

EXTRA!

EXTRA!

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THE RATTTLER

B-29s FROM PYOTE TO TOKYO!

Rattlesnake Army Air Field, Pyote, Texas April 13, 1945

FDR DIES

PRESIDENT TRUMAN SWORN IN

President Franklin D. Roosevelt, 32nd President of the United States, passed away at 4:35 (CWT, at the home he loved so well—the Warm Springs, Ga. Infantile Paralysis Foundation).

His death came as a surprise to the people of the nation, and to the world. Although the President's condition has been considered "poor" since his return from the Yalta conference with Churchill and Stalin, the news was not released for reasons of military security.

The President was resting at Warm Springs, and his condition was not considered "serious". While having his portrait painted, he fainted at 1:15 PM from a cerebral hemorrhage, and never regained consciousness.

Funeral arrangements have been planned for Saturday afternoon at the east room of the White House. Vice President Truman was sworn into office late this afternoon and his first act was to announce that the "cabinet please remain in office".

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

THE RATTLER

PYOTE, TEXAS

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RATTLESNAKE ARMY AIR FIELD

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A Pledge

The Commander-in-Chief is dead. He died at his post as a soldier. He gave himself unflinchingly, without thought of personal health or comfort. He has served his nation as few men have; he has given all that any man can give to the country he loves—a loyalty and devotion even unto the great sacrifice.

He died in the service of his country, as many a man has died at Bizerte, Anzio, Iwo Jima, Normandy, and Ardennes.

The new C.O. has taken over. President Truman has vouchsafed a cause as common as that of the GI on the field. He has no other hope or purpose than the one that motivates the men at the front, the men training the warriors—that purpose: to win the war and to win the peace, so that our children and our children's children may never know the fearful toll of carnage.

As our Commander-in-Chief, we respect Truman. As a soldier, we know we echo the pledge of loyalty to his commands; to his beliefs and his efforts.

To that end, we pledge ourselves. This sorrowful day in the history of the country—so close to the inevitable victory—this sorrowful day, we must repledge ourselves to that

Everybody Should Become "Safe Landing" Conscious

The 2AF Fifth Flying Safety Program began Monday, April 9. The program is of eight weeks duration, each week stressing a certain phase of flying safety. Safe Landing Week is this initial week of the program.

During this week **everyone** should become Safe Landing conscious. All flying personnel should learn and practice their specific duties connected with landing. Airplane commander and pilot, engineer, scanners, radio operators, all have specific duties they should make instinctive. Safe landings are not the responsibility of the airplane commander and pilot alone. Everyone is concerned.

And by everyone not only those remaining men on the flying crew are meant. Ground crew men, too, have an integral part in those safe landings. Proper maintenance and thorough inspections of landing gears, flaps, controls, the whole airplane, are vital to safe landings. The combat crews, the maintenance crews, inspection personnel, all know their duties and the importance of them.

But even the men and women, military and civilian alike, who perhaps have never been near an airplane, who work in offices which seem only remotely connected with the actual flying activities of the field, who deal with supplies or administration—they, too, are important to safe landings!

It all boils down to the fact that all are here for one purpose; to train crews for successful combat! And every job on the field is a necessary part of that training program.

If you're a cook or a KP in the mess halls, or a cook, or food server, or bus girl, or dish washer in the PX, or civilian mess, or service club, the way you cook that food, the way you serve it, the condition of the silver and the tables, all these things add up to important factors in our health, and our morale. Tasty, well prepared food served quickly and neatly on clean china and with clean silverware, in clean, pleas-

cause, that common cause with the new President.

Taking over such a job is not an easy task. It will require not only our efforts, our assistance, but certainly, our prayers.

To that cause, we pledge ourselves to the new President. May God guide him, and us, through the dawn-streaked days ahead.

President's Death Curtails Amusements

Because of the death of President Roosevelt, all entertainment activities at the field were either cancelled or postponed until further notice.

Colonel Key made this announcement shortly after 5 o'clock Thursday evening as soon as the news reports of the President's death had been confirmed.

The movie scheduled at the field theaters was cancelled, and the performances of "Victories of '45", scheduled for Thursday and Friday nights, were postponed. The Friday evening dance scheduled for the Rec. Hall was also cancelled.

The new opening date for "Victories of '45" will be announced later. The show will probably be presented on two nights during the coming week. The movies will be resumed as soon as word is received from Washington.

BOMBER LOSSES ONLY 2% IN ETO DURING '44

An average of less than two of every 100 bombers dispatched on combat missions by the U.S. Strategic Air Forces in the European and Mediterranean theaters during 1944 were lost to enemy action, the War Department has announced.

ant surroundings, has a salutary affect on morale, and is the basis of glowing health. The Base Surgeon will tell you that.

