

Harry S. Truman to Irv Kupcinec , August 5, 1963. Post-Presidential File, Truman Papers.

HARRY S. TRUMAN
INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

August 5, 1963

Dear Kup:

I appreciated most highly your column of July 30th, a copy of which you sent me.

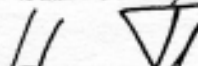
I have been rather careful not to comment on the articles that have been written on the dropping of the bomb for the simple reason that the dropping of the bomb was completely and thoroughly explained in my Memoirs, and it was done to save 125,000 youngsters on the American side and 125,000 on the Japanese side from getting killed and that is what it did. It probably also saved a half million youngsters on both sides from being maimed for life.

You must always remember that people forget, as you said in your column, that the bombing of Pearl Harbor was done while we were at peace with Japan and trying our best to negotiate a treaty with them.

All you have to do is to go out and stand on the keel of the Battleship in Pearl Harbor with the 3,000 youngsters underneath it who had no chance whatever of saving their lives. That is true of two or three other battleships that were sunk in Pearl Harbor. Altogether, there were between 3,000 and 6,000 youngsters killed at that time without any declaration of war. It was plain murder.

I knew what I was doing when I stopped the war that would have killed a half million youngsters on both sides if those bombs had not been dropped. I have no regrets and, under the same circumstances, I would do it again - and this letter is not confidential.

Sincerely yours,



Harry Truman

Mr. Irv Kupcinec
Chicago Sun-Times
Chicago, Illinois

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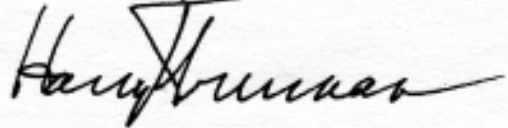
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Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Harry Truman". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper. The letters are connected and fluid, with a prominent loop at the end.

Mr. Irv Kupcinet
Chicago Sun-Times
Chicago, Illinois