

Edward H. Armstrong, 3rd NC

*[Microfilmed letters of Edward Armstrong; Armstrong Family Papers (call no. 4194),
SHC, UNC-CH*

Camp near Orange CH
Sept. 8th 1863

Dear Pa,

...On returning from Picket on Saturday, we were soon called out to our usual drill ground to witness the execution of ten of the men who deserted some weeks since. Our division was formed in square one side open. The prisoners were marched in in charge of the detachment of 120 men who were detailed to perform the execution. The music playing the dead march. They marched down the prisoners were then made to stand facing the detachment while the sentence was read by the officer of the day. Prayers were then then offered and each prisoner was then marched to his stake. The detachment was then divided into twelve squadro. One to each prisoner. Bandages were bound over their faces. The command was given and soon they were hurled into eternity. They were all baptized by Mr. Patterson (?) on Saturday morning. And were praying when they were shot. One was a son of Mr. John Fulch of Brcky Point – and another was named Rayner from Holly Shelter (?). 5 were from Company K and the others from G & H. It was a terrible sight: and God grant I may not be called to see anything of the kind again. Most of them were good soldiers and horse men. This being their first act of disobedience....

EHA