
Franklin D. Roosevelt — “The Great Communicator”

The Master Speech Files, 1898, 1910-1945

Series 3: “The Four Freedoms” and FDR in World War II

File No. 1509

1944 February 12

**Address Presenting Destroyer Escort
Senegalais to France**

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT
PRESENTATION OF DESTROYER ESCORT TO THE FRENCH PEOPLE
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD
FEBRUARY 12, 1944

On behalf of the American people I transfer to the Navy of France this warship -- built by American hands in an American Navy Yard. This is one of a long line of events symbolizing the ancient friendship between France and the United States. It emphasizes the determination of this nation, and of all the United Nations, to drive from the soil of France the Nazi invaders who today swagger down the Champs Elysees in Paris. This one transfer under the Lend-Lease Law is typical of the thousands of transfers of American-made weapons of war which have been made to our fighting allies. They are bringing closer the day of inevitable victory over our enemies on all the fronts all over the world.

No day could be more appropriate for this ceremony than the anniversary we now celebrate of the birth of that illustrious American who, in his time, struck such mighty blows for the liberty and dignity of the human race -- Abraham Lincoln.

In 1940 the Nazi invaders overran France. Although we were still on the sidelines, we in the United States realized the horror of that catastrophe -- and the grave menace it carried to all the civilized world.

The land of France fell to the enemy, but not so the ships of France. Today here fleet still proudly flies the tricolor in battle against our common enemy. At Nettuno and Anzio, French ships were among those which bombarded the German coastal installations. In a strategic sector of the Allied line now pushing toward Rome are French troops. The Nazis on the Italian front know only too well that France is not out of this war.

And the time will soon come when the Nazis in France will learn from millions of brave Frenchmen -- now underground -- that the people of France, also, are not all out of this war.

In a sense this transaction today can be regarded not only as lend-lease -- it might even be regarded as reverse lend-lease. For in the early days of our national history this situation was reversed. At that time, instead of France receiving an American-made ship, the young nation of the United States was glad to receive a ship made in France by Frenchmen -- the Bon Homme Richard -- a ship made illustrious under the command of John Paul Jones, in the days of our Navy's infancy. And it is well to remember that that ship was named in honor of our Minister to France, Benjamin Franklin -- that wise old philosopher who was the father of close friendship between France and the United States.

This vessel, which today we are turning over to the people of France, will somewhere, some time, engage the enemy. She is a part of the growing strength of the French Navy. She is a new class -- a destroyer escort -- speedy and dangerous. I want to tell you something else about her -- there are more where she came from. Under our Lend-Lease agreement, she is not the only ship you will receive from us -- we are building others for your sailors to man.

I hope that the Nazis and the Japs are listening today as we make this transfer. For it will help them better to understand the spirit and determination which binds together all of the fighting fleets and armies of the United Nations on the road to ultimate victory.

Vice Admiral Fenard, you are the senior officer of the French Navy here, and you are the chief of the French Naval Mission. It has been your duty to work with us in outfitting your fleet. My years of friendship with officers

of the French Navy make this a particularly memorable occasion to me, personally. To you, we turn over this ship -- the SENEGALAISE. We recall with pleasure that it was a French ship which fired the first salute ever rendered to the Stars and Stripes flying from a United States Man-of-War. We remember that salute today -- and symbolically return it.

Good luck, SENEGALAISE -- and good hunting.

Transmitted by personal

Orig. reading copy

A D D R E S S Of The President
At The Washington Navy Yard
On The Occasion Of The Transfer Of The
Destroyer Escort SENEGALAIS To The French People
Under The Lend-Lease Act
February 12, 1944.
At 4.35 P.M., E.W.T.
Broadcast Nationally

Admiral Fenard:

On behalf of the American people I transfer to the Navy of France this warship -- built by American hands in an American Navy Yard. This is one of a long line of events symbolizing the ancient friendship between France and the United States. It emphasizes the determination of this nation, and of all of the United Nations, to drive from the soil of France the Nazi invaders who today swagger down the Champs Elysees in Paris. This one transfer under the Lend-Lease Law is typical of the thousands of transfers of American-made weapons of war which have been made to our fighting allies. They are bringing closer the day of inevitable victory -- victory over our enemies on all the fronts all over the world.

