
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”

The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945

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File No. 1494-1

1943 December 2-8

Remarks at Camp Amirbad, Teheran [12/2]

Remarks to MPs at His Cairo Villa [12/6]

Speech at Malta [12/8]

INFORMAL REMARKS Of The President
To Patients At The Post Hospital,
Camp Amirabad, Teheran, Iran
December 2, 1943

This place is a good deal like home. I landed about ten days ago -- way over in Morocco. This is the nearest thing to the United States that I have seen yet. I wish the people back home could all see what we are doing here and how well we are doing it.

I want you boys, all of you, to remember that back at home we are thinking about you. I know you wish to get out of the hospital as soon as possible, and come back to the United States just as fast as we can lick the Nazis.

I have had conferences with Marshal Stalin and Mr. Churchill during the past four days -- very successful, too -- laying plans as far as we can to make it unnecessary for us again to have Americans in Iran -- just as long as we and our children live. I think that is worth fighting for -- even being sick for -- in Iran.

It is good to see you. I wish I could stay longer. Today it is good to see a lot of fellow Americans even in Persia.

Get well as soon as you can, and come 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.

(edited by the President)

And then, suddenly, I realized how far away from home we are.

America is proud of you, proud of what you are doing in this distant place. I wish that great numbers of our people could see this work of getting the necessary equipment and supplies through to our ally, who has had very heavy losses, but who is licking the Nazi hordes.

And so I am on my way home. I wish I could take all of you with me. The people back home know what you are doing -- how well you are doing it. They, too, are proud of you. All I can say is, "May you get back home to our Good America just as soon as you can. Goodbye and good luck."

(edited by the President)

INFORMAL REMARKS Of The President
To A Group Of MPs At His Villa
In Cairo, Egypt
December 6, 1943

Boys, I want to say "howdy" to you.

We are in a very strange land. I have already seen about three thousand of our boys in a more distant place than this -- Teheran. Strictly speaking, to us -- and I think to them too -- it seems the end of the world. Here we are much nearer home, but even this seems too far from home. I think we all want to get back home. I know I do. I wish all of you could be going too, but we know you can't do it just yet.

My place here has been extremely well guarded, just as well as my place at Hyde Park. There is a place next door to my place up there where we have an MP school, and they look after us very well. On graduating, they are sent on to duty in distant parts of the world. When I get back home, I shall see them and tell them I saw you, and that you MPs guarded me while I was in Cairo.

Most people back home, nearly all of them, are mighty proud of what our people are doing in every part of the world. They want the war over just as much as we do, and they want to make this the last one we will have to go through as long as we and our children live. That is our great objective -- our great reasoning. This time when we clean out the enemy we are going to clean them out thoroughly, so that they can't start another war.

People back home, most of them, are working hard

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EXHIBIT NUMBER OF THE PRESIDENT
IS A GROUP OF MEN AT HIS VILLAGE
IN CAIRO, EGYPT
December 8, 1942

We are in a very strange place here about three thousand of our boys in a more distant place than this -- Tennessee. Strictly speaking, to us -- and I think to them too -- it seems the end of the world. Here we are much nearer home, but even this seems too far from home. I think we all want to get back home. I know I do. I wish all of you could be going too, but we know you can't do it just yet. My place here has been extremely well guarded, just as well as my place at Hyde Park. There is a place next door to my place up there where we have an air corridor, and they look after us very well. On the whole, they are not so bad. In distant parts of the world. When I get back home, I shall see them and tell them I saw you, and that you were guarded as while I was in Cairo.

Most people back home, nearly all of them, are mighty proud of what our people are doing in every part of the world. They want the war over just as much as we do, and they want to make this the last one we will have to go through as long as we and our children live. That is our great objective -- our great reasoning. This time when we clean out Germany we are going to clean them out thoroughly, so that they can't start another war. People back home, most of them, are working hard

every day that goes by, doing better, doing more and more, producing the things that are necessary for us to win the war. I wish that I could get into this myself, play a more active part than is possible.

These conferences here, and up in Iran, have been very satisfactory -- extremely so. Real accord has been reached. After all, the Russians, the British, the Chinese and ourselves -- collectively we represent and are fighting for nearly three-fourths of all the people in the world. That is something for us to realize. It means without doubt that even if we have to keep peace by force for a while, we are going to do it. But that does not mean that you are going to have to stay overseas all your lives.

