

Fairfax Seminary Hosp.¹
[Oct. 18? 1863]

Dear Father

Since my last the army of the Potomac has seen some stirring times and the 108th has again smelt powder.² I have been slightly wounded as you have doubtless seen by the papers but am very comfortably situated and will probably be able to return to duty in a few weeks. During our late retreat the 2nd Corps has as usual had the post of honor & our entire march was one of great fatigue and danger. Every thing went well with us however until the morning of the 14th. About 7 A.M. on that day the Rebels attacked us as we were marching along, but upon our throwing out skirmishers & forming line of battle, they were soon driven off. During this little brush our Regt was deployed as skirmishers and lost I believe one man. We thought then that our fighting for the day was over, but along towards night we ran upon them again and had quite a severe little fight. Our division did the greater part of the fighting and lost quite heavily. I should judge that about 15 of our Regt were wounded, only one man killed. It was at this time that I was shot through the calf of the leg. I was lucky in finding an ambulance near to the field and rode off in it. I have had a pretty rough time getting here but now that I am here I shall do very well. I think that I shall get transferred to the Georgetown hospital in a few days but cannot tell for sure. This is a very finely conducted hospital everything nice and clean but it so quiet and dull that I should die of ennui in a week. I saw Port yesterday at Centreville he had seen no fighting and unless there is a general engagement will not. As soon as I get into the Georgetown Hosp I will write again until then ~~perhaps~~ you had better not answer this. My general health is excellent. I have recd no answers to my letters of the 2nd or 3rd mentioning the fact of my having sent \$200. I suppose however that the money reached you all right.

The Dr. has just made his rounds and reported my wound all right. He also informed me that as soon as I desired it he could have me removed to the Officers Hosp. Georgetown³. I will be there before you could answer this so just direct Officers Hospital Georgetown making no mention of the Regt.

Much love to all the folks & believe me your affectionate son

Sam

Transcribed by Terry Crooks.

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

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No. 1. Reg'd

JAMES D. REID, Sup't, Utica, N. Y. T. R. WALKER, President.

To *Sam'l Porter* By Telegraph from *Alexandria*

Oct 17 1863 Rec'd *M.*

I am here well slight
flesh wound wait for
letter
Sam'l Porter

10/50

Notes:

¹ Fairfax Seminary Hospital was located in Alexandria, Va.

² The activity of the 108th NY in the battle of Bristoe Station can be found in *Rochester's Forgotten Regiment* pp.144-159. "Our" Division was Hays' Division (3rd), 2nd Corps.

³ This hospital was the Officer's Hospital.

⁴ The copy of Porter's telegram announcing his wound at Bristoe Station - even in the telegram he downplays the severity of the wound.