In civilian life, the prod that makes you do your job better all the time is the knowledge that if you don't, you'll lose that job. That prod is not nearly as noticeable in Civil Service or the Army; we know that it is easy to get into the rut of "just getting by" in our work. But in the Army and in CS we've got a greater reason for being "on the beam". The better we do our job, the shorter will be the war! Shortening the war by one week, one day, even one hour will save us countless lives.

So let's fix up that foul up! Change that familiar Army phrase SNAFU, from "Situation Normal, all fouled up" to SNAFU—"Situation normal, all fixed up"!

From Farm Cabin To The White House; Truman

At 7:08 p.m. (CWT) Harry Shippe Truman became President of the United States of America. The neat grey man from Missouri had stepped from his Number 2 place to Number 1 spot, where he would head 130 million people from 48 states, the seventh time in U.S. history the vice president had stepped into the office at the death of a president.

The President aptly described himself to press correspondents just after his nomination: "I am a work horse". The phrase covered his principle virtues, industry and loyalty. In his first statement on future policies, the new President said he would continue the plans of his predecessor and requested the Roosevelt-appointed cabinet to remain at their posts. He would depend greatly on their experience and loyalty, Truman said.

Born in 1894 in a log cabin on a Missouri farm, Harry Shippe Truman had traveled far to his new home on Capital Hill. His early days were spent on his father's farm, where he often hired out to help with the neighbor's crops. In later years, Truman worked as railroad clerk, mail clerk, and bank cashier, finally was elected county judge, and married the girl he had gone to Sunday School with.

He had been a World War hero, (an artillery captain, he saved his panicky battery from a German trap in the St. Mihiel fighting.

By 1934 Harry Truman had become the presiding judge of Jackson County, Mo. From the county bench, he moved into the seat of a United States Senator. World War II brought the name of Truman into light, when he headed a special Senate committee investigating war expenditures. Harry Truman put his plodding talents to smoking out Army waste, business grabs and government inefficiency. Although his committee went quietly about its snooping, people gradually learned that Truman knew what he was talking about. In every department and bureau, expenses were slashed, and Harry Truman won the praise of millions.

When in July, the Democratic convention put his name in second place for the November election, Harry Truman had the support of the South (his Confederate parents were driven from their home in the Civil War), the Negro, (he had voted as a liberal on Negro measures, such as anti-poll tax), and the wise politicians who remembered his loyalty.

On the Democratic ticket, with his name printed under that of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry

Shippe Truman was elected vice president. In little more than three months, he became president of the United States.

The job he has before him is a gigantic one, but confident of the wisdom of his cabinet, and the unity of the American people, Harry Shippe Truman took the oath as President of the United States with confidence.

Harry Truman spent his years in the United States Senate with good advantage. It can be safely said that few men have served in the Senate that were more liked than Harry Truman. That work is going to help him now that he is President of the United States, to put through world negotiations for the Peace.

Truman has one great asset as a man of bouyant personality. He likes people and he doesn't have trouble getting along with them. It is important for the cooperation in the White House. It will be a vital feature in working out the nation's post-war plans.

Truman's acceptance of advice and dependence on counselors are two important features in the 32nd Chief Executive of the United States.

Truman became the 7th vice-president to take over the highest office in the land. Tyler, Fillmore, Johnson, Arthur, Teddy Roosevelt, and Coolidge took over from the vice-presidency upon the deaths of W. H. Harrison, Taylor, Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley, and Harding. Lincoln, Garfield, and McKinley were victims of assassins. The other three died natural deaths.

"Watch dog of the White House" was the name for Truman. Informed of the President's failing health, he had kept a ready vigil, at the request of state leaders, to be ready if called upon.

REFUGEE JEWS FIGHT GERMANS IN ITALY

Carrying the star of David, an all-Jewish brigade has gone into action on the Italian front against the Nazis. The brigade, representing a part of the one million Jews serving in Allied Armies, is composed of Palestinian Jews and refugees in England.

ARMY DEVISES NEW SAFEGUARD FROM BURNS

The Army has designed a new safeguard to protect GIs from the hazards of burns from bazookas and flame throwers. Called "flash-burn", it is applied to face, hands, and other exposed parts of the skin.

News of President's Death Shocks Nation

The announcement of the death of the President of the United States was released Thursday afternoon by the Presidential Secretary, Steve Early. The announcement was as follows: "The President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt, passed away in his sleep this afternoon at 3:35 PM (EWT) at Warm Springs, Georgia."