It's good to see you.

Thank you for all that you have done for me, and for the members of my staff.

(edited by the President)

1494-A

ADDRESS Of The President
AT MALTA
December 8, 1943

Lord Gort, Officers and Men, Good People of Malta:

Nearly a year ago the Prime Minister and I were in Casablanca -- shortly after the landings by British and American troops in North Africa -- and at that time I told the Prime Minister some day we would control once more the whole of the Mediterranean, and that I would go to Malta.

For many months I have wanted, on behalf of the American people, to pay some little tribute to this Island and to all of its people -- civil and military -- who, during these years have contributed so much to democracy, not just here but all over the civilized world.

And so, at last I have been able to come. At last I have been able to see something of your historic land. I wish I could stay, but I have many things to do. May I tell you, though, that during these past three weeks the Prime Minister and I feel that we two have struck strong blows for the future of the human race.

And so, in this simple way, I am taking the opportunity to do what all the American people would like to join me in doing. I have here a little token -- a Scroll -- a Citation -- from the President of the United States, speaking in behalf of all the people of the United States.

And may I read it to you:

"In the name of the people of the United States of

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A D D R E S S OF THE PRESIDENT

AT WASHINGTON
December 8, 1941

Nearly a year ago the Prime Minister and I met in London. Shortly after the landing of British and American troops in North Africa -- and at that time I told the Prime Minister some day we would conquer once more the whole of the Mediterranean, and that I would go to Berlin. For many months I have waited, on behalf of the American people, to pay some little tribute to this Island and to all of its people -- civil and military -- who, during these years have contributed so much to democracy, not least here but all over the civilized world. And so, at last I have been able to come. At last I have been able to see something of your historic land. When I could stay, but I have many things to do. May I tell you, though, that during these past three weeks the Prime Minister and I feel that we two have struck enough blows for the future of the human race. And so, in this simple way, I am taking the opportunity to do what all the American people would like to join me in doing. I have been a little taken -- a little taken -- from the President of the United States, speaking in behalf of all the people of the United States. And may I read it to you: "In the name of the people of the United States of

America I salute the Island of Malta, its people and defenders, who, in the cause of freedom and justice and decency throughout the world, have rendered valorous service far above and beyond the call of duty.

"Under repeated fire from the skies, Malta stood, alone but unafraid in the center of the sea, one tiny bright flame in the darkness -- a beacon for the clearer days which have come.

"Malta's bright story of human fortitude and courage will be read by posterity with wonder and with gratitude through all the ages.

"What was done in this Island maintains the highest traditions of gallant men and women who from the beginning of time have lived and died to preserve civilization for all mankind.

"Date December 7, 1943.

"Signed, Franklin D. Roosevelt."

I have signed it at the bottom, and I wrote on it -- not today, but yesterday, December 7th, because that was the second anniversary of the entry into the war of the American people. We will proceed until that war is won; and more than that, we will stand shoulder to shoulder with the British Empire and our other allies in making it a victory worth while.

Lord Gort's Speech of Acceptance
For the Malta Scroll
At Malta
December 8, 1943

Mr. President, we are very sensible of the greatness of this occasion, and of the important place which the 7th of December, 1943, will occupy in our history, and of the United Nations. It is a day which Malta will never forget, and I can assure you, Sir, that this Citation, presented in person by the President of the United States of America, has moved us very deeply.

May I be permitted, on behalf of the Armed Forces of the Crown and Peoples of Malta to thank you, Mr. President, most respectfully, most sincerely and most gratefully for the sentiments which inspired you to undertake this special journey.

Malta is, perhaps not unjustifiably, proud that she has been able to play her part in the Mediterranean war, but the language in which the Citation is couched and, if I may be permitted to say so, Mr. President, the moving phrases which you have so generously used in making this presentation impress upon us how highly you rate such services as our Island Fortress has been able to render to the cause of the United Nations.

No one can be asked to do more in war than to fulfill his or her duty -- no one can do less; and that you, Sir, and the citizens of the United States of America should feel that the armed forces and people of these Islands have not failed the United Nations is in itself a full reward.