No day could be more appropriate for this ceremony than the anniversary we now celebrate of the birth of that illustrious American who, in his time, struck such mighty blows for the liberty and dignity of the human race -- Abraham Lincoln.

In 1940 the Nazi invaders overran France.

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.

Actual Transcript

On behalf of the American people I declare to you
that of course this ceremony -- only by accident was it an
American day here. This is one of a long line of events
symbolizing the closest relationship between France and the
United States. It emphasizes the determination of this nation
and of all of our United Nations, as well as the world, to
thwart the Nazi invaders who today threaten the peace of
Europe in Paris. This one ceremony under the same roof
is typical of the thousands of sacrifices of American-made
weapons of war which have been made to our fighting allies.
They are bringing closer the day of decisive victory --
victory over our enemies on all the fronts will come the
world.

No day could be more appropriate for this ceremony
than the anniversary we now celebrate of the birth of that
illustrious American who, in his time, struck such mighty
blows for the liberty and dignity of the human race -- Abraham
Lincoln.

In 1940 the Nazi invaders overran France.

Although we were still on the sidelines, we in the United States realized the horror of that catastrophe -- and the grave menace it carried to all the civilized world.

The land of France fell to the enemy, but not so the ships of France. Today her fleet still proudly flies the tricolor in battle against our common enemy. At Nettuno and Anzio in Italy, French ships were among those which bombarded the German coastal installations. In a strategic sector of the Allied line now pushing toward Rome are French troops. Yes, the Nazis on the Italian front know only too well that France is not out of this war.

And the time will soon come when the Nazis in France will learn from millions of brave Frenchmen -- now underground -- that the people of France, also, are not at all out of this war.

In a sense this transaction today can be regarded not only as lend-lease -- it might (even) be regarded as reverse lend-lease. For in the early days of our national history this situation was reversed. At that time, instead of France receiving an American-made ship, the young nation of the United States was glad to receive -- happy to receive a ship made in France by Frenchmen -- the Bon Homme Richard -- a ship made illustrious under the command of John Paul Jones, in the days of our Navy's infancy. And it is well to remember that that ship was named in honor of our Minister to France, Benjamin Franklin -- that wise old philosopher who was the father of close friendship between France and the United States.

This vessel, which today we are turning over to the people of France, will somewhere, sometime, engage the enemy. She is a part of the growing strength of the French Navy. She is a new class -- a destroyer escort -- speedy and dangerous. I want to tell you something else about her -- that there are more where she came from. Under our Lend-Lease agreement, she is not the only ship that you will receive from us -- we are building others for your sailors to man.

I hope that the Nazis and the Japs are listening to us today as this transfer is made (we make this transfer). For it will help them better to understand the spirit and determination which binds together all of the fighting fleets and armies of the United Nations on the road to ultimate victory.

Vice Admiral Fenard, you are the senior officer of the French Navy (here), and you are the chief of the French Naval Mission here. It has been your duty to work with us in outfitting your fleet. My years of friendship with officers of the French Navy make this a particularly memorable occasion to me, personally. To you, we turn over this ship -- the SENEGALAIS. We recall with pleasure that it was a French ship which fired the first salute ever rendered to the Stars and Stripes flying from a United States Man-of-War. We remember that salute today -- and symbolically we return it.

Good luck, SENEGALAIS -- and good hunting.

STATEMENTS FILE

The following text of remarks by the President at the Washington Navy Yard on the occasion of the transfer of the destroyer escort SENEDALAIS to the French people, under the Lend-Lease Act, is for release in the newspapers appearing on the streets not earlier than 4:35 P.M., E.W.T., Saturday, February 12, 1944.

The same release also applies to radio announcers and news commentators.

CARE MUST BE EXERCISED TO PREVENT PREMATURE PUBLICATION.

