

# Letter From Elliott, James Peters written Sunday, October 2nd, 1864

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Soldier: Elliott, James Peters

Allegiance: Union

Unit/Service Branch: 1st Artillery

Date Written: Sunday, October 2nd, 1864

Location: Battery Near Petersburg, VA

Correspondence Type: Letter

Subjects: Desertion, Eastern Theater, Enemy, Family, Patriotism, Religion, Rumors, Warfare

Dear Mother

Thinking as there is some hard fighting going on at this time on two sides of me you might feel rather anxious about me . . . The fight of the past three days has been in hearing of us here we could hear the artillery quite plain and some of the time the Musketry, it was about Six miles southwest of this place, while I write the booming of guns can be heard in the distance. Our armies have been pressing hard, the rebels all of the time slowly falling back the fighting is not all over yet for I think a mighty struggle is to come and if the God of battles sees fit to give us the victory

At this point in my letter I had to stop a little while for the rebels fired two shots over this way and we had to fall in at our guns and reply; they are still firing some off to the left of here a mile or two—

I guess they only fired to find out if we had any troops remaining here, now thinking perhaps that we had withdrawn to send our troops on to the extreme left or right where the fighting is going on, but they found us here so they keep quiet – I think I shall not stay here long -, but if nothing happens to prevent I shall write you often while the fight continues.

Last Friday a man was shot for Desertion, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile from here, he seemed very calm as he marched to the place of execution, he had been sentenced to be shot twice before and pardoned each time but this time he was shot. he belonged to a N.Y. Regt was about my size and a very good looking man about 30 years old, I should think. . .

your affectionate Son James [ Elliott ]