

Camp of the 108th NYVols
Near Fairfax Station¹
June 17th 63

Dear Father

The Col² has just brought us word that a mail would go out in an hour & as I have not written in several days I postpone all the performances incident to a nights rest & hasten to write a short note. Sunday last at 9 P.M. we left Camp and have travelled at a furious rate ever since. The first four or five hours was spent in getting the Regiment into position. After that we marched until 7 A.M. Monday. Started at 10 ½ A.M. and marched until 3 P.M. making in all nearly 20 miles. The next day we started at 3 A.M. and marched to Dumfries & from there to Ocaquan (*sic*) a distance of 25 miles reaching camp at about 7 P.M. This morning we were started out at 3 A.M. but owing to some mistake were not started until 10 A.M. Since then we have come by slow marching (but still faster than a great many of the men could stand) about 6 miles and here we rest for the night. The weather has been perfectly awful. Intensely hot & very dusty. Under these circumstances I think the marching has been remarkable. Some men have died 3 I believe in the Brigade but none in our Regt. Co F stands in well every night we take into camp our entire number 37 muskets, 2 musicians & 5 men in service as cooks, hospital attendants etc. I stand it first rate have carried my load every foot of the way and never fell out once. When we started this morning the men were very nearly played out but todays slow marching has aided and by tomorrow I think they will good for another long march. I sent for \$15 several weeks ago but have never received it. The delay of this money has been a serious annoyance and I wish that on the receipt of this you would send me \$20 if you get any chance & if there is no one returning to the Regt mail me as soon as the Army is once more at rest the same sum in two remittances. I am perfectly well & I think will out last nine tenths of the Regt.³

Your affect son
Sam Porter.

Notes:

¹ The opening of the Gettysburg Campaign for the Second Corps and the 108th NY began on the late evening of June 14th 1863. On the 17th the 108th was just west of Fairfax Station. Details of the march of the Second Corps can be found in *Rochester's Forgotten Regiment*, pp.83-97.

²Colonel Charles J. Powers.

³Porter's reassurances to his parents about his stamina was wishful thinking since he suffered from severe diarrhea for most of the campaign and sadly his ailment led to his being shot on July 7th 1863.