Mr. President, the memory of the great honor which you have conferred upon this Fortress today will always be cherished by each one of us, and I can assure you, Sir, that this Citation will be a treasured and highly prized addition to the historic archives of Malta. But I also believe that the full purport of its message will not be realized unless generations as yet unborn are constantly reminded of the common sacrifices of the United States of America and the British Empire in this the second world war.

I therefore have it in mind, Mr. President, with your consent to reproduce the Citation in bronze, and to place it in the Palace Square in Valletta, where it will stand in all weathers as a permanent monument to a great and unique occasion.

Dec 7-1943

In the name of
the people of the United States of America salute
its people and defenders,
the people of the Island of Malta, who, in the cause of the
~~United Nations~~ in the cause of freedom and justice and decency
throughout the world have rendered valorous service far
above and beyond the call of duty.

~~There are many great names that will live forever in
the annals of this war -- Stalingrad, Leningrad, Moscow,
Chungking, London, Dunkirk, Bataan -- and the heroic name
of the little Island of Malta will always hold a conspicuous
place among them.~~

~~For more than three years the waves of ferocity were
hurled at Malta. Malta stood firm. Under repeated fire from
the skies, it stood alone in the vast expanse of the sea, one
tiny bright flame fluttering in the darkness -- to all
mankind a beacon of hope for the clearer days which have come.
And by standing firm, Malta provided a turning point in this
war, a rock upon which the structure of our victory in the
Mediterranean was founded.~~

~~Here was written one of the brightest chapters in
Malta's bright story
the history of human fortitude and courage -- which history
will be read by posterity with wonder all
will read with amazement and with gratitude through the ages.~~

Dec 7-1943

In the name of
The people of the United States of America salute
^{its people and defenders,}
~~the people of the Island of Malta, who, in the cause of the~~
~~United Nations --~~ ⁱⁿ the cause of freedom and justice and decency
throughout the world have rendered valorous service far
above and beyond the call of duty.

~~There are many great names that will live forever in
the annals of this war -- Stalingrad, Leningrad, Moscow,
Chungking, London, Dunkirk, Bataan -- and the heroic name
of the little Island of Malta will always hold a conspicuous
place among them.~~

~~For more than three years the waves of ferocity were~~
~~hurled at Malta.~~ ^R ^R ^{repeated} Malta stood firm. Under unceasing fire from
the skies, it stood alone in the ^{lonely unsheltered center} ~~most exposed~~ of the sea, one
tiny bright flame fluttering in the darkness -- ~~to~~ to all
mankind a beacon of hope for the clearer days which have come.
~~And by standing firm, Malta provided a turning point in this~~
~~way, a rock upon which the structure of our victory in the~~
~~Mediterranean was founded.~~

~~Here was written one of the brightest chapters in~~
^{Malta's bright story}
the history of human fortitude and courage -- ^{history} which ~~history~~
^{will be read by posterity with wonder} ~~will be read with amazement~~ and with gratitude through the ages.
^{all}

What was done in this Island ^{in a instant} ~~was in keeping~~ with the
highest traditions of ~~the~~ gallant men and women who from the
beginning of time have ^{kind} ~~been~~ and died to preserve
civilization for mankind.

By your Franklin D. Roosevelt
And in addition I will sign
my name below it.

STATEMENTS FILE

THE PRESIDENT'S TALK TO PATIENTS AT THE POST HOSPITAL,
CAMP AMIRABAD, TEHRAN, IRAN, DECEMBER 2, 1943:

This place is a good deal like home. I landed about ten days ago--way over in Morocco. This is the nearest thing to the United States that I have seen yet. I wish the people back home could all see what we are doing here and how well we are doing it.

I want you boys, all of you, to remember that back at home we are thinking about you. I know you wish to get out of the hospital as soon as possible, and come back to the United States just as fast as we can lick the Nazis.

I have had conferences with Marshal Stalin and Mr. Churchill during the past four days--very successful, too--laying plans as far as we can to make it unnecessary for us again to have Americans in Iran--just as long as we and our children live. I think that is worth fighting for--even being sick for--in Iran.

It is good to see you. I wish I could stay longer. Today it is good to see a lot of fellow Americans even in Persia. Get well as soon as you can, and come back home.

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(APPENDIX "E")

STATEMENTS FILE

PRESIDENT'S TALK TO PERSONNEL AT CAMP AMIRABAD, TEHERAN,
IRAN, DECEMBER 2, 1943.

