


9-28-1864

Letter from George W. Porter to Francis P. Porter

George W. Porter

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Head Quarters 3rd Div. 17th A. C.

Near Atlanta Georgia Sept. 20th 1867.

Sister Frank,

I am again in the field, am well & hearty. I wrote home the day of my arrival here. Which was Saturday last. Sabbath was my birth day. I feel pretty old. Twenty six months away up yonder. I hoped to spend last birthday at home. But you know I could not. I belong to Uncle Sam and must obey his orders. I think this is of but short duration now. When my term of service expires. I will if possible to do so come home. If I am spared & I hope to be. I find quite a number of our officers going home. Some on leave of absence. But quite a number have resigned. Doct Goodenough started this morning. I said but little to him. For I felt that I was losing one of my best friends. While he was here I always felt that should I be killed or wounded. He would see that I got home. This was quite a consolation to one who expected this to happen at almost anytime. But thank God I have been

fortunate thus far and hope to be the remainder of
my time. That I may return to my friends and
loved ones as I left them. And may God speed the
day when this ungodly rebellion may end. I took
a ride out over our old battle ground of the 22nd of
July to day. I see you the marks of a battle are
plainly to be seen there. My very heart was made
to ache at the sights that are yet to be seen.
Dead men's bones are scattered over the field. Some
partly sticking up out of the ground. Others entirely
bare & being picked around from place to place.
This is horrible to think of. But amounts to nothing
in war. Our men who were taken prisoners on the
22nd will most of them be exchanged to day. Sherman
& Hood have agreed to exchange what prisoners were
taken on this campaign. and the change is
being effected now. Tomorrow was the time. Then
I suppose we will have fighting again. I wish
S. I. could be exchanged. But you see he doesn't
belong to this Army. Therefore will not come under
this agreement. The citizens have nearly all left
Atlanta and gone either North or South. This was
Sherman's order. By the way I was with Gen. Leggett
to visit Gen. Sherman to day. He looks finely and

appears in the best of spirits. Is a very sociable, friendly
man. and is beloved by all his soldiers. The army here
is being paid off. This suits the men. I never saw
our men more healthy nor in better spirits. I
think the rebellion is on its last legs. If Lincoln
is re-elected all is right. If not I don't know what
will be the consequence. I think there is no doubt
but all will be right. How is Old Doc Madam?
Tell John if he says our word to whip him good.
If he gets into trouble I am with him. I tried hard
to get him to say our word against the government.
Just so I could have some exercise, and I would
have bursted his head. I intend doing it yet. If ever
a chance presents itself. Did Jany get a school with
us? When does your school commence? I expect to be
with you by Christmas. But don't flatter yourself
with my coming until you see me. I will send in
my resignation on the 26th day of Nov, next being three
years from my enlistment. and if we are out on a
campaign all will be right I think. If we are I
will not offer it. There will be a Capt. commission
in next mail for me. which I will have to
accept. I intend to come home. and my mind
is made up. until this is accomplished I will not

be satisfied. For I have promised to come, and if
I can do so honorably I am coming. If not I will
stay, I would die rather than leave the service in
dishonor, when I have served three years. I can
feel that I have done my duty, when it comes
my turn again. I will be ready & willing to come.
I suppose the draft will be enforced, it was to
commence yesterday. It will be done this time,
I saw a telegram from E. M. Stanton the Sec.
of War to Gen Sherman to day stating it would
be enforced. This pleases the soldiers certain.
I will close for this time. My kind regards to all
friends. My love to you all, with ever & often
and affige.

Your affectionate brother,
G. W. Foster.

September 28, 1864

Head Quarters 3d Div. 17th A.C.

Near Atlanta Georgia Sept. 28th, 1864

Sister Frank

I am again in the field. Am well & hearty. I wrote home the day of my arrival here which was Saturday last. Sabbath was my birthday. I feel pretty old. Twenty-six. _____ away up yonder. I hoped to spend last birthday at home. But you know I could not. I belong to Uncle Sam and must obey his orders. I think this is of but short duration now. When my term of service expires, I will (if possible to do) _____ come home. If I am spared & I hope to be. I find a number of our officers going home, some on leave of absence. But quite a number have resigned. Doct Goodbrake started this morning. I said but little to him, for I felt that I was losing one of my best friends. While he was here, I always felt that should I be killed or wounded, he would see that I got home. This was quite a consolation to one who expected this to happen at almost anytime. But thank God I have been fortunate thus far and hope to be the remainder of my time. That I may return to my friends and loved ones as I left them. And may God speed the day when this ungodly Rebellion may end.

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and if I can do so honorably I am coming. If not I will stay. I would die rather than leave the service in dishonor. When I have served three years I _____ feel I have done my duty. When it comes my turn again, I will be ready and willing to come. I suppose the draft will be enforced. It was to commence yesterday. It will be done this time. I saw a telegram from E.M. Stanton. The Sec of War and Gen'l Sherman today stating it would be enforced. This pleases the soldiers certain. I will close for this time. My _____ regards to all my friends. My love to you all. Write soon and often and oblige.

Your affectionate brother

George