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1/3/8 New port news Virginia Camp and Soncon July ^{the} 25 1862 1/3/8 61.1

Dear father and Mother this day we well we have moved
from Newbern and we have got a Pleasant and a healthly place
here with good water and that is a grate Blessing the water
is very bad in North Carolina we are in Burnside's division
Encamped nine Miles from fort Monroe and twenty ^m files from
Yorktown and fifteen Miles from Great Bethel and Seventy Miles
from Houson's Landing our Camps are setted for nine Miles
up the James river there is at this present time 29 regiments
Encamped here and they are Landing here must every day we are
a going to stop here untill we have sixty thousand Men. ~~we~~
all of our regiments are a going to be filled the want is about
foxe hundred Men and this regiment is about as large as they
will Everage the nation thinks a grate deal of Burnside and he
is a terror to the rebels but what Can he do without the
Poor Soldier he has to March up to the Canon's mouth
with fixed bayonets and were is our brave Commanders this toay
will tell you they are at the head of their Commands Cheering
them on but we they are behind some stump or tree or in some
holler or away from the feard of batel out of danger that is the
time the Soldier proves their way to honor and glory but what
does he get in return hard bread and a tinking beef and he cannot
leave his Camp and pass by the guard without a pass signed by
his Captain and Colonel of his regiment but a Commissioned
officers Can go and come when they please we have some hard
fighting to do yet I think that we will have to help
take richmond and it will be a hard fight and a bloody one
but richmond has got to fall and by the yankey army

But war has no time for me nor the battle field no pain will do
My duty to My Country and to My god he rules the destinies
of nations he is the only Comfort for the wounded and bleeding heart
dear father and Mother I would like to see your aged cheeks
once more and visit My once happy home and visit the grave
of My wife and My angel Mother there is no more peace for me
here in this vain and wicked world I am reconciled to My sword
and Canal too But there is one Consoling thought that I have
some friends left behind in the hour of battle I do think of you
and on My lonely beat on guard at night then I do think of you
and on My long and weary March then I think of My one peace
and happy home But do not forget that you have a son that
is not afraid to lay down his life in the defence of his Country
I do not think that I will live through this bloody war
I have been in two hard fights and did not get a mark
and had not it ought to be My turn next I am no better than
some of My Comrades I have no wife to Mourn My loss and
god will protect My little girl I would like to see her once more
I have Received two letters from you that he says that however
is in the war and he likes it I was glad to hear from
James then and Bethuel then Gilberts letter I think that if
I do ever live through this cursed war I will settle down in wisdom
I think that it is much better than the world for a free man
write to Me and tell Me all the news do not be so afraid of a long
letter one of My letters are as large as two or three of yours I have a very
good chance to write now I am sitting on my rapsack and My
pouches hang on the newyork Canal on one of the soldiers banks one sold
see boys on one side and one on the other side of me or think of home

and the dear ones that they have left behind the Soldier lives
at demoralising life one moment they will be singing and the next
they will be swearing or fighting I should not know how
to set down to a table and Eat as I use to to home our dishes
is a tin Cup and a tin plate knife and fork and spoon I can
ly down out doors as well as in the house I have not seen a sick
day in one year while my Comrades are dying most Every day
it may be my turn next give my love to Helen and not forgetting
Miss Cate answer this as soon as you can tell me the number of the
regiment that was got up in Clinton County
this from old Joe

Josephus Sher

Direct your letter Josephus Sher
to Burnside's ~~Army~~ Expedition
Pennington's Division Second Brigade the regiment across road
in case of Captain Richardson Co I
Vra Fort Jess Monroe