

Rappahannock Station Va.

Wednesday Nov 11, 1863

Dear Friends at Home,

I improve a few moments in writing a few lines to you hoping they will reach you and find you enjoying good health as it leaves me at present. when I wrote you last I closed rather abruptly as you found. just as I was writing a party of Guerrillas made a dash on a camp of wagons [sic] of ours on our left and it was rather noisy while I was writing. we were called up in line and ready for a move, when the firing ceased we cooled down again. the Guerrillas made very poor work in the attempt to take the train, while our infantry was engaging them. in front a party of Cavalry [sic] surrounded and took them all thus closing their game rather sudden. I will write the particulars of the death of Stephen Partridge as far as I could obtain them as I suppose his friends are anxious to learn all they can concerning it. the last time I saw him was on Saturday afternoon before he died. I had learned of the death of Humphrey Hyle & went to tell him. he was not very well. also his tent mate Towner was sick, both being taken the same way. Stephen said he should go on dress parade. Towner was not able to go. we had talked of sending a letter home together. I went over Sunday to see him & make arrangements about sending the letter. Towner said he was some better & had gone on Picket. he came off of Picket Tuesday. he left this place on Thursday afternoon and camped near Calletts Station. the next (Friday) morning, I went to his reg[iment] to see him. Dan Towner and [I] inquired for him. and was as much surprised to learn the truth of the case, as his friends at home, Towner told me that he was put in the Ambulance when we marched, and the next morning (this was Friday) he was found dead. I went to his grave. he was buried about a mile north east of the station and about a half mile east of the R.R. just through a piece of woods in an open field about 3 rods from the woods & about 7 rods from the road running across the R.R. & through the woods.

We left Calletts Station Saturday morning & marched toward the Rappahannock & camped about 6 miles from the River. the next morning we started very early & marched to the River. crossed at Kellys ford on Pontoon where we did before about noon marched to Brandy Station & camped the next afternoon. we moved back & crossed the River at this place & camped. Yesterday we were sent on Picket along the R.R. the whole Reg[iment].

We probably shall remain here some time until the R.R. is reformed at least. we are posted 9 on a post along each side of the R.R. from the River eastward.

You no doubt have heard of the late fighting near here. we were in hearing of it two days & on Sunday P. M. we were drawn up in line to support Artillery but did nothing. quite a number of Prisoners were taken & Some Artillery. I will close by giving you all my best respects & wishes. hoping to hear from you soon I remain yours as before.

AH Tibbals