

La Jolla, California;
4 December, 1937;

My dear Todd:

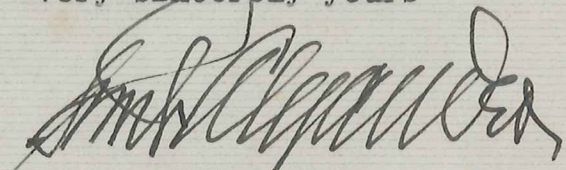
Yours of the 25th November with the special stamp came in yesterday and was most highly appreciated I can assure you. I look back on those old days when we were both younger with the greatest pleasure as you do too I'm sure.

Since those far off days (now almost forty years ago) much water has gone under the bridge; the Philippines, the World War and all the rest, but my recollections of Puerto Rico (I see they have gone back to the old correct spelling) are still very bright and most happy.

Things have gone well with me and mine I'm very glad to say; the youngster who was running about San Juan is now almost a Lieutenant Colonel of Field Artillery in the Regular Army after serving in France and getting himself wounded during the World War. The second chap who was born after we had come up to the States is now with the Electric Bond and Share and is doing extremely well. Mrs. Alexander and I are as well as our years permit which is quite all right. We went to New York for the American Legion Convention and the concurrent reunion of my World War Division, the 77th, and had a wonderful time of it. I don't need to tell you that I have been greatly favored in every way for which I'm duly grateful; not least for the thoughts of us shown by our old friends like yourself who from time to time remember us with a word. I presume you know the Holmes of San Juan; we almost always see them when they come up to the States. I hope you'll remember us to them.

As for yourself all best good wishes as always and whole hearted appreciation of your thought of us

Very sincerely yours



Robert Alexander

December 15, 1937.

Mr. Robert Alexander,
Major General, retired
La Jolla, Calif.

My dear Alexander:

Was very pleased to receive your letter of the 4th instant, and much more so in reading the interesting news you gave me of yourself and your family. How wonderful it is to look back on our lives and be able to say, and to feel it while you are saying it, "I am pleased with my share in life."- I write this on purpose, for I feel that way and you feel that way.

We both have done our duty as we saw it, you in the field of war and I in the field of peace.

Let those who come after us do their duty as they may see it.

I gave your message to Holmes, better still I read him the whole letter and he was very much satisfied with your message and wants me to tell you so.

A local newspaper by the name of "El Mundo," of a large circulation, has been publishing in its Sunday edition, a syndicated magazine giving a story of "The Lost Battalion" made up of soldiers of the 77th Division which you commanded in the World's war.

I am enclosing the 4th and last publication. I suppose this story is a translation from the original in English.

In any event, it has occurred to me that the people here who read the story would be interested to know that the General who commanded the now historic 77th Division, had been in Puerto Rico, during and after the Spanish American War as a Lieutenant and Captain of the 11th Infantry and as Clerk of the United States Provisional Court. I have taken up the habit of writing and publishing old stories, and I would like to write up this story if you would care to write me a letter telling, more or less, as follows:

What do you remember about the so called "Lost Battalion."
On what date did you sail for France.

" " " " " come back.

In what battles was your Division engaged and which was the most famous.

And any other incident of the war which you should care to mention.
What was your real rank in the Army when you were appointed to command the 77th Division.

When did you become a full fledged Major General, and when did you retire for age.

And last, but not least, a picture of yourself preferably in uniform.

Xmas. is at hand once more, and I want to wish you and all of yours,
the very best of cheer and happiness.

With my regard for Mrs. Alexander, believe me to remain

Sincerely,

ROBERT H. TODD.