

On the north side front of the
enc. my own sight of Petersburg
Virginia July 25th 1864

Dear Brother James:

It has been some
time since I have written or heard
from you. I received your letter of May
21st June 1st & sent a letter June 5th.
I have been expecting a letter for some
time. We have seen some pretty hard
fighting since we crossed the James
River & have so far come out safe.

The papers no doubt have told you that
Petersburgh was taken. I tell you I was a little
surprised to see in the Washington Herald
of the 10th & read that Petersburg was in our
possession. We are now in sight of the city
and by the way the bullets & shells come
from that direction. I doubt that paper states
"We have taken nearly all the enemies
strongest lines of works with all their outer

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In the rifle pits front of the
evening in sight of Petersburg
Virginia June 25th, 1864

Dear Brother James:

It has been some time since I have written or heard from you I received your letter of
May 22d June 1st give first & sent a letter June 5th. I have been expecting a letter for some time.
We have seen some pretty hard fighting since we crossed the James river I have so far come out
safe.

The papers we doubt have told you that Petersburg was taken. I tell you I was a little
surprised to take up The Washington Journal of the 18th & read that Petersburg was in our
possession. We are now in sight of the city and by the way the bullets & shells come from that
direction I doubt that papers statement We have taken nearly all the enemies strongest lines of
works with all their outer

(Cocky stand tipped over here)
fort. If you could go back of our lines
with me & make a hole & see all the way
continuous lines of rifle ^{pits} & intervals of
pits, one good two hundred rods, spotted here
& there by big forts, you could have an idea
of what we have accomplished. We are now
so near Petersburg that our rifle guns can
throw shells into the place. Understand
that we (9th Corps) are near it.

Everything is quiet with us except
the constant picket firing in our front
the occasional shifting of a rifle shell
over our heads, going so rapidly and easily
on its errand of destruction that we rather
vulgarily call them "greasers" in distinc-
tion of the brass 12 pounders which at the
discharge make a terrible noise & the shell
after growling over us. Now there are
two twenty four lb. mortars planted behind
us these send, morning & evening at inter-
vals of a few minutes a, a shell which
drops near about Petersburg making
some ones quarters uncomfortable

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forts. (Ink stand tipped over here) If you could go back of our lines with me a mile & a half & see all the way continuous lines of rifle pits at intervals of fifty, one, and two hundred rods, spotted here & there by big forts, you could have an idea of what we have accomplished We are now so near Petersburg that our rifle guns can through shells into the place. I understand that we (9th corps) are nearest the city.

Everything is great with us except the constant picket firing in our front the occasional shipping of the rifle shell over our heads, going so rapidly and easily on its errand of destruction that we rather vulgarly call them "(greasers) in distinction of the brass 12 pounders which at the discharge makes a terrible noise & the shell often growling over us. Then there are two twenty four lb. mortars planted behind us these send morning & evening at intervals of few minutes, a shell which drops in or about Peterburgh making some ones quarters uncomfortable

June 23rd 4th p.m.

I stopped writing yesterday as I found myself growing sleepy the air was so sultry the sun so hot. Yesterday & to day have been the hottest days of the season & we have been laying on the rifle pits (which we dug a week ago in a big oat field). We are relieved every 48 hours by the 1st Brigade 2^d Div. we shall be relieved to night. Since coming here we have had quite a change in diet instead of nothing but hard bread coffee sugar salt & ^{whiskey} beef we now have in addition beans rice & ^{whiskey}. While the Sanitary Commission furnishes us with potatoes dried apples pickles sour oat & tobacco. Our Co of 18 men got two & one half bushels making about 40 lbs for each man of potatoes we got two good sized ones they were very poor however, which accounts for our getting any if they had been good brigade & his head quarters would have got them. The Sanitary Commission sent 16 lbs of mince to the 2^d Div. these were all taken possession of by Division & brigade messes.

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June 25th 2 pm

I stopped writing yesterday as I found myself growing sleepy the air was so sultry the sun so hot Yesterday & To-day have been the hottest days of the season & we have been laying on the rifle pits which we dug a week ago in a big oat field We are relieved evry 48 hours by the 1st Brigade 2d division we shall be relieved tonight. Since coming here we have had quite a change in diet instead of nothing but hard bread coffee sugar salt & fresh beef we now have in addition beans rice & whiskey While the Sanitary Commission furnishes us with potatoes dried apples pickles sour crout & tobacco Our Co of 18 men got two & one half pickles making about a bite for each man of potatoes we got two good sized ones they were very poor however, which accounts for our getting any if they had been good brigade & his headquarters would have got them The Sanitary Commission sent 1 bbl. of onion to the 2nd div. these were all taken possession of by Division & brigade messes

been making any effort to save the funds
of the Sanitary Commission can see
where part of their money goes too. These
articles furnished by the Sanitary Com-
are delivered to the brigades and to be issued
as other rations, are to the troops. The Commission
holds this position of course, subject to the will
of General consequently he gives the General
& his staff whatever they want, if there happens
to be anything left after settling on orders
to officers he issues it to the troops to get
it out of the way. Then again the brigade
surgeons receive immense quantities of
can fruit wines & very delicate specimens
try affords. The Sanitary furnishes this for
the sick & wounded soldiers in the hospitals.
The surgeon however turns all these
delicacies into the mess of the staff as he
is a staff officer. Now I don't know as this
is so through the whole army but I do
know it has been done in some brig-
ades & divisions our troops. But the officers
can not monopolize all the benefits
of the Sanitary Commission every soldier
who goes to the hospital (General Hospital)
can not say enough in praise of the
Sanitary Commission here the articles
are delivered by the agents themselves
but the officers have had to live on hard loaf
& beef until our base of supplies were made
at the James River. I saw Gen Burnside
sitting on the ground eating hard loaf when

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Now its good people of [?] have been making every effort to swell the front of the Sanitary Commission can see where part of their money goes too These articles furnished by The Sanitary Comm are delivered to the Commisary to be issued as other rations, are to the troops The Commisary hold his possession of course subject to the will of General consequently he gives the General & his staff whatever they want, if there happens to be anything left after selling on orders to officers he issues it to the troops to get it out of the way. Then again the brigade surgeons receives immense quantities of can fruits wines & every delicacy the country affords The Sanitary furnishes this for the sick & wounded soldiers in the hospitals. The surgeon however turns all these delacases into the mess of the staff as he is a staff officer. Now I don't know as this so through the whole army but I do know it has been done in some brigades & div in our Corps. But the officers of the Sanitary Commission Evry soldier who goes to the hospital (General Hospital) can not say enough in praise of the Sanitary Commission here the articles are delivered by the agents themselves but the officers have had to live on hard tact & beef until our base of supplies were made at the James river I saw Gen Burnside sitting on the ground eating fried hard tact when we were on the march