Officers and men: I seem at this moment to be thoroughly equipped with the weapons of war (2 microphones). If you had said to me, or I had said to you, three years ago, that we would meet in Iran today, we would have probably said that we were completely crazy.

I got here four days ago, to meet with the Marshal of Soviet Russia and the Prime Minister of England, to try to do two things. The first was to lay military plans for cooperation between the three nations, looking toward the winning of the war just as fast as we possibly can, and I think we have made progress toward that end.

The other purpose was to talk over world conditions after the war--to try to plan for a world for us and for our children when war would cease to be a necessity. We have made great progress in that, also.

But, of course, the first thing is to win the war, and I want to tell you that you--all of you--individually and collectively, are a part of that purpose. All of you who are here today, and all of you who are farther south in Iran, can always remember that you have taken a very necessary and very useful part in winning the war.

When I woke up this morning in this camp and looked out, I said to myself, "I am back in Arizona or New Mexico." And then, suddenly, I realized how far away from home we are.

America is proud of you; proud of what you are doing in this distant place. I wish that great numbers of our people could see this work of getting the necessary equipment and supplies through to our ally, who has had very heavy losses, but who is licking the Nazi hordes.

And so I am on my way home. I wish I could take all of you with me. The people back home know what you are doing--how well you are doing it. They, too, are proud of you. All I can say is "May you get back home to our Good America just as soon as you can. Goodbye and good luck."

F. L. A. 7

(APPENDIX "F")

STATEMENTS FILE

PRESIDENT'S TALK TO A GROUP OF MP's AT HIS VILLA IN CAIRO. DECEMBER 6, 1943.

Boys, I want to say "howdy" to you. *P*We are in a very strange land. I have already seen about 3,000 of our boys in a more distant place than this--Teheran. Strictly speaking, to us--and I think to them too-- it seems the end of the world. Here we are much nearer home, but even this seems too far from home. I think we all want to get back home. I know I do. I wish all of you could be going too, but we know you can't do it just yet.

My place here has been extremely well guarded, just as well as my place at Hyde Park. There is a place next door to my place up there where we have an MP school, and they look after us very well. On graduating, they are sent on to duty in distant parts of the world. When I get back home, I shall see them and tell them I saw you, and that you MPs guarded me while I was in Cairo.

Most people back home, nearly all of them, are mighty proud of what our people are doing in every part of the world. They want the war over just as much as we do, and they want to make this the last one we will have to go through as long as we live and our children live. That is our great objective--our great reasoning. This time when we clean out the enemy we are going to clean them out thoroughly, so that they can't start another war.

People back home, most of them, are working hard every day that goes by, doing better, doing more and more, producing the things that are necessary for us to win the war. I wish that I could get into this myself, play a more active part than is possible.

These conferences here, and up in Iran, have been very satisfactory--extremely so. Real accord has been reached. After all, the Russians, the British, Chinese and ourselves--collectively we represent and are fighting for nearly three-fourths of all the people in the world. That is something for us to realize. It means without doubt that even if we have to keep peace by force for a while, we are going to do it. But that does not mean that you are going to have to stay overseas all your lives.

It's good to see you. *P*Thank you for all that you have done for me, and for the members of my staff.



(APPENDIX "G")

STATEMENTS FILE

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AT MALTA, DECEMBER 8, 1943.

Lord Gort, Officers and Men, Good People of Malta:

Nearly a year ago the Prime Minister and I were in Casablanca - shortly after the landings by British and American troops in North Africa - and at that time I told the Prime Minister some day we would control once more the whole of the Mediterranean, and that I would go to Malta.

For many months I have wanted, on behalf of the American people, to pay some little tribute to this Island and to all of its people - civil and military - who, during these years have contributed so much to democracy, not just here but all over the civilized world. And so, at last I have been able to come. At last I have been able to see something of your historic land. I wish I could stay, but I have many things to do. May I tell you, though, that during these past three weeks the Prime Minister and I feel that we two have struck strong blows for the future of the human race.

