

August 10, 1945

Mrs. Stella Allen
9839 Winner Road
Independence, Missouri

Dear Stella:

I have not carried this West Point Training matter to the conclusion that I had hoped.

Our summer session closes Saturday, August 18, and I have been kept on the job here in a very confining way. I have 9:30 and 10:30 classes every morning and my afternoon work has been such that I have not been able to get out of town. I have wanted to drive over to Independence, Missouri, and see Henry Childs in the court house. Mr. Childs had a son that graduated from West Point and he is a very influential citizen and would have great influence with the congressmen. As soon as my school work is over here I expect to follow this through as I promised.

The chairman of our Selective Service Board here, Mr. Ogden Jones, has a son in West Point now. Young Jones was with Simpson's army and saw some of the hardest fighting in Germany before he was sent back to the States for a West Point scholarship. Young Jones wrote his father the other day as follows:

"We are having bayonet training now. If there was ever anything that is almost unbearable, this is it. It was tough learning bayonet in the army, but this is really tough. The other day I was picked out by the instructor as being the one who was working the hardest in the drill, but on the run back to the barracks I almost passed out I was so tired. We are also taking full field marches of increasing distance with the real marches to be made on maneuvers in August."

I am writing you this to show you that while they have enlarged the number of cadet scholarships at West Point, they have increased the rugged training perspective. They are trying to eliminate these boys by killing them off in strenuous ordeals. I wanted Dick to see this so that he will know that he is in for a very tough assignment if he gets the appointment. Will you write me and let me know if you have been able to call on any of your other friends in making contacts with the two Congressmen in behalf of Put. This will help me in passing on to Henry Childs the necessary information.