

Head Quarters 154 Regt NYSV
Near Goldsboro NC
April 3d/65

George L. Gile. Dr. Sir.

Your communication of Nov 3d/64 asking for information concerning your Brother Almon L. Guile was received at Savannah, Ga. but too late for me to mail a reply from that Town, and I now take the first opportunity of attending to your enquiry, and communicating to you all I know respecting Almon. He was taken prisoner at Gettysburg July 1st 1863, was on Bell Island near Richmond until February 1864 when he was taken to Andersonville Ga where he remained until some time in August last when he died, of Scrofula and general debility, caused by exposure, in connection insufficient and improper food. As to the circumstances attending his illness and death, I can learn nothing, as none of those who were with him at the last have yet been exchanged, or if they have they have not yet returned to the Regt. All that I can learn is that he left the camp for the Hospital some time the latter part of July and died some time in August. Of his death we have as yet no Official Notice, only report. When we get Official Notice the exact date will be given

At the time he was taken prisoner he had pay due from Feb 28th 1863, as 1st Seargent. There is also due him seventy five (75) dollars Government Bounty, and he would be entitled to pay for rations from July 1st/63 at the rate of 30 cents per day.

As to his business affairs, I know nothing and there is no one now present with the Regt who can give any information on that point. All the personal effects he had with him in the Army were captured with him, and of course none of them can be recovered.

I cannot state authoratively that he is dead, having only heresay evidence, but such that I have no personal doubt with regard to the matter. We shall have official notice in time.

He spelled his name Guile.

I would be glad to be able to give you more full and satisfactory information with regard to Almon and will do so as soon as it can be obtained. He was a young man whom I highly esteemed, both for his moral character, his social qualities, his zealous performance of his duties, and whole bearing as a Soldier & a man. Had he remained with us he would undoubtedly have risen ere this to at least a Captaincy. But it was otherwise ordered, and his lot was with thousands of other brave and true men, to waste away life in southern prisons,

[Lewis D. Warner re Almon L. Gile, April 3, 1865, continued]

victims of Rebell malevolence, and disregard of every claim of humanity. Had they drawn their prisoners up in line and at signall deliberately shot them, the act would have been praiseworthy, and commendable compared with the deliberate murder by inches which our brave boys have undergone. Of 156 of the 154th Regt who were taken Prisoners on that day, not more than 25 are now alive and but a small part of these will ever fully recover from the effects of their imprisonment.

Verry Respectfully Yours
L D Warner
Lt. Col. 154th N.Y.

[Lewis D. Warner, Lieutenant Colonel, 154th New York, National Archives.]