

September 28, 1944.

Lt. Col. Henry W. Clark, G.S.C.,
Chief, Athletic Branch,
Headquarters Army Service Forces,
25 West 43rd Street,
New York 18, N.Y.

Dear Colonel Clark:

I am now making a reciprocal request and at the same time I am making an explanation. I would please ask that you consider this letter entirely confidential.

When your wire arrived I took the same to Ernie Quigley, our new Athletic Director, asking for permission to go. Ernie and I had a rather lengthy conference, but the implied reaction was that he would dislike to see me go at this time. However, he saw the situation and informed me that if possible he would endeavor to arrange matters quite satisfactorily if the call came through.

I endeavored to call you in Omaha inasmuch as your wire was date-lined Omaha. I wanted a little more information, if possible, so that I could present it to the Chancellor. I found that you were in New York.

I had tried unsuccessfully a number of times to make an appointment with our Chancellor, Deane W. Malott. Finally, as my time was running out before the expiration of your deadline on the 25th, I called the Chancellor over the phone and read him your wire. As I suspected, he was not overly enthusiastic. He is a member of our Rotary Club and I asked if I could see him at the Rotary meeting, but he had other appointments. I sent the wire to you without getting an approval from the Chancellor, feeling that I wanted you to know that I was very anxious to serve.

I told the Chancellor at an Athletic Board meeting once that if I had an opportunity to get a commission that, while I would not seek one, I would certainly accept one if it were offered me.

On Tuesday morning, the 26th, I had an appointment with the Chancellor and he was very adamant that I had no right to send the wire that I did. I had consulted other people and they were very sure that the Chancellor would not fail to honor the request if it came through, but up to the present he had.

I have been very active in war work here, being secretary of the Selective Service Board, was chairman of the Douglas County Red Cross