Camp of the 22nd Maine Vol.
in front of Petersburg Va
July 17th 1864

Dear Mother,

I thought that I would write you after to let you know that I am well and hope that these few lines will find you the same. We still lay here in the ditches before Petersburg we have bin in front lines for 85 days and we have had to dig ditches. I suppose that you would like to know how we live here in the ditches we have got boom bunks and we live in the hoods we get rations in this too and we haven't had since we came here. Mother I see by the papers that the Rebels have bin up in Md. and Washington I guess that they got disappointed the time...
I hope that the President will call out every able-bodied man between the ages of 18 and 45 and make them fight for their flag, not stay at home crying out what the army needs. Let them come and see if they can move it. If this is a big show, but Gen. Grant needs this show and if they will give them the men, he will wind up this thing. This fall Mother learned McIntyre that he has got ordered to come and fight for the stars and stripes now is his chance or never or he won't have chance to see the all of this show. Mother we have had inspection to day and the inspector said that our Co. looked first rate for men in the real Co. Mother I should like to have you send me a good razor and brush so I can send by mail. Mother I want you to write all of the news for I should like