

February 29, 1940

[Cruise Aboard "Tuscaloosa"]

FDR Speech File

1274

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE PRESIDENT
At close of Cruise aboard United States Ship TUSCALOOSA
February 29, 1940

Introduction by Captain Harry A. Badt, U. S. Navy
Commanding Officer, U. S. S. TUSCALOOSA:

"Mr. President, it is always a pleasure to have you on the TUSCALOOSA. We are all sorry to see you leave tomorrow, but we are hoping that you will make another cruise with us soon and the officers and men of the TUSCALOOSA all want to wish you continued good health."

THE PRESIDENT:

Captain Badt, officers and men of the TUSCALOOSA: I suppose very few of you on our previous cruise up in the foggy waters of Newfoundland realized how close we were at that time to pretty serious conditions that might affect the lives of all of us during those last two nights, or rather three nights, up off the coast of Nova Scotia. I was getting, as some of you know, radio messages from the State Department and from Europe, that made it pretty clear that there was going to be another World War, in fact I felt so even before I came on board for that cruise, even though some very wise members of the United States Senate thought they had better information than I had.

Well, so here we are again in a far different latitude, in whites, and seeing a new part of the world for some of us, and again we can't tell, any of us, just what the future will bring forth, but one thing I am very certain of is that this war in Europe has taught the United States Navy a lot of lessons. We had to learn lessons in the past few months and I know all of

us agree that we hope, as every other American does, that this war is not going to come to our side of the ocean. If the turn of the wheel should bring war close to the United States, the United States Navy is ready to meet it, and I am mighty proud, as all of you know, of the Navy, and I think even General Watson is proud of the Navy, just as we say to him we are mighty proud of what the Army is doing down in the Canal. The TUSCALOOSA is going down through history as the ship that brought Columbus back on the map, and I believe that these things generally go by three's. I have had two very wonderful cruises on the TUSCALOOSA and I hope for a third this coming summer if the international situation makes it possible for me to venture more than a few miles from the coast.

I hope you have a mighty good overhaul period, and by the time you come out of overhaul I will be ready to go into overhaul with you.

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SPEECH DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
AT CLOSE OF PRESIDENTIAL CRUISE ONBOARD
UNITED STATES SHIP "TUSCALOOSA"
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