

*Truman Com.*

April 3, 1945 m.

Hon. James M. Mead, Chairman  
Special Committee Investigating  
The National Defense Program  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I quote below an article appearing in the Pittsburgh Press of April 2, 1945, by Major Al Williams in regard to bombing Japan to save the lives of our boys:

"Right after Pearl Harbor this column adopted the slogan, 'Japan must be bombed to defeat.'

"That slogan was prompted by an instinctive over-all estimate of the shape that our war against Japan must take in point of economy, manpower, duration, resources and general purpose. It was obvious then that the most decisive and economical way to win our war against Japan is to smash the Jap homeland from the air.

"Sooner or later our re-born seapower, built around scores of aircraft carriers, would overwhelm Jap air-seapower and leave Japan proper open to constant and persistent air attack. That idea stands confirmed today. Japan is the heart target of our war in the Pacific, and destruction of that target is the end purpose of our war against Japan. We seek no conquest of new territory. Our cold purpose against Japan is the destruction of her air, naval and military machine.

"The entire Japanese war machine depends upon the munition production in Japan proper. Some of her munition factories are located on the continent, and her war leaders are trying to move more to that haven. But it's too late. Japan lost command of the sea by losing command of the air over the sea. Soon she will lose command over the air above Japan, and then our carriers can crowd around Japan and proceed to hammer away until not only her munition factories will be reduced to rubble, but her transportation stalled, her food production and distribution facilities destroyed.

"As soon as Japan loses command of the air over her homeland, upon what weapon could the Japs rely to prevent our carrier fleet from circling her island at will and shuttle bombing her day and night until order and even existence becomes impossible?



"I cannot find one reasonable argument against the claim that we can lick Japan to abject surrender without landing a single expeditionary force on her shores. What if it takes a full year of bombing? What is that surrender against the loss of thousands of young American lives trying to force a bridgehead and marching our boys against Japan's adequately fed and well-armed forces now?

"What of the millions of Jap soldiers on the Asiatic Continent? Leave them there - to the Chinese, the British, the French and the Dutch."

Major Williams' idea appears to have great merit although, of course, it would not glorify the Admirals and Generals as much as if we would kill a half million boys.

Respectfully,

(Signed) JOSEPH W. KENNEDY  
717 Bessemer Building  
Pittsburgh 22, Pa.

Copies to-

Hon. H. M. Kilgore  
Senate Military Affairs Committee  
House Military Affairs Committee