April 25, 1943 [Fort Riley, Kansas] 1466

FDR Speech File

INFORMAL
REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
WHILE HAVING LUNCH WITH A GROUP OF OFFICERS AND OFFICER CANDIDATES
AT THE
CAVALRY SCHOOL CLUB, FORT RILEY, KANSAS
SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 1943
(EASTER SUNDAY)

THE PRESIDENT:

Gentlemen:

It seems to me that you have a very happy "home on the range" here.

I have been going to a good many camps in different parts of the country, and I think it might interest you if I were to tell you of my first impression. I went through the country and a great many camps last September -- a slightly different route from this one.

It seems to me that I see in you that intangible thing -- a very definite improvement -- in the past six or seven months, an improvement, I think, that I can see by looking at people -- better morale.

The Army has gone through its growing pains, and today the Army is a grownup unit.

You who are here will go into all kinds of service; and I hope you will get into the fight, because we have made a good beginning in many parts of the world. I have been to some of them, and I find that among the units that have gone out to the South Pacific and to North Africa, there is the same kind of development that is taking place here back home.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

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.

When I was in the other branch of the service, the Navy -- you know, I was in the Navy once -- we called it a "happy ship." A ship that is a happy ship is an efficient ship. Today the Army is a happy Army, therefore an efficient Army.

It has been a great privilege to have been here on Easter Sunday with all of you. I wish I could see each one of your Posts, because I learn something from each of the camps that I visit. So I will go away with that impression in general, and in particular about Fort Riley, one of the oldest military establishments in the United States. It goes back here to a long line of officers. Many of them you know about; many who have made good in the history of our country. I know that you are going to carry on that tradition.

I am glad to have been here. Good luck to you all.

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STATEMENTS FILE

Informal remarks of the President while having lunch with a group of officers and officer candidates at the Cavalry School Club, Fort Riley, Kansas, Sunday, April 25th, 1943 (Easter Sunday)

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Gentlemen:

It seems to me that you have a very happy "home on the range" here. I have been going to a good many camps in different parts of the country, and I think it might interest you if I were to tell you of my first impression. I went through the country and a great many camps last September, a slightly different route from this one. It seems to me that I see in you that intangible thing - a very definite improvement - in the past six or seven months, an improvement that, I think, I can see by looking at people - better morale.

The Army has gone through its growing pains, and today the Army is a grown-up unit. You who are here will go in to all kinds of service; and I hope you will get into the fight, because we've made a good beginning in many parts of the world. I have been to some of them, and I find that among the units that have gone out to the South Pacific and to North Africa, there is the same kind of development that is taking place here back home. When I was in the other branch of the service, the Navy, -- you know, I was in the Navy once, -- we called it a "happy ship". A ship that is a happy ship is an efficient ship. Today the Army is a happy Army, therefore an efficient Army.

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