

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

August 29, 1942.

Dear

The academic year of 1942-'43 takes on a more serious and a more sinister meaning for us all. We are now fast realizing that we are in a death struggle with three international gangsters - the square-heads, the slit-eyes, and the spaghetti-benders - who are bent upon our utter destruction. To destroy them is our purpose at present.

College days heretofore meant friendships and fellowships, success in the professions or business, marriage and desires for a happy home life with children. All of this has been changed and now the word SERVICE confronts all of us, of all ages. The reason that you are being deferred temporarily, to allow you to obtain an education that will permit you to serve in a greater capacity as an officer, is because of the experience that Uncle Sam has had in training officer material. He has found that when he took volunteer enlistments for the training camps for officer material about 43% failed, due to deficiencies not here mentioned. But when Uncle Sam permitted these boys to go to college and obtain a degree then only about 5% of them failed.

Therefore, you are in the upper strata and your Uncle feels that it is a good investment to permit you to return to college and complete your education so that you will be a better officer to handle the men under you. You will be more capable and you will save more lives, and you will win the war in a shorter time than had you immediately gone into the service without this extra training.

This interlude of a few years was not given you to return to the campus and carry on in the ways of previous college days. It will be a more serious group this year, and while athletics will have their place in the great scheme of things, the real purpose will be to develop a finer fighting morale and a more splendid esprit de corps for the men of Mount Oread.

Frankly, I am not interested in athletics for their own sake at this time, but rather I am hoping that we can be the means of developing a finer sense of obligation to duty, whether it be on the basketball court or in the other walks of life here on Mount Oread.

I have spent the summer getting into better physical condition and I am hoping to train with you so that we can all make better progress. Of course, we hope to have a fighting basketball team, but all the adjectives that heretofore have been used to describe athletic teams will now be used to describe the fighting heart of our boys in the thousands of battle areas where our K.U. boys will be found. Training camps for officer material about 43% failed, due to deficiencies not here mentioned. But when Uncle Sam permitted these boys to go to college and obtain a degree then only about 5% of them failed.

Therefore, you are in the upper strata and your Uncle feels that it is a good investment to permit you to return to college and complete your education so that you will be a better officer to handle the men under you. You will be more capable and you will save more lives, and you will win the war in a shorter time than had you immediately gone into the service without this extra training.