

Excerpt from Transcript of Interview with former President Truman
Post-Presidential File, Truman Papers.

the same as you would an armored division to go around on the ground and cause the surrender and as you say when you go to win a war it takes the foot soldier, the armored division and artillery on the ground no matter what sort of weapons you have. It was the estimate of General Marshall that this action would probably save the lives of 250,000 of our soldiers and probably twice as many casualties - that was what I was trying to avoid.

Hillman - what the professor is trying to get at is despite the plastering from the air the ordinary bombs on Germany and Japan wouldn't have the effect of a knock-out blow.

Truman - the atomic bomb was the knock-out blow ~~the~~ the same as the armored division would have on the ground behind the enemy.

Royse - Mr. Stimson in his book says he urges a psychological blow which would perhaps be the means of making the Japanese give in and he keeps talking about that.

Truman - that is all right and, of course, in the long run it takes the psychological condition of the enemy's mind to cause a surrender but my objective was to use the atomic bomb purely as a

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military blow to create a military surrender. That in the long run is what happened. In the first world war if you will remember the Germans were not completely defeated - Germany was never invaded and never

touched except by a few air raids which we made along toward the end but the fact that nine hundred thousand Americans had marched up to _____ and were about to take over caused them to surrender.

They never would have surrendered otherwise. I don't believe in speculating on the mental feeling and as far as the bomb is concerned I ordered its use for a military reason - for no other cause and it saved the lives of a great many of our soldiers. That is all I had in mind.