

Washington, June 4th 1861

My dear Sparrow:

I am going to make a flying trip to Raleigh to see my Col - George B Anderson of the 4th Regiment of infantry, and to complete my arrangements for marching to rendezvous. I took charge of the muskets, after seeing Macon Bowmer.

On a close inspection of the physical condition of my men, I find a dozen who don't come up to the standard - some are too low - some have broken bones - some are sickly - I will swap you two for one of those adventurous youngsters of yours, who pant for glory in the old Dominion -

Some of my non-commissioned officers have been appointed yet - I want better material to select from.

If you have heard that I ever spoke an thought a word derogatory to your company in my life, you have heard a falsehood.

I am proud to number the Captain and a large number of his company as warm personal friends - It is very true that I am gratified at escaping Portsmouth, but if I had been ordered there, I should have gone with

the same patriotic subordination of my personal wishes to what was my duty that you and your Company displayed -

Some of friends say that I made rather an ill-timed speech to Capt Johnson and the Tan River Boys - by parading our better luck in going Virginia wards -

I had no idea of saying a word - a half a minute before Johnson finished - and I kept the subject uppermost in my mind - having that day determined unanimously to join Andersons regiment - was rather freely uttered for good taste -

My special regards to Gilliam, and hope of fighting by both your sides before the close of the war -

No news from the war -

Very truly yours -

Capt Geo Sparrow -

D. McArthur

D. M. McArthur
June 4 2 1/2 1863