

401 Brandy Lane
Mechanicsburg, PA
December 7, 1982

Mrs. Janet Bird Whitehurst
628 Jeffrey Road
Los Banos, CA 93635

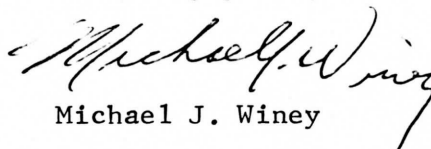
Dear Mrs. Whitehurst:

I am sure Mark Dunkelman has already thanked you for sending to us a copy of the Alex Bird diary but I want to also add my thanks to you for sharing the diary with us. I read it at one sitting and thoroughly enjoyed it. Alex had a very important position in the regiment and his insight and comments add much to our knowledge of the history of the 154th New York.

I am inclosing for your retention copies of the photographs we have collected of Alex Bird. Now these are a bit of a "bribe" because I would like a favor from you if you please. I would like good, publishable black and white photographs of Alex Bird's shoulder straps and a good color slide of them. Mark and I are publishing articles on the regiment since our book is out; one recently was "Relics of a Regiment" dealing with the artifacts that have turned up (such as Alex Bird's shoulder straps) which have association with members of the regiment. Alex Bird's shoulder straps definitely fall into that category. And I have been giving slide lectures using materials from members of the regiment to make it more interesting. If you would rather, you could mail me the shoulder straps, I will have them photographed at work (I am a curator at the U.S. Army Military History Institute at Carlisle Barracks, PA) and return them to you as soon as the photography is done--I'll even send you a complimentary print. However you wish to do it, Mrs. Whitehurst, will be fine with me but I would like photos of the shoulder straps and any other items of Alex's you might have.

Again, thank you for sharing your treasures with Mark and myself, we are grateful to you for your time and generous help.

Sincerely yours,


Michael J. Winey