STEPHEN EARLY
Secretary to the President

- 2 -

On behalf of the American people I transfer to the Navy of France this warship -- built by American hands in an American Navy Yard. This is one of a long line of events symbolizing the ancient friendship between France and the United States. It emphasizes the determination of this nation, and of all the United Nations, to drive from the soil of France the Nazi invaders who today swagger down the Champs Elysees in Paris. This one transfer under the Lend-Lease Law is typical of the thousands of transfers of American-made weapons of war which have been made to our fighting allies. They are bringing closer the day of inevitable victory over our enemies on all the fronts all over the world.

No day could be more appropriate for this ceremony than the anniversary we now celebrate of the birth of that illustrious American who, in his time, struck such mighty blows for the liberty and dignity of the human race -- Abraham Lincoln.

In 1940 the Nazi invaders overran France. Although we were still on the sidelines, we in the United States realized the horror of that catastrophe -- and the grave menace it carried to all the civilized world.

The land of France fell to the enemy, but not so the ships of France. Today her fleet still proudly flies the tricolor in battle against our common enemy. At Nottuno and Anzio, French ships were among those which bombarded the German coastal installations. In a strategic sector of the Allied line now pushing toward Rome are French troops. The Nazis on the Italian front know only too well that France is not out of this war.

And the time will soon come when the Nazis in France will learn from millions of brave Frenchmen -- now underground -- that the people of France, also, are not all out of this war.

In a sense this transaction today can be regarded not only as lend-lease -- it might even be regarded as reversed lend-lease. For in the early days of our national history this situation was reversed. At that time, instead of France receiving an American-made ship, the young nation of the United States was glad to receive a ship made in France by Frenchmen -- the Bon Homme Richard -- a ship made illustrious under the command of John Paul Jones, in the days of our Navy's infancy. And it is well to remember that that ship was named in honor of our Minister to France, Benjamin Franklin -- that wise old philosopher who was the father of close friendship between France and the United States.

This vessel, which today we are turning over to the people of France, will somewhere, sometime, engage the enemy. She is a part of the growing strength of the French Navy. She is a new class -- a destroyer escort -- speedy and dangerous. I want to tell you something else about her -- there are more where she came

2

from. Under our Lend-Lease agreement, she is not the only ship you will receive from us -- we are building others for your sailors to man.

10/14/46 I hope that the Nazis and the Japs are listening today as we make this transfer. For it will help them better to understand the spirit and determination which binds together all of the fighting fleets and armies of the United Nations on the road to ultimate victory.

Vice Admiral Fenard, you are the senior officer of the French Navy here, and you are the chief of the French Naval Mission. It has been your duty to work with us in outfitting your fleet. My years of friendship with officers of the French Navy make this a particularly memorable occasion to me, personally. To you, we turn over this ship -- the SENEGALAISE. We recall with pleasure that it was a French ship which fired the first salute ever rendered to the Stars and Stripes flying from a United States Man-of-War. We remember that salute today -- and symbolically return it.

Good luck, SENEGALAISE -- and good hunting.

tlc

1st Draft

(A)
[We are gathered here today on a welcome occasion. We are celebrating the transfer under Lend Lease of a warship, built by American hands in an American Navy Yard, to the Navy of France.]

There is much that is symbolic in this transfer. The friendship of France for America and America for France goes back to the very birth of our republic. Today, when the grey-clad, ~~the~~ ^{the} Nazis tramp the Champs Elysees in Paris, it is fitting that we in America reaffirm that friendship.]

In 1940, the country of France fell to the invading Germans. At that time, we in this country were still, so to speak, on the sidelines. But we heard the news of the fall of France with genuine horror. ~~There were still those in this country who thought we could stay out of this conflict between civilization and barbarism. But the handwriting was plain upon the wall.~~ Sooner or later France and America would be fighting side by side--as we had fought side by side before.

