

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL,
WASHINGTON.

August 16, 1918.

Mr. Edward A. Bacon,
Paris Island, South Carolina.

My dear Mr. Bacon:

Thank you very much for your kind cordial letter of the 11th. I am very happy to know that you are in line to achieve your purposes. I have great hopes of you and know that you will succeed in what you now undertake.

Let me give you this advice: Do everything thoroughly; do the little things well; always do the work that lies nearest to you; never delay or put anything off; and remember it is only by doing the little things well and thoroughly that you qualify yourself to succeed in the larger undertakings of life. This you realize must be true because thoroughness consists not in knowing something about a few things, but in knowing everything as accurately as possible. Remember that no one has ever failed who has not first admitted it to himself; that there is a plus and a minus entity in all of us, and that whichever is favored by the flesh inevitably becomes dominant in the mind. It is endurance that courts, the determination to do everything you undertake, to a finish. And never forget that all energy spent up to the point of completion is wasted, unless you achieve your purpose. The reason why most people fail in life is that they tire long before the real test comes. They surrender to imaginary fears, and capitulate at the first shock of contact. It is the man with the driving power, the man with the tenacious grip that wins the prizes of life. You must, therefore, learn to keep on after you are tired -- therein, and therein only lies success, contentment and peace.

Again assuring you of my interest and hopes, I am

Very cordially yours,



Dwight D. Eisenhower