In Camp at Harpers Court House June 32nd 1863

Dear Ma,

With pleasure to me I take my pen in hand to let you know that your kind and always welcome letter of the 20th has been received. I wrote you a letter on the 8th and I did not know what to think of my letters all having been answered. The last letter I received from you was on the 8th and you told me that the little money I sent you had been received. I set down and answered the letter right away as I have all of your letters. You say you have been sick. Dear Ma, I am very sorry but I thank God you are better now. Rest assured your Soldier Boy feels for you although he is far far away from those he loves and if need be bye for those he has left behind him.

Ma since last you heard from me the army of the Potomac has had work before it and as he said, the 6th Army Corps which I belong to as it may be interesting to you I will tell you what we have done and to do as I will consult my diary. Dear Saturday June 6th we broke camp and marched to the river bank that we found the 5th Division of our Corps over the river they having crossed.
under the protection of the Artillery, which kept up a most murderous fire on the rebels in the rifle pits, the musketeers having given away the number of rebels captured by us. It took very little time for us to lay the bridges as the boys worked with a will. Our Brigade didn't cross until the 9th and as soon as we did they gave shovels in our hands to dig on rifle pits. We worked all night at this kind of work getting no rest at all at day light. We crossed the river and slide there all day. When night came we crossed the river once more and laid in line of battle all night behind our rifle pits. When morning came we was sent on pickets to the extreme left of the line were we slide all day long on opposite side of the rebels on the right of our regiment. This kept hopping away at each other but on our Regiment line there was no shot fired. There was only one rebel that came in our line I suppose he got tired of doing. We slide on this line of pickets until night. We then was relieved there was not one shot fired at us. After we got relieved we was just ready to have a good sleep when we received orders to fall in and go to the rifle pits and protect our working squad, there was a good deal of guessing as to where we was to have a rest. We had to lay in the rifle pits all night. We marched when morning came and it was one of the longest marches I ever saw. We got relieved they helped marching and countermarching until 12 o'clock. The day before they gave me any rest and when we got into the day time in the day time in the line and it was very hot. We marched all day time so hot one could not sleep the last day until 12 O'clock when we recrossed the river our Brigade was to cross we were crossed in a rain storm. The line was long but it was about 11 O'clock at night when we crossed. We sleep a mile from the river out of site of the rebels after we crossed for the night. Assuming all the time early next morning we took back our line of march. We waited Sprague Court house about 10 miles we arrived in good order as our line was in good shape. We arrived at the town house at 11 O'clock in the afternoon.
night when we Brigade was ordered to march the steam train we started just at dusk and marched all night until we came to a place about 9 miles from the Court house there we rested for about an hour then we started again and never stopped until we came to Domfries here we stopped for a little while to rest we started from Domfries and marched 26 miles to a place called Farface Station 3 miles from where we are now. Some of the boys was so overcome by the heat that they actually drooped on the road. This is the hardest march we ever had since I have been in the army while coming along I saw over 20 men from our corps lying on the road. Guns broke as two of our regiments were coming in the heat but they are doing well. We have been here 4 days and now we are rested and all ready for a brush with the enemy. Our Colts have done well and now Houton the feller this arm of the army in good requisition. There was heavy firing out of Edloe all day yesterday I got our bacon, has had another meal to live of it. So far ever thing is all right in our corps. Let the people of the North know the so reduced we cant not dispute our time.