

August 9, 1944

[Remarks to Members of the USS Baltimore]

FDR Speech File

Captain Calhoun, Officers and Men of the Baltimore.

I wanted to say just a word of goodbye to you, but before doing so I want to say a word of thanks to you. I have had a wonderful trip. It has been a grand privilege, first, to get away from Washington, and secondly to have had this wonderful cruise with you. I have learned a lot. That is one reason why I am still taking trips whenever I get a chance, and I prefer trips on cruisers of the United States Navy. I have never been on one of these post-war, post-treaty cruisers before, but I am very familiar with the old heavy cruiser of the 10,000-ton class. It is an amazing thing to me to see the improvements that have been made. I think this is not only a wonderful ship, but also a happy crew, because of all that I had read before I came on board of the really grand record this ship and you people on the Baltimore have made. That is something the whole Navy will always be proud of. Not many ships in the entire service have had as many opportunities for combat in time of war as this ship has had or have conducted themselves better - or made a greater record.

And now there comes the time when I am going back to work, and I take it that you are going back, I hope, for a chance to play a little. And you richly deserve it. I hope you have a very happy liberty, and when the time comes all of you will be back in service continuing this tremendously important work, the work of winning this, the greatest of all wars. And when you get through and get home, I wish for you many years of happiness with your families, and a sense that you have done your part for your country, and, furthermore, that the President of the United States has told you that he is mighty proud of you. Good luck. Goodbye.

Remarks made by the President, 1515, August 9, 1944, on leaving the U.S.S. BALTIMORE.

This speech copy was found by the donor, A.O. Reed,
in the book donated. Donor letter mentions this

Aboard the USS Baltimore,
Julie Bay, Juneau, Alaska
August 9, 1944

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ADDRESS TO THE OFFICERS
AND CREW OF THE U.S.S. BALTIMORE

"Captain Calhoun, Officers and men of the U.S.S. Baltimore:---

"Shipmates; I wanted to come up here this afternoon to say goodbye to you, but before that, I want to thank you for the wonderful cruise that we have had together. Before I came on board, I had followed the record of the Baltimore; 15 engagements with the enemy. You are a happy crew, well disciplined, and have a record the U. S. Navy will be proud of. There are very few ships of the fleet that have had the opportunity that this ship has had for combat against the enemy.

"Yes, I am still making trips, and every ~~XXX~~ opportunity I have to get away from Washington, I do so. One of the reasons that I enjoy making these trips, is that I always learn something new. In the past I have always made my trips on the 10,000 ton type cruiser. This is my first trip on a post-treaty cruiser, and I can say that a lot of improvements have been made.

"I am going back to Washington to work, and you, from what I gather, are going back to play. You are going back for leave which you justly deserve. I trust you will be back on time.

"We are joined together to win this war---the greatest of all wars, and when it is over and you return to your families, you can say that the President of the United States said he was proud of you. I wish you all good health, happiness, and long life. I say now, good-luck, good-bye."

F.D.R.

RECEIVED
JAN 10 1964
U.S. AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION
OBTAINED FROM THE ABOVE SOURCE

1. The following information was obtained from the above source:

2. The following information was obtained from the above source:

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