April 18, 1943 [Camp Gruber, Oklahoma] 1463

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL
REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
WHILE HAVING SUPPER WITH A GROUP OF SOLDIERS
AT
CAMP GRUBER, OKLAHOMA,
SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 1943

THE PRESIDENT:

I just want to take the opportunity, while I am here -- I believe you represent many units of this camp -- to tell you I was very happy at the efficient and fine appearance, both of the Division in review and the men along the route.

I want to pay special tribute to your cooks. I don't get as good a meal as that in the White House. I get only butter for breakfast -- one little pat at that.

You are very lucky to be in the Army. I am glad to be here with you. You have a fine camp. I understand you have completed your preliminary training and soon will go into more advanced work; then you will be ready for active service, in all probability overseas. Just where, I don't know. I couldn't tell you if I knew.

I congratulate all the units of Camp Gruber.

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Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

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This is a transcript made by the White House stenographer from his shorthand notes taken at the time the speech was made. Underlining indicates words extemporaneously added to the previously prepared reading copy text. Words in parentheses are words that were omitted when the speech was delivered, though they appear in the previously prepared reading copy text.

STATEMENTS FILE

Remarks of the President while having supper with a group of soldiers at Camp Gruber, Okla., Sunday, April 18, 1943.

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STATEMENTS FILE

Informal remarks of the President while having lunch with a group of naval air cadets at the Naval Air Training Center, Corpus Christi, Texas, April 21, 1943.

I am glad that all cadets of the naval training station are hearing what I have to say, because what I have to tell you concerns them, as well as those here in this mess hall.

I regard this as one of the great American historic meetings. I think you will remember this just as long as you live, for we have just received a President on American soil -- the President of our sister republic. I want to tell you that yesterday was one of the high points of my life. We had a perfectly magnificent reception in Monterrey. And today we are very happy to greet the President of Mexico, especially because here among us are a large number of Mexican cadets, as well as many other cadets from sister American republics.

The President of Mexico would very much like when we go out of here to shake hands with his own cadets.

We feel, I do, that from the point of view of continental defense and unity of purpose, that the kind of mutual training we are doing, both in the Army and the Navy, with cadets from sister republics, means a wide and long step forward in the relations of this hemisphere. Let the good work go on!