Camp of the 20th Maine Vol in Front of Petersburg, Va
July 17th-18, 63

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 as before. We still lay here in the ditches before Petersburg; we have bin in the front lines for 35 days and we have had so little to do. I suppose that you would like to know how we live here in the ditches. We have got room enough and we live in the hedges; we have got a tent and we have had since we came here. Mother has read the papers that the Rebels have bin up in N. and W. and Washington I guess that they got disappointed this 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 and cry out what the army moves, let them come and see if they can move. If this is a big show but Gen. Grant, Read runs this show and if they will give them the men he will wind up this thing this fall. Mother, Learmed McIntire that he has got a chance to come and fight for the stars and stripes and is his chance or never or he won't have a 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 field, Mother I should like to have you send me a good razor and brush so please send by mail. Mother I want you to write all of the news for I should like