Indeed, France never ceased fighting. The land of France fell to the enemy but not so the ships of France. ~~For~~

[Your fleet still proudly flies the tricolor into battle. ~~against our~~ ^{against our} ~~common~~ ^{common} ~~enemy~~ ^{enemy}]

[It has been part of our moral and military duty to help, in every way possible, the outfitting and upkeep of your fleet. It was our pleasure, some months ago, to welcome to these shores several units of your fleet, including your great battleship, the RICHELIEU. Those ships needed repairs]

pushing forward

[and armament. These we were able to provide and today you are fighting our common enemy.] At Nettuno and Anzio, French ships were among those which bombarded the German coastal installations. [Meanwhile, as you know, ^{an} a strategic sector of the Allied line ^{are} closing in on Rome] was being pushed forward by French troops. [Yes, German officers may be dining in Paris restaurants, but ^{Nazis} the ~~Germans~~ on the Italian front know only too well that France is not out of this war. (B)]

Today, through Admiral Penard, ~~the people of~~ France ~~are taking~~ possession of a ship built by Americans. I like to remember that in the early days of our history this situation was exactly reversed. Then, we took possession of a ship built in France. For it was in France that was built the BON HOMME RICHARD, whose illustrious ~~cruise~~ ^{cruise} in the days of our Navy's infancy is well-known to all. And to make this historic parallel even closer, I should point out that John Paul Jones named his ship in honor of Benjamin Franklin, our Minister to France, the wise old ^{philosopher} ~~author of Poor Richard's~~ ^{who was the father of Clara} ~~Almanack, and at that early date in our history a precedent of Franco-American relations.~~

I speak to you today as Commander-in-Chief of our Army and Navy and I speak to you ^{in the dawn of history} ~~on the eve of history.~~ ^{Not} ~~"now", I do not mean that victory will come overnight~~ ^{without a fight} ~~for~~ ^{my belief} ~~that it will not be costly.~~ But I know, and our enemy knows,

[that our armed forces and our combined fleets ~~cannot be~~ ^{will win through} resisted. The pendulum has swung far from the dark days of 1940. Each morning's sun brings closer the day of France's liberation.]

This vessel, which today we are turning over to the people of France, will somewhere, some time, engage the enemy. She is ^{a part of} [an addition to] the growing ^{strength} ~~part~~ of the French Navy. She is a new class--a destroyer escort--speedy and dangerous. [She will be of help to you; and therefore to us.] I want to tell you something else about her--"there are more where she came from." Under our Lend Lease agreement, she is not the only ship you will receive from us--we are building others for you. I hope the Axis ^{is listening} ~~partners in crime~~ ^{are hearing} ~~us~~ today. [There will be others.]

Vice Admiral Penard, you are the senior officer of the French Navy and you are the chief of the French Naval Mission, ^{it} whose ^{your duty} duty it has been to work with us in the [outfitting of] your fleet. My years of friendship with officers of the French Navy make this a particularly memorable occasion to me, personally. To you, [therefore], we turn over this ship, the SENEGALAISE. We recall that it was a French ship which fired the first salute ever rendered to the Stars and Stripes flying from a United States Man-of-War ~~and today~~ ^{today} we remember that salute ^{and} symbolically return it. ^P Good luck, SENEGALAISE, and good hunting.

with pleasure

Second
Draft

On behalf of the American people I transfer to the Navy of France this warship -- built by American hands in an American Navy Yard. This is one of a long line of events symbolizing the ancient friendship between France and the United States. It emphasizes the determination of this nation, and of all the United Nations, to drive from the soil of France the Nazi invaders who today swagger down the Champs Elysees in Paris. This one transfer under the Lend-Lease Law is typical of the thousands of transfers of American-made weapons of war which have been made to our fighting allies. They are bringing closer the day of inevitable victory over our enemies on all the fronts all over the world. Insert A to

In 1940 the Nazi invaders overran France. Although we were still on the sidelines, ~~at that time~~, we in the United States realized the horror of that catastrophe -- and the grave menace it carried to all the civilized world.

~~Fortunately, not all of France, not all Frenchmen, ceased fighting against the slavery which faced them.~~

The land of France fell to the enemy, but not so the ships of France. Today her fleet still proudly flies the tricolor in battle against our common enemy. At Nettuno and Anzio, French ships were among those which bombarded the German coastal installations. In a strategic sector of the Allied line now pushing toward Rome are French troops. The Nazis on the Italian front know only too well that France is not out of this war.

Suggested insert to follow paragraph one, page one - incident to transfer of American-made warship to Navy of France

A

No day could be more appropriate for this ceremony than the anniversary we now celebrate of the birth of that illustrious American who, in his time, struck such mighty blows for the liberty and dignity of the human race -- Abraham Lincoln.

