

I have stamps but they are not handy. Please excuse.

Hd Qrs 108th NY Vols
March 12th 1863

Dear Mary

Orders were sent to us yesterday by the Genl comdg division¹ that at daylight this morning we should be under arms prepared to repel an expected rebel raid. In compliance with these orders the whole Regt tuned out at about 5 ½ A.M. and remained under arms for about half an hour. The raid as all expected raids are was (non est) & after standing until we were nearly frozen we were dismissed with strict injunctions not to overlook any thing that could give the men a good appearance on inspection this afternoon. Here again my duties as Adj't release me from any uneasiness, and I shall have all the time from now (7 A.M.) (with the exception of about half an hour at Guard Mounting) until two P.M. at my own disposal. Part of this time I intend devoting to letter writing and as I feel more indebted to you than to any one else I shall begin by answering your letter of the 7th which I received last evening. Several of your previous letters I believe remain unanswered, but as I have noticed most of the important items in my letters to other members of the family you will please excuse me and believe that if I were not so busy I should be most happy to answer letter by letter. I was just flattering myself that I was to have an easy day of it when orders came for the men to fall in immediately as there was danger apprehended. We were immediately in line and stayed so for about an hour, when arms were stacked and the men allowed to go to their quarters. The affair probably will amount to nothing, & preparations are now being made for inspection which comes off soon. Chumaseo's love affair seems to have been known in the Regt, but as I was ignorant the story of his love was very interesting. The box arrived three or four days ago and its contents were very acceptable. It was not in so good condition as either of the former ones having been opened & ransacked but I have already made several meals from it and hope to make many more. I suppose that before this reaches you H. Hamilton will be in R. He told me some time ago that application had been made for a furlough for him and he should probably go home soon. The inspection is just over and I am once more at liberty. You ask me the cause of Everett's sending in a second resignation. It is impossible to tell as he dont know himself. He had no sooner put the paper in than he withdrew it and is now trying for a leave of absence. His reputation in the Regiment is no better than formerly and I for one am perfectly disgusted with him. I weighed yesterday and was very glad to find that my weight was greater than ever before 135 pounds. For some time back we have been regaled by the presence of two fair Dutch damsels whose presence I have enjoyed and to night our camp is to be visited by some ladies from Washington of the first class & young. Congratulate us.²

Your affect Bro
Sam

Notes:

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

¹ William French commanded the 3rd Division.

² John T. Chumasero, 1st Lt. and Adjutant, discharged for disability Dec. 5, 1862. The nature or notoriety of Chumasero's love affair can only be guessed at.

Henry Hamilton, 1st Lt. 13th NY Infantry, transferred to the 140th NY, Co. H, June 24th, 1863.

Ambrose S. Everett, 1st Lt. Co. B, 108th NY, also mentioned in letter of Dec. 20, 1862. Whatever caused Sam's disgust at Everett it did not effect Everett's success since he was promoted from 1st Lt. to Captain of Co. G to replace Thomas Yale. (Phisterer, 4, pp. 3274, 3624, 3275.)

The *Dutch* damsels who may have been of German descent since in the Army of the Potomac 'Dutch' usually meant 'German', must remain unknown as also the first class ladies from Washington.