And so, in this simple way, I am taking the opportunity to do what all the American people would like to join me in doing. I have here a little token - a scroll - a citation - from the President of the United States, speaking in behalf of all the people of the United States. And may I read it to you:

"In the name of the people of the United States of America I salute the Island of Malta, its people and defenders, who, in the cause of freedom and justice and decency throughout the world, have rendered valorous service far above and beyond the call of duty.

"Under repeated fire from the skies, Malta stood, alone but unafraid in the center of the sea, one tiny bright flame in the darkness -- a beacon for the clearer days which have come.

"Malta's bright story of human fortitude and courage will be read by posterity with wonder and with gratitude through all the ages.

"What was done in this Island maintains the highest traditions of gallant men and women who from the beginning of time have lived and died to preserve civilization for all mankind.

"Date December 7, 1943. (Signed) Franklin D. Roosevelt."

I have signed it at the bottom, and I wrote on it - not today, but yesterday, December 7th, because that was the second anniversary of the entry into the war of the American people. We will proceed until that war is won; and more than that, we will stand shoulder to shoulder with the British Empire and our other allies in making it a victory worth while.

(APPENDIX "I")

LORD GORT'S SPEECH OF ACCEPTANCE (FOR MALTA SCROLL)
MALTA, DECEMBER 8, 1943.

Mr. President:

We are very sensible of the greatness of this occasion, and of the important place which the 7th of December 1943 will occupy in our history, and of the United Nations. It is a day which Malta will never forget, and I can assure you, Sir, that this citation, presented in person by the President of the United States of America, has moved us very deeply. May I be permitted, on behalf of the Armed Forces of the Crown and Peoples of Malta to thank you, Mr. President, most respectfully, most sincerely and most gratefully for the sentiments which inspired you to undertake this special journey.

Malta is, perhaps not unjustifiably, proud that she has been able to play her part in the Mediterranean war, but the language in which the citation is couched and, if I may be permitted to say so, Mr. President, the moving phrases which you have so generously used in making this presentation impress upon us how highly you rate such services as our Island Fortress has been able to render to the cause of the United Nations.

No one can be asked to do more in war than to fulfill his or her duty - no one can do less; and that you, Sir, and the citizens of the United States of America should feel that the armed forces and people of these Islands have not failed the United Nations is in itself a full reward.

Mr. President, the memory of the great honor which you have conferred upon this Fortress today will always be cherished by each one of us, and I can assure you, Sir, that this citation will be a treasured and highly prized addition to the historic archives of Malta. But I also believe that the full purport of its message will not be realized unless generations as yet unborn are constantly reminded of the common sacrifices of the United States of America and the British Empire in this the second world war. I, therefore, have it in mind, Mr. President, with your consent to reproduce the citation in bronze and to place it in the Palace Square in Valletta, where it will stand in all weathers as a permanent monument to a great and unique occasion.

(APPENDIX "J")

1494-A

RR: Lieut. Rigdon thought Mr. Early might like to see this -- the President's addressees. Says they have been edited by the President -- with the exception of the last two, which the Admiral (Wilson Brown) thought did not need editing.

Asks that we send them on to Jack Romagna, for his files. He doesn't have an extra copy for us.

2/1/49

AG

Jack Romagna
for your
files
aw.

INFORMAL REMARKS Of The President
On Leaving the U.S.S. IOWA
December 16, 1943

Captain McCrea, Officers and Men of the IOWA:

I had wanted to say a few words to you on the trip east, but I couldn't do it properly because so many of you were mere, miserable pollywogs. Now, I understand that I can talk to you as the Chief Shellback of them all.

I have had a wonderful cruise on the IOWA, one I shall never forget. I think that all my staff have behaved themselves pretty well, with one or two lapses. When we came on board from that little French destroyer, I was horrified to note that Major General Watson and Mr. Hopkins came over the rail on all-fours. However, landlubbers like that do have lapses. Outside of that, all the Army and Navy and civilians have been wonderfully taken care of, and I am impressed with two facts -- the first is that you had a happy lot of visitors, fellow shipmates.

Secondly, from all I have seen and all I have heard, the IOWA is a "happy ship," and having served with the Navy for many years, I know -- and you know -- what that means. It is part and parcel of what we are trying to do, to make every ship happy and efficient.

One of the reasons I went abroad, as you know, was to try by conversations with other nations, to see that this war that we are all engaged in shall not happen again. We have an idea -- all of us, I think -- that hereafter we have