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## Letter From Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson to John J. Pershing, August 7, 1940

Francis Mairs Huntington-Wilson

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August 7, 1940.

General John J. Pershing,

Carlton Hotel, Washington, D. C.

Dear General,

Heartfelt thanks to you for your splendid radio broadcast go, I am sure, from every thoughtful and informed American who puts our country's good above every other consideration. Allow me, as a very old friend,-- and also as a former diplomatic and State Department official, and a life-long student of foreign relations,-to express to you my heartiest congratulations.

I hope you will continue to use your great influence in the struggle to bring the people and the politicians to face facts.

It is my conviction that the United States absolutely cannot afford a chance of Britain and the British fleet's ceasing to be our barrier against Germany. I think it is time to discard the phrase "short of War!" Naval warfare now is infinitely to be preferred to the endless humiliation and bloodshed that would come to us,--if Britain lost. If only the President could agree on this with Mr. Willkie, then we could have leadership and a bold policy of realism.

I wonder if it would not sober the Japanese if we brought the main fleet into the Atlantic, telling them that we would "see them later" after the Atlantic job was done? They certainly want to be on the winning side.

With warmest regards and renewed congratulations, I am, dear General,  
Yours very sincerely,

F. M. Huntington-Wilson.