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Fort Scott Kansas

April 8th 1864

Over dear Parents

I received your very
welcome letter last evening and as usual was glad to hear
from you, and that you were well, my health is very
good and I am enjoying myself like a soldier.
Last Sunday evening I started on a five days scout
with fifteen men, my orders were to go as far as our
horses would stand it - to go and then return, We started
in one of the most tempestuous storms that I have ever
seen, and that night - slept on the ground in the mud
but my scout was composed of the very best of men and
they never complained a word, I shared all their hardships
with them and took my turn in standing guard
with them, and that is what makes men respect their
Officers, We visited the battle ground of Baxter Springs
where Blunt's Bodyguard were so badly cut to pieces, there
is to be seen all the phases of war Broken wagons
and the skeletons of men and horses promiscuously scattered
over the field, human skulls, and horse heads laying
side by side, it looks as though it was all the care that
can be taken of soldiers that they are to be laid by the

his
of horse, and there left for the woods to tear him to pieces
and fight and hold their infernal vigils over his carcass
and never to be visited by a friend, yet with all this prospect
before me this is the most glorious occupation that I have
ever been engaged in, it is where glory is to be found
and a name won I have to work on some company
papers, and must close by bidding you good bye
love to all I will write again soon and write a good
long letter my family is all well you must write
to my wife she is very lonely
I will write to Uncle Rodus folks in a few days
tell Tom Kirby to write to me and I will answer
his.

From your Son J. P. Loddell