And the time will soon come when the Nazis in France will learn from millions of brave Frenchmen -- now underground -- that the people of France, also, are not all out of this war.

In a sense this transaction today can be regarded not only as lend-lease -- it might even be regarded as reverse lend-lease. For in the early days of our national history this situation was reversed. At that time, instead of France ^{700,000 tons} ~~taking possession of~~ an American-made ship, the young nation of the United States was glad to ^{700,000 tons} ~~take possession of~~ a ship made in France by Frenchmen -- the Bon Homme Richard -- a ship made illustrious under the command of John Paul Jones, in the days of our Navy's infancy. And it is well to remember that that ship was named in honor of our Minister to France, Benjamin Franklin -- that wise old philosopher who was the father of ~~traditional~~ close friendship between France and the United States.

This vessel, which today we are turning over to the people of France, will somewhere, some time, engage the enemy. She is a part of the growing strength of the French Navy. She is a new class -- a destroyer escort -- speedy and dangerous. I want to tell you something else about her -- there are more where she came from. Under our Lend-Lease agreement, she is not the only ship you will receive from us -- we are building others for you! *Richard D. ...*

I hope that the Nazis and the Japs are listening today as we make this transfer. For it will help them

better to understand the spirit and determination which binds together all of the fighting fleets and armies of the United Nations on the road to ultimate victory.

Vice Admiral Fenard, you are the senior officer of the French Navy ^{here,} and you are the chief of the French Naval Mission. It _^ has been your duty to work with us in outfitting your fleet. My years of friendship with officers of the French Navy make this a particularly memorable occasion to me, personally. To you, we turn over this ship -- the SENE GALAISE. We recall with pleasure that it was a French ship which fired the first salute ever rendered to the Stars and Stripes flying from a United States Man-of-War. We remember that salute today -- and symbolically return it.

Good luck, SENE GALAISE, -- and good hunting.

- - - - -

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 10, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE PRESIDENT

This is a re-write of the
draft submitted to you for the
transfer of the SENEGALAISE,
which is also attached.



S. I. R.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 11, 1944

Grace:

The Judge asked me to let
you know that the draft of the
speech for tomorrow has been
cleared with Admiral Brown.

Kitty

11/2/44

Lt. Eusey:-

1. The statement regarding French ships at Nettuno and Anzio is correct.
 2. Adm. Fouard is the senior officer of the French Navy.
 3. It is considered desirable that the words "in the United States" be added after the words "French Navy Mission".
 4. The statement regarding the first salute to the Stars & Stripes is correct.
- J.B. Eusey

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

F.
2/12/44

February 10, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. STEPHEN EARLY

This is my re-write of that
draft for the transfer of the
SENEGALAISE.

Jan

S. I. R. *25453*

* Suggested insert to follow the first paragraph, page one -- incident to the tranfer of the warship to the Navy of France

No day could be more appropriate for this ceremony than the anniversary we now celebrate of the birth of that illustrious American who, in his time, struck such mighty blows for the liberty and dignity of the human race -- Abraham Lincoln.

On behalf of the American people I transfer to the Navy of France this warship -- built by American hands in an American Navy Yard. This is one of a long line of events symbolizing the ancient friendship between France and the United States. It emphasizes the determination of this nation and of all the United Nations to drive from the soil of France the Nazi invaders who today swagger down the Champs Elysees in Paris. This one transfer under the Lend-Lease Law is typical of the thousands of transfers of American-made weapons of war which have been made to our fighting allies. They are bringing closer the day of inevitable victory over our enemies on all the fronts all over the world.

In 1940 the Nazi invaders overran France. Although we were still on the sidelines, so to speak, we in the United States realized the horror of that catastrophe -- and the grave menace it carried to all the civilized world.

Fortunately, not all of France, not all Frenchmen, ceased fighting against the slavery which faced them.

The land of France fell to the enemy, but not so the ships of France. Today her fleet still proudly flies the tricolor into battle against our common enemy. At Nettuno and Anzio, French ships were among those which bombarded the German coastal installations. In a strategic sector of the Allied line now pushing toward Rome are French troops. The Nazis on the Italian front know only too well that France is not out of this war.

