
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”

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FDR Speech File

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F. D. Roosevelt Tells of Our Victories In France

Describes Chateau Thierry Battle and Urges Hyde Park People to Support United War Drive

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the navy, speaking at Hyde Park yesterday to a large crowd, described the work allied war organizations are doing in France and also told a most interesting story of the fighting our boys have done "over there" and the victories the allies have won.

Speaking of the Chateau Thierry battle, Mr. Roosevelt said: "It was here that the German wedge pointed. At the point of the arrow the allied line was so thin that it might have been said to be non-existent. The Germans had moved 18 miles toward Paris and the outcome looked critical.

"Then word came to put the marines into the trenches. Five minutes after the order came, the Marines were on their way jubilant that at last they were to reach a front line trench. Fifteen minutes after the boys reached the trenches the Germans attacked. The Hunns expected the same slight resistance they had met on other occasions, but as they drew near the trenches, coming at a slow trot up a slight grade, they were met by about 5,000 'wild Indians,' who leaped out of the trenches and 'went for them' in the open. The Marines pushed them back a mile that first day, a mile the next and a mile the third day.

"The Germans were driven back to Belleau Wood, a wild, wooded country that was denser than any woods around here. The forest seemed to be an almost impregnable fort for the German forces and, to add to the difficulties of the allies, the Hunns determined to hold that stretch of woods, threw 30,000 men into the fight. Notwithstanding the fact that they were outnumbered, the U. S. Marines drove them back and cleared the woods of Germans, coming out on the far side.

"And these," said Secretary Roosevelt "are the kind of boys I am asking you to give your money for."

Mr. Roosevelt told of his trip across, which was made on a destroyer. He said they had a quiet voyage and saw no submarines, although they thought they saw one in every floating barrel, which appeared.

He described graphically an air raid made by Hun machines on a small village on the French coast, where he was visiting a point of naval interest.

"The first we knew there was a 'raid on,'" said Mr. Roosevelt, "was when we heard the low humming of motors in the sky. As our own planes were in the air a great deal I thought little of it, but a man who was stationed there immediately pronounced them enemy machines although they flew at a height of 10,000 feet. The majority of the planes fled on to bomb other points, but one remained overhead and dropped every bomb it carried on the town. Little damage was done, however.

Lived in Dugouts. "It was in this same town that the men stationed there are forced to live in dugouts because of the frequent raids, but even there, there is a recreation center for them, although it is 22 feet underground.

"These huts are everywhere," he continued "and on the other side the various organizations are working in unison. French, British and American. Sometimes the French organization looks after the American soldiers and sometimes the Americans look after the British, but they all do the same kind of work and that is to make a little semblance of home for the boys. They give the human touch and that is what is needed.

"Of course we all know that the outcome of war will be decided in ten days time. If Germany accepts our terms it will mean the immediate end of the war. Even if she decides she will make a last effort it will make little difference, except for renewed activities and the peace won by force of arms in the spring."

"A great many of you may think because the war is nearly over you need not give to these causes, but it is needed now more than ever before. When the war is over it will be several months before the boys can be brought home and then the reaction will start. When a man

is all keyed up, working, he does not think of recreation. It is when his work is over and he has time on his hands that he needs to be provided with clean, directed recreation."

Mr. Roosevelt paid a tribute to the girl "whose mother is in this audience," who is doing such wonderful work in the hut at Bordeaux. Of course everyone present knew he referred to Mrs. Vincent Astor.

J. Roosevelt Roosevelt introduced the speaker and made a short address in the interest of the United War Drive which begins next week and in behalf of which the meeting was held.

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Y. M. C. A., Knights of Columbus and other similar organizations, operating in connection with the military forces of the United States and the Allies, and individuals serving in the armies of the Allies. The plan in general is the same as that under which Christmas parcels are now being sent to soldiers in the American Expeditionary Forces except that these labels are not distributed to individuals overseas but are given to nearest relatives in the United States by the Red Cross. If such relatives will call at the Red Cross rooms, 219 Church street, labels will be given them.

Speech of Franklin D. Roosevelt at a United War Work Campaign Rally, Hyde Park, N.Y., November 5, 1916.
(Article in the Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Evening Star and Enterprise, November 6, 1916.)



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SCHOOLS OPEN TO Health Board Permis

The public schools reopen tomorrow having been closed weeks. This decision of the Board of Health meeting yesterday

It was at first decided that schools might be opening, but it was later decided that the public if the offer for another day time to thoroughly flate the rooms

S. R. Shear, superintendent of schools, was presiding yesterday and motion as to what would be any dan



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GEF WAIT, DOD,
MY EARS AIN'T
DIRTY!