Strawberry Plains March 17th 63

Dear Parents,

It is with the greatest of pleasure that I this morning in camp seat myself to write you one and all a few lines to let you all know how I am and how I am getting along. I am well and hope that you are all the same. We have left our camp at Huntsville and went to Knoxville a distance of 285 miles by railroad. Then we marched from Knoxville to this place 25 miles in 1 day through mud and rain I never saw it rain much harder but still had to go ahead. We have 60 miles to march yet, we are going to Bulls Gap. The idea is that when old Joe leaves Richmond he will have to come through that gap. Hope you ought to seen the clothing that I have, new overcoats and all kinds of...
There is no clothing but I stuck to all of mine and got a long time bed used to say 36 would kill me to carry a knapsack but I never faced my shoulder bone breast some of our largest men threw their load all the way but I want to express mine home over coat wooll blanket and drawers they are a work saving on my way I got 3 good peach pies a canteen of sweet milk and some biscuit they used me first rate there was a man threw his over coat away and I got 36 and traded it for pies they were good the boys say that I have a good knack of begging I will always try to get enough to eat if I can be had after I send my clothing home I will have nothing much to carry then the mud was deep and tough I will tell you what I carried over coat 2 pair shirts 2 fr drawers 2 pair socks wool blanket gum blanket knapsack 5-day's rations in haversack canteen
full of water 40 rounds of cartridges and gun. Besides some other small things tell me how's that John is well and he says that--he is not going to write until he gets one. I sold his blanket for 9 dollars. I would like to get a letter and hear from home another don't pine about me for it hurts me as bad as it does you. I have seen a great many things pass over several battle fields saw where some of the most prominent battles had been fought. This is a destructive place everything laid to waste in some part if you can travel all day without seeing a while inhabitants all the fences burned cities laid low in ashes among all the dust one hopes the idea is that when old Lee leaves Richmond that--he will have to come through that--you ought to see the clothing that was burned a way new overcoats and all kinds of
There lays about 1300 miles between me but still I live in hopes of getting home. I have written 4 times and got no answer yet write once a week and give one all the news I will express my money home as soon as I get it. I was thinking of taking out Government Bonds, with it when you get it. The Government pays 7.30% on the 100 dollars in 3 years. A dollar a month and 62 dollars for clothing that I gave you all the particulars for stamps we can't get them here write soon give my love to one and all.

This time I wrote for 6 or 8 postage stamps we can't get them here write soon give my love to one and all. I have so many. Your own until then the mud was deep and shaft I will tell you what I carried over cot 2 pair shoes 2 pair drawers 2 pair socks and blanket gum blankets haversack 5 days rations in haversack cantin.