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This vessel, which today we are turning over to the people of France, will somewhere, some time, engage the enemy. She is a part of the growing strength of the French Navy. She is a new class -- a destroyer escort -- speedy and dangerous. I want to tell you something else about her -- there are more where she came from. Under our Lend-Lease agreement, she is not the only ship you will receive from us -- we are building others for you.

I hope that the Nazis and the Japs are listening today as we make this transfer. For it will help them

better to understand the spirit and determination which binds together all of the fighting fleets and armies of the United Nations, ~~on the road to ultimate victory.~~

Vice Admiral Fenard, you are the senior officer of the French Navy and you are the chief of the French Naval Mission. It has been your duty to work with us in outfitting your fleet. My years of friendship with officers of the French Navy make this a particularly memorable occasion to me, personally. To you, we turn over this ship -- the SENE GALAISE. We recall with pleasure that it was a French ship which fired the first salute ever rendered to the Stars and Stripes flying from a United States Man-of-War. We remember that salute today -- and symbolically return it.

Good luck, SENE GALAISE, -- and good hunting.

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THE WHITE HOUSE



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From the Papers of

Samuel I. Rosenman

FEBRUARY 12, 1944 - "Transfer of
Senegalese"

speech

(2)

February 12, 1944 - Transfer of Senegalese Speech

Turning over Senegalese to French Navy - corrections on
draft by ? Original draft submitted by Navy

Veto of Feb. 18, 1944 - Food Subsidies

Suggested message sent by Chester Bowles

June 5, 1944 - Fall of Rome

Fourth Draft - corrections by S.I.R. - 8 pages

State Dept. suggestions for changes in carbon which is really 5th and
final draft



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From the Papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 10, 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR ADMIRAL BROWN

Dear Admiral:

Attached is a re-write of a draft of a speech to be made by the President on the occasion of the transfer of the SENEGALESE the day after tomorrow.

The original draft was submitted to the President by the Navy, I believe.

However, I would appreciate it if you would have someone check all of the facts in the attached as I am not sure of them.



S. I. R.



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From the papers of
Samuel I. Rosenman

(Original to Audrey Turner)

11/2/44

Lt. Elsey:-

1. The statement regarding French ships at Nettuno and Anzio is correct.
2. Adm. Fenard is the Senior officer of the French Navy.
3. It is considered desirable that the words "in the United States" be added after the words "French Naval Mission".
4. The statement regarding the first salute to the Stars & Stripes is correct.

F. B. Gary



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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

From the Papers of
SAMUEL T. BOGGS

Speech - 2/12/44

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 10, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE PRESIDENT

This is a re-write of the
draft submitted to you for the
transfer of the SENEGALAIST,
which is also attached.

S. I. R.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 10, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR
HON. STEPHEN EARLY

This is my re-write of that
draft for the transfer of the
SENEGALAIST.

S. I. R.



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From the Papers of
Seward, I. Rosenberg

February 10, 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR ADMIRAL BROWN

Dear Admiral:

Attached is a re-write of a draft of a speech to be made by the President on the occasion of the transfer of the GENERALAIS~~IS~~ the day after tomorrow.

The original draft was submitted to the President by the Navy, I believe.

However, I would appreciate it if you would have someone check all of the facts in the attached as I am not sure of them.

S. I. R.



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WASH. D.C. 20540

From the Papers of
Franklin D. Roosevelt

Vice Admiral R. Fenard

February 12, 1944.

Mr. President :

It is a great privilege for me to receive from you today in the name of the French Navy this beautiful ship, LE SENEGALAIS.

She will be a symbol and carry overseas proof of the unshaken ties which unite our two countries for the cause of Freedom.

As a man of broad humanity Mr. President you have never lost faith in your fellow men and your prophetic vision has always steered America on to the path of the ultimate Victory.

France from within has forged in despair and four long years of suffering a new ferocious energy.

From within and from without men and women continue to fight their oppressors, without arms, without great battles and without glory.

A fight of sacred hate and great faith. This faith in liberty which has been the soul of our land through centuries, this faith, the last shroud of our anonymous dead.



