Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”
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Series 1: Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Political Ascension

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New York City, NY

Speech before Mass Meeting of American Legion held in Tribute to King Albert of Belgium at Madison Square Garden, New York City, Oct. 4, 1919.

RLJ
From Speech of Franklin Roosevelt
Assistant Secretary of the Navy
before American Legion Session
Madison Square Garden, Oct. 4

It is particularly noteworthy
that the athletes of the great
sighting in its fellowship of
common service. A king, lord
as Prince, infantryman, ambassador,
civilians, officers, priests, and
and all assembled in
inducement and proof that the
great strides of civilization
which were threatened by
arms have been saved by
arms. Only a short year
has passed since July
Privileged to visit the Belgian front and to meet them en-joying General - a man who from the day of taking that
great determination on August 1
1914 had clung to the
narrow strip of Belgium with
a tenacity which gave to all
the allies added strength in
the great drive of restoration.

It is an interesting fact
that during most of the war
it was the American Navy
and not our army forces
which operated on the Belgian
front. My mission in July
1918 was to inspect the
American Naval aviation
forces which had been
established near Calais and Dunkirk as a part of the
French Northern bombing
Squadron to operate against
the German submarine bases in G soil and Flind
and Bruges; and it was
then that the King of the Belgians
pointed out to me the difference
between the German methods
of waging war and ours.
When German planes came over
the Belgian towns they proceeded
to condense their bombs over
anything that looked like
a town or a building. Pointing
where one of our air plane
stations was located contains
important military objectives.
railroads, yards, warehouses, doors, artillery positions. Yet those were scarcely touched by enemy bombs, while the town itself, the houses and shops and churches were literally wrecked. Over across the German lines were their submarine bases and big gun emplacements. Night after night, American and Belgian-British planes flew over and dropped their bombs; that the work was largely successful is shown by the fact that the German Navy had practically abandoned submarine operations out of Zeebrugge and Distant Long.
before they were driven out in the final advance. Yet those cities stand today almost intact, showing few effects of bombs gone astray. I think we can always be thankful that the allies did not ever intentionally conduct war against women and children.

The Navy has been the silent service. Silent from military necessity, silent too partly because to its hot feet fell most of the spectacular actual fighting during the war. But though it expanded only to 500,000 men it took on probably more diverse kinds of duties...
that any other branch of the government, the qualities of imagination and progress made our naval success possible. I think I am violating no secret in saying that the convoy system was an American suggestion to retrench the increasing submarine losses. It was because of the insistence of the American Navy that the great North American barrier was created. It was our initiation which developed the intruding device of the submarine chasers. In the creation of these, in the building up of the great system of sea plane stations, in the French, English and Dutch
casts, in our operations
in the Azores, at Gibraltar
in the Atlantic, in our additions
of dreadnoughts to the British
Grand Fleet. That we heard
that the American got is
an allround handy man
who does what he sets out
do. It was because
of this progress in that
the submarine menace was
almost eliminated; that the
Navy took the army over
and now has brought them
back. But through it all
there has been a comrader
ship between the two services
which has smoothed out
difficulties, entered into...
and brought results. After all we were after results.

That camaraderie between the services will grow greater as the years go by. I think I think that the 5,000 young men and young women who fought this war in Army, Navy, and Marine corps will form the backbone of the Nation in the years to come. If you are you will keep on getting results. The formation of the American Legion is the first logical step. I want to see every ex-serviceman, every blue jacket, every officer in this most Democratically representative...
and brought results, after all we were after results.

That comradeship between the services will grow greater as the years go by. I like to think that the 5,000,000 youngsters who fought this war in Army, Navy and Marine Corps will form the hard core of the Nation in the years to come. If you are you will keep on getting results. The formation of the American Legion is the first logical step. I want to see every doughty, every blue jacket, every officer in this most Democratically Republican
of organizations.
No of the service have
learned what service means.
We know, I hope, that the
country needs us in Time
of Peace as well as in Time
of war. On our part we are
ready to give that service.
The King of the Belgians is
today typical of what we
all are striving for. He has
not at the end of all those
generations of war not lost
and sought his rest and quiet.
his work, the Truth, in which
he has his heart, in which
he has consecrated his life
continues without pause.
Belgium is the remade...
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remade not on the old lines merely, but a better Religion, a happier Religion, an ever nobler Religion.

So we also have our task. You have been told that the American Legion is not political. That is true of it as an organization. But I cannot too seriously hope that the millions of individuals who will make up the Legion will not be in politics and fighting in politics. I mean that I hope every individual one of you will more than ever before become an active participant in
the life and affairs of the greatest organization on earth, the only "one big union" that really matters to us, the United States of America. If you men and women who have helped to earn the man will show that same fine spirit of service in the difficult days of peace, we can all look forward to a greater country, better to live in and work in, more to take pride in during the years to come.
Hyde Park
On the Hudson

[Handwritten notes:
"Fellowship of common service"
"Assembled in grove upset to sea"
"Aug. 15, 1914 - clung to narrow strip"
"Interest in fact - most of war Navy not army"
"My mission to inspect"
"Then King pointed out 6 guns"
"Demolish - submarine danger"
"Navy direct service"
"Though expanded only 10 fold - look on"
"Imagination - ingenuity made naval success possible"]**
Fiddling no confidence
Convey system
North sea Barrier
Listening Devices.
Shipshape Station
Signs, etc. Adriatic
Treadmills.

All show 19. on 1st round handgrip
Because of this progression
Int. success.
Trace away over - Reels
Commission 2. N.

Straight results - After results.
Telegaph
POUGHKEEPSIE
HYDE PARK
ON THE HUDSON

Lacatship will grow to $5,000,000. Backbone of Nation.

Intention of Legion in fact to
Want to every man in it,
Most Dem. Party is organ.

Know what service means. Needed in peace as in war.

Song of Belgians Typifies unserviceable work to continue. Build up Belgium.

My too have ever last.

God's given not to forget me, part of life a affairs, over big have.

If you help.
Pat J. Caravaghi
211 W. 115

11 years in service,
Discharged Rebecca Keph.
Line of duty - Disease.
Do he entitled to
Uniform Pension
+ Federal Pension.
Training pay while
he is attending military.
He is now training at
@ Parkard Rev. School.