

Washington D.C. July 16th / 69

Dear Mother

I take my Pen in hand to write you a few lines to let you know I am still in the land of the living how did you spend the fourth of July I hope you had a good time. I will tell you the time we had, we had Orders to go to Soldiers Home and were up at 4 o'clock on the Morning of 4th tearing down our tents and packing up for the Teams were to be there at 7^{o'clock} were were soon ready the Teams come at 7 26 in all, all 4 horse Teams I suppose you think that a good many for to move 1 com. but they were all loaded, when we took up the line

The train started first with a few of the boys to Guard it, the folks in Washington thought I guess when they seen us marching that the Army of Potomac was coming we Arrived at the Home and Built our tents in the same ground where it stood last year, and are still keeping house as usual, well that is enough in that line ever since we have been here the Rebs, have been near the City or advancing and was rather a scary place for the President to stay and Several times he went to the City to stay Sunday night the sec. of war come up, at 11 after Abe well Abe said he didnt think there was any danger But he went along at that time the Rebs were only 1¹/₂ or 2 miles from here up

to fort Stevens on seventh street
and once in a while we could
the crack of a gun then we felt
like we wanted to see the fun
as ^{well as} the rest of the folks so the
boys were all wishing to be there
so down to the city our Capt goes
for to see if he could go and
after being for some time
he got Orders to go that was
in the evening the waggon was
started to town after hard tack
we packed up but soon we had
Orders to send a guard to the
White House about 30 men were
sent down we begin to think
we couldn't go for half a com. it
wouldn't pay the guard ^{were} ~~went~~
put on after getting at the
White House the Lieutenant reasoned
the case with old abe telling him
that one man in the fortification
was better than five in the

City old Abe admitted that it was
so so he consented to let us
go but to be sure and come
back again for he needed us
so we got orders the guard was
marched back and got here about
1 o'clock Tuesday morning some of
us were on guard at home we
were taken off after they come
and come to camp at 3⁰⁰ we
were up for breakfast so to get
ready we packed our things and
each one got 100 rounds of cartridges
and then fell in for to go at 5⁰⁰
we started for fort Reno some
7 miles from here but were
met by an Officer with orders
to go to fort Russell so we were
marched back half a mile to
take another road we soon come
to the fort we halted and waited
for orders it was a little after 8
when we got there at this time
there was a sharp skirmish
going on not far from the Fort
we were ordered after resting to
Battery Russell still farther to the
left the fighting was going on
Concluded in our next