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### Copy of letter and paper J. N. Armstrong sent to the War Department

J. N. Armstrong

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PRESIDENT  
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DEAN  
J. N. ARMSTRONG,  
DEAN OF BIBLE

# Harding College

Searcy, Arkansas

DEGREES CONFERRED  
BACHELOR OF ARTS  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE  
BACHELOR OF MUSIC

*This is the  
letter I wrote  
the paper.*

*as I sent in*

October 13, 1935

The War Department  
United States of America  
Attention: Secretary of War  
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

May I present to you the enclosed paper that the Churches of Christ in Searcy, Arkansas may be on record in your office respecting their attitude and conviction relative to war.

This paper was unanimously adopted by the two congregations in our city. One young man at the time of its adoption did express doubts as to his being able to do any kind of service, even non-combatant service, and would, perhaps, have liked the paper better had it included this last mentioned thought. Otherwise it was unanimously adopted.

Our brotherhood is congregational in government. We have no centralized government, but each local church is self-governing--independent of all others.

Very sincerely,

JNA:FS

J. N. Armstrong



*Copy*

(A COPY OF PAPER SENT TO WAR DEPARTMENT)

PREPARED FOR WAR

Know all men by these presents:

That we, the membership of the Church of Christ (disciples) worshipping in Searcy, Arkansas, United States, hereby affirm that we firmly believe in Jehovah God and that allegiance to Him must come first. Therefore, if the laws enacted by men conflict with the laws of God and of Christ, we "must obey God rather than men."

Jesus taught us to "Love our enemies," "do good to them that hate you," and "all things whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, even so do ye also unto them." He declared before Pilate: "My kingdom is not of this world: If my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight that I should not be delivered to the Jews." We believe that when Christ sheathed the sword of Peter in the Garden of Gethsemane, He sheathed the sword of every Christian. Through the Apostle Paul, the Holy Spirit has given us this instruction: "Render to no man evil for evil,.. Avenge not yourselves, beloved,.... But if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give to drink; "the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God."

We hereby declare, and wish to go on record as steadfastly, conscientiously opposed to carnal warfare in all of its horror and destruction of human life; and that holding these convictions, it would be impossible for us, without direct disobedience to Jehovah our God and our Savior Jesus Christ, and without violation to our Christian conscience, to carry arms or to engage in any conflict where we would be compelled to take human life.

But we wish also to go on record that in case this United States of America be at any time engaged in war, we will gladly offer our services as non-combatants for relief of suffering and for preservation of life; and will loyally serve in any such manner that will help to mitigate the horrors and sufferings that inevitably accompany mortal combat.

Therefore, in the event of the United States becoming involved in another war, we respectfully request that our young men be granted the same immunity from combative service as that granted to the Society of Friends (Quakers) and similiar groups of truly conscientious objectors during the war.

We wish to assure our Government of our loyalty, and to denounce all hypocrisy on the part of shirkers who use this resolution as a cloak. We shall willingly certify members in good standing in this unit of the church.