

Transcribed by Terry Crooks.
The original letter is in the Porter Family Papers, Department of Rare Books and Special Collections,
University of Rochester Libraries.

Hd Qrs 2nd Brigade 3 Div 2 Corps
Feb '64¹

Dear Father

There has been a reconnaissance in force by our Corps, and a right smart skirmish. I have no time to write at any length just now as it is 5 A.M. ~~just~~ twenty four hours since I got any sleep.

Our Regiment and Brigade behaved finely and met with considerable loss. Col. Pierce was shot through the eye and it is feared that he will die². Col. Powers and his staff all right. I received one or two gentle hints in the way of close calls but was not touched in person.

Love to all
Your affectionate son
Sam

Express securely received All right.

Endnotes:

¹ The 'reconnaissance in force' was the fight at Morton's Ford, later to be known as 'Demonstration on the Rapidan', lasted from Feb. 6 to Feb.8 1864, so the latter is post Feb. 8, 1864.

²Lt. Col. Francis Edwin Pierce did not die but was severely wounded by a bullet that initially took off part of Sgt. William Box's ear, then struck Pierce in the 'side of the face below the left eye, ploughed up' and lodged 'in the cavity of the eye' causing the eye to bulge like a 'hen's egg' (Wafer Diary pp.102-103). Pierce would eventually return to duty, but although the eye was saved, he was effectively blind in the left eye (*Rochester's Forgotten Regiment*, pp.177-79).

The 108th lost 7 men, all wounded, 6 enlisted, 1 officer. Of interest in the fight is the fact that after Pierce went down, the successful relief attack of the 108th was led by Capt. Ambrose S. Everett, the officer whom Porter believed to be a coward.

Col. Charles J. Powers of the 108th NY commanded the brigade at Morton's Ford.