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SPRING FIELDS, N. Y.

From the Papers of
SIR ARTHUR J. BURNHAM

France knows how powerful have grown her Allies
and she now needs her friends.

She looks to those of us more fortunate than
herself, ^{who} were ~~add~~ able to escape from the Nazi web, to
return side by side with you and share the full weight
of the struggle.

For France will never accept shame and can
have nothing to do with pity.

For such a goal the French sailors will be
proud to fight from the Atlantic to the Pacific with
their American friends who so gallantly serve under your
high command.

And I ask, Mr. President, is it a mere
coincidence that your symbolic gesture should take place
today on the anniversary of your great Lincoln?...
whose words still ring clear, spurring our fighting youth :
" Those who deny Freedom to others deserve it not for
themselves, and under a just God they cannot long
retain it ".

As those two ensigns fly side by side above
the SENEGALAIS at his moment, so the Tricolor will stay



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From the Papers of

Samuel I. Rosenbaum

beside the Stars and Stripes to Victory, and beyond,
defending a world of peace and freedom for all men.

Long live the United States

Long live the Allied Nations

Vive la France.



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from the Papers of

Samuel T. Bowdoin

On behalf of the American people I transfer to the Navy of France this warship -- built by American hands in an American Navy Yard. This is one of a long line of events symbolizing the ancient friendship between France and the United States. It emphasizes the determination of this nation and of all the United Nations to drive from the soil of France the Nazi invaders who today swagger down the Champs Elysees in Paris. This one transfer under the Lend-Lease Law is typical of the thousands of transfers of American-made weapons of war which have been made to our fighting allies. They are bringing closer the day of inevitable victory over our enemies on all the fronts all over the world.

In 1940 the Nazi invaders overran France. Although we were still on the sidelines, so to speak, we in the United States realized the horror of that catastrophe -- and the grave menace it carried to all the civilized world.

Fortunately, not all of France, not all Frenchmen, ceased fighting against the slavery which faced them.

The lend of France fell to the enemy, but not so the ships of France. Today her fleet still proudly flies the tricolor into battle against our common enemy. At Nettuno and Anzio, French ships were among those which bombarded the German coastal installations. In a strategic sector of the Allied line now pushing toward Rome are French troops. The Nazis on the Italian front know only too well that France is not out of this war.



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Sigmund I. Rosenbaum

And the time will soon come when the Nazis in France will learn from millions of brave Frenchmen -- now underground -- that the people of France, also, are not all out of this war.

In a sense this transaction today can be regarded not only as lend-lease -- it might even be regarded as reverse lend-lease. For in the early days of our national history this situation was reversed. At that time, instead of France taking possession of an American-made ship, the young nation of the United States was glad to take possession of a ship made in France by Frenchmen -- the Bon Homme Richard -- a ship made illustrious under the command of John Paul Jones, in the days of our Navy's infancy. And it is well to remember that that ship was named in honor of our Minister to France, Benjamin Franklin -- that wise old philosopher who was the father of traditional close friendship between France and the United States.

This vessel, which today we are turning over to the people of France, will somewhere, some time, engage the enemy. She is a part of the growing strength of the French Navy. She is a new class -- a destroyer escort -- speedy and dangerous. I want to tell you something else about her -- there are more where she came from. Under our Lend-Lease agreement, she is not the only ship you will receive from us -- we are building others for you.

I hope that the Nazis and the Japs are listening today as we make this transfer. For it will help them



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better to understand the spirit and determination which binds together all of the fighting fleets and armies of the United Nations on the road to ultimate victory.

here Vice Admiral Fenard, you are the senior officer of the [?] *(in Fm. U.S.?)* French Navy and you are the chief of the French Naval Mission. It has been your duty to work with us in outfitting your fleet. My years of friendship with officers of the French Navy make this a particularly memorable occasion to me, personally. To you, we turn over this ship -- the SENEGALAISE. We recall with pleasure that it was a French ship which fired the first [?] salute ever rendered to the Stars and Stripes flying from a United States Man-of-War. We remember that salute today -- and symbolically return it.

Good luck, SENEGALAISE, -- and good hunting.



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