that I wrote you that I hav in view. (I reported of course) And find my self quite comfortably situated. I cannot say for what length of time but I will keep a sharp look out for the future. I hope the Box you spoke of will com to hand. The pkg that I left in Richmond to be sent home I hop will come to hand soon. This leaves me in good health. Bud a Ned are quite well.

Give my love to all the family tell Ma I will come home as soon as I can send me (2) pr of socks when convenient. From your Brother

Newt

I will let you know in future about the shirts
Howdy to Friends
Has Sims Chalmers been to Newburry