

W.H. Knowlton
American Red Cross
Tenth Army Hdq.
APO 357
San Francisco



Form 2247

Okinawa
September 1, 1945

AMERICAN RED CROSS

President Ernest H. Wilkins, Oberlin College,
Oberlin, Ohio.

Dear President Wilkins,

Unaccountably a copy of "The Oberlin Alumni Bulletin" for July 1945, reached my desk yesterday. When I say desk, I mean packing box, and my office, which is the American Red Cross Communications Center for these islands, is set up in a tent. Compared to the rugged days of April and May, however, our living conditions are very good.

Your Commencement Address "A Giant's Strength" struck me as the most lucid presentation I have yet read of the thesis of the intellectual and the thinker; that moral values or "strengths" as you call them must get in balance, or man will destroy the world he has created. The atomic bomb is, I believe, the best case in point.

For this reason I would, like to mail copies of your speech to many of my friends, and would prefer to do it at Christmas time this year, when their minds will be receptive to something besides their daily economic, personal, and social troubles. There is a long chance that I may be home for Christmas, and to most of us out here in the Pacific, the season will have meaning that it has never had before.

If the address is now available in pamphlet form, request that you have one thousand copies mailed to my residence 66 Kensington Blvd., Pleasant Ridge Michigan, together with a statement for any charges involved.

If it is not available, request that I be permitted to reprint it, with a brief introduction of my own, which would of course, be subject to your entire approval before going to press.

From a material standpoint we broke the back of the Japanese Empire here, on Okinawa; it was a spectacle I do not care to witness again. But from the perspective of the thinker, it will take us many years to change the vicious ideas that have enslaved the Japanese people.

When you see Prof. Walter M. Horton, you might tell him that I have searched the world over and have not found anything that even remotely approaches the "personality and teachings" of Christ, as a doctrine to live by. My rewards have been many.

Sincerely yours,
[unsigned carbon copy]