

7 December 1949

Dear Travis.

Lieut Col. Walker who has just returned from abroad, brought me the memento about which it must seem to you that I have bedeviled you so many times -- your photograph.

I want to tell you how pleased I am with it and how much I appreciate your having presented me with such a charming and valuable addition to my collection of distinguished persons in our field of interest. Whoever made the photograph knows his business. The likeness is remarkable, characteristic, and radiates much of your equanimity of spirit, good humor, kindly disposition, and vigor of intellect. It also gives an impression of forcefulness, decisiveness, and awareness of what is going on in this world. My sincere thanks are due not only for the photograph itself but also for your courtesy in autographing it, for the name thereon adds thereto a lustre the significance of which those of the world's inhabitants who are or have been admitted into certain sacred precincts well appreciate.

Tia Miller, in whose debt I am for reminding you of your promise, has been with us for a couple of weeks and we are enjoying his visit. His report of your health would be better were it not for the fact that he indicates that you have been working only half days of late. I hope your progress will be rapid and that full recovery is in the offing.

I wish I could say that I've been feeling fit but I can't. Personal difficulties have always been hard on me and I wish I were able to face them with greater equanimity. Also, the tense state of the world as a whole adds to my tension, so that I feel in a tizzy much of the time. However, I keep plugging along, doing the best I can under the handicap of age and inner disquietude.

With best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, I am

Sincerely yours,

Sir Edward Travis  
Director, GCHQ

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