

Head Quarters 2nd Div 2nd A.C.
January 15th 1865

Dear Father

You will perceive that I no longer make my abode at 3rd Brig, I have been detailed as Judge Advocate of the 2nd Div and have reported for duty. Maj Gen Gibbon has taken command of the 24th Corps and Captain Potter the former J.A. went with him as A.D.C.¹ The position of JA is one of the best positions on the Div staff and I consider myself very lucky in getting it. It is also one which is likely to be permanent, and I may reasonably expect to remain here, for the winter at least. On many accounts the change is a disagreeable one, but it is a sort of promotion and a soldier is always on the "qui vive" for that. It was almost as bad as house moving, for me to leave Parsons, and make a division of our joint stock. I am now tenting with a Capt Russell of the 10th N.Y. (3rd Brig) and shall like him very much.² It is expected that Gen Webb will have our Division. He is a fine soldier and a perfect gentleman, but I would be very much better satisfied if Gen Smyth was assigned to its command.³ I wrote to Farley⁴ a few days ago about my horse. I scarcely know how I am to get her home but shall do it somehow. I want her turned out to pasture for five or six months, and think that she will then be the prettiest riding horse in the state. The pay-master does not make his appearance and I like all other staff officers am very hard up. I don't know how you and I stand but think you must have at least one hundred dollars on my account.

If so I wish you would send me that much at once, as I want to settle my bills at Brig Hdqrs and also have enough to send my horse home. I know you think ~~my~~ that I am very extravagant and perhaps am, but a staff life is necessarily a very expensive one, and especial at the start when one has to fit himself out with equipments.

Your affect son
Sam Porter
Capt and Judge Advocate 2nd Div

Direct HdQrs 2nd Div.

Endnotes:

¹ Maj.Gen. John Gibbon was given command of the 24th Corps in the Army of the James on Jan.13, 2865.

Capt. William E. Potter, the Judge Advocate of the 2nd Division was an officer in the 12th New Jersey and before the war a Harvard trained attorney. He would organize the Confederate troops for the formal surrender at Appomattox and accompany the surrendered battle flags to Washington in April of 1865.

Qui vive –who lives?? Sentry query -who goes? Means to be on the alert or lookout

²Theron Edwards Parsons – see letter of Jan.3, 1865.

Captain Harvey Y. Russell of Co. D, 10th NY –see letter of Feb. 22,1865.

³ Brigadier Gen. Alexander Stewart webb returned from his wounding at Spotsylvania and became Chief of Staff for Maj.Gen. George G. Meade in January 1865.

Thomas Alfred Smyth would command the division on an interim basis.

⁴ Farley was Porter's younger brother.