“It *had* to be done,” Rumfoord told Billy.

In chapter nine, as Billy Pilgrim lays in a hospital bed, he chats with a Harvard professor named Bertran Copeland Rumfoord. Though Billy is slipping in and out of that particular time, he is there long enough to have the following conversation with Rumfoord about WWII and the bombing of Dresden.

“It *had* to be done,” Rumfoord told Billy, speaking of the destruction of Dresden.
“I know,” said Billy.
“That’s war.”
“I know, I’m not complaining.”
“It must have been hell on the ground.”
“It was,” said Billy Pilgrim.
“Pity the men who had to do it.”
“I do.”
“You must have had mixed feelings, there on the ground.”
“It was all right,” said Billy. “*Everything* is all right and everybody has to do exactly what he does. I learned that on Tralfamadore.

(Vonnegut, 198)

In five to seven sentences, please answer the following question.

Based on the novel thus far, what do you believe Vonnegut’s purpose in including this passage is?