Camp 1st M.N. Vol.
Bristow Station, Alexandria, Va., May 1st, 1863

Dear Mother,

It is now 1 o'clock P.M. and I have just returned from present duty having been on 24 hours and now I am happy to find an opportunity of writing a few lines. I wrote you a few lines the night before we left Annapolis, Md. (Apr. 22) but did not then know when I should next find an opportunity although I expected that it would be somewhere in Va. We left them on the morning of the 23d, and marched to Alexandria a distance of 40 miles passing through the City of Washington, stopping Williams Hotel where we had an opportunity and the pleasure of seeing Winch Abe and Gen. Burnside. The whole Corps passed by and I think they must have been tired of cheering and of standing up. We stopped at A---- a one day and then marched to this place a distance of 17 miles leaving there on the 28 (Friday) and from what I learn I think that we are to relieve the 5th Corps which is to vacate and has been doing guard duty on the R.R. and in this case we should be demobilized as the 8th reserve, A.C., and probably we should not have a very hard time of it this summer but (most of us) are in hopes that it is not so as we keep going...
As the point seems that we are so near to it we are only 40 miles from Petersburg and if we should move we expect to them on soon this but that is no knowing what a day may bring forth with and I have got so that it does not make but little difference when I am so long as I can get enough to eat and plenty of rest We are now under marching orders and to be ready to move at a moments warning and yet nothing everything looks as though we might stop here for some time.

I think I have received all of your letters now up to the time we left Alexandria While the received one from Mary March 6 one from you April 10 and one from Mary April 10 yours in pencil and one from Stith Apr 14 which was the last I have heard of While I was on furlough yesterday I had a little time and occupied it by reading one old letter and the letters from home and saw the many changes that had been made since I left I felt as though I could not wait longer but must visit you all at once without delay but as I cannot at present I am content to know that you are all enjoying better health and are happy and my greatest hope is that we may all be spared to live until this war is over and tried again but sometimes when I think of the time when this war will be closed I am almost compelled to give up in despair and seems as though their strength gave away instead
of war, knowing themselves more dangerous and treacherous than when we can gain the advantage probably have seen in the act of the S.C. liberty men, 
plun and outrage on the white and colored soldiers after they surrendered. I see by the last paper that
an investigating the matter at Washington.
Before leaving Annapolis, Md., the baggage of the officer
was reduced to 30. As so that what Colonel and
myself have with us is in my valise (three
that I had at home last summer) taking our extra
suit of clothes in his large trunk and all the things
that we could get along without so that would keep
nothing with me but what I have on and an extra
shirt, drawers and stockings with my Co. hope that
books so you see we are in tight marching order and
we may move tomorrow and we may not get along
since I wrote you she has been a new organization
of the Corps so that now we are in the 2nd Brigade
2nd Division 7th C. S. Div. 6th 7th and 11th C. H. huge with
the 31st and 32nd V. I., and 17th V. I. Command
our Brigade 6 in all, Capt. Griffin of the 6th in our
I know of no one in the 17th V. I. except a Col. C.
from Brookfield who used to live and work in C. Edson
and hies to Cali. -a. I did not know him but he
recognized me at one I had not seen him for
several years but I must close as I have more
letter to write so you see I have got something to
do Write soon and after I hope to hear from you soon as I have
much love to All from your affectionate C. W. Mcal