

October 14, 1916

Dear Mother,

I hope this letter finds you well. I miss you so much and think about home every day. Life here is very hard. We spend most of our time in the _____, where it is always cold and wet. The ground is full of mud, and sometimes the water comes up to our knees. At night, we hear the sound of _____ in the distance, and it is difficult to sleep.

The _____ is a terrible place. There are explosions everywhere, and we must be very careful. Many of my _____ have been hurt, and we have lost some good men. It is hard to see, but we must stay strong. I am very _____ sometimes, but I try to be brave for my friends.

We do not have much food, and the _____ here are terrible. Rats and other _____ are everywhere, and we must be careful not to get sick. Sometimes, we get a letter or a small _____ from home, and that makes us happy. The worst thing is waiting. We never know when the next _____ will start, so we must always be ready.

The land between us and the enemy is covered in _____, making it very dangerous to move forward. Some men dream of the day an _____ is declared so we can go home. Others believe that fighting is a matter of _____ and that our _____ will be remembered forever.

How is everything at home? Is Father still talking about that new _____ he read about in the newspaper? How is little Tom? I miss hearing his _____ every morning. I hope you and Father are staying safe and warm.

I must go now. Please write soon. Your letters give me hope.

With love,
Your son, James