The Secretary's voice trembled as he made this fateful announcement. The President had been in ill health for the past four or five months but he had remained with his task to the end. He had left the White House only a few days ago to go to the place he had often called 'the little White House'.

Mrs. Roosevelt received the news in a manner which indicated that she was aware of his condition when he went to Warm Springs. She sent the following message: "Your father slept away this afternoon. He did his job to the end as he would have you do, too. Bless you all. All our love." It was signed "Mother". Mrs. Roosevelt plans to leave Washington Friday for Warm Springs.

The President's body will be returned to Washington for funeral services Saturday. The services will be held in the East Room of the White House. Burial will be at Hyde Park, New York.

Met at the door by Early, Truman was taken immediately to Mrs. Roosevelt. It was the First Lady who told Truman of the President's death, and replied to his extended sympathies, "I am more sorry for the people of the country and the world than I am for us."

Funeral plans were incomplete late Thursday night. Plans were announced that rites would take place at the East Room of the White House Saturday. The remains were to be sent back from Warm Springs to Washington at 8 o'clock Saturday morning.

Two and a half hours after the death of Roosevelt, Truman took the oath.

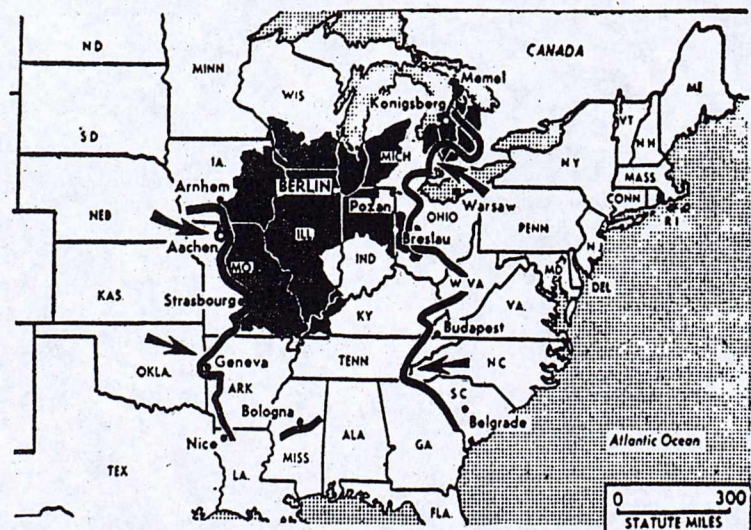
Roosevelt had complained of a headache and lost consciousness within a few minutes. Earlier in the day, the President had appeared in good health and spirits. His last words were: "I have a terrific headache". He laid his hand on the back of his head and within a few minutes lost consciousness.

Roosevelt boasted a keen mind, a warm personality, and an invigorating spirit. His normal day would put younger men to shame. A constant worker, working for national reform and later for world reform, he literally sacrificed his life in the interests of his nation.

NAVY'S YOUNGEST ENSIGN GETS \$10,000 ROYALTIES

Ensign Jerome Tamkin, at 18, the youngest commissioned officer in the Navy, is receiving \$10,000 a year in royalties for his invention of an explosive gas vapor detector.

In his first five minutes of action, Sgt. Clifford Harmon, 27, killed a total of 29 Japs, 26 with a flame thrower, one with a blow from its butt, one with a grenade, and one with a tommy gun.



In the past few weeks, Allied Armies have rushed forward. The above map, superimposing Germany on the U. S., placing Berlin at Chicago. U. S.

troops are the distance that Belmont, Ill. is from Chicago. The Russians are the distance that Whiting, Indiana is from the Windy City.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The President was 63 years old last January 30th. His inaugural last January 21st started his fourth consecutive term as the nation's chief executive in an era that was marked by depression, recovery, global war, and—almost global peace.

Greatest lament of Washington news commentators was that the President might not have lived to see "unconditional surrender" imposed upon the German nation.

At 4:05, Warm Springs Foundation called Admiral McIntyre at Washington, D. C., Admiral Ross McIntyre being personal physician to the President, reported the fact that the President was in a coma. Commander Paulin, physician at Warm Springs, called again at 3:30, stating that the President had been moved from a couch to a bed, and his condition remained the same. The next news came at 4:35 when the announcement was made by the Presidential secretary, William B. Hassock, that the President was dead.

Mrs. Roosevelt had been informed of his condition while at her club. She hurried to the White House. Upon hearing the news of the death of her husband, she remarked: "I feel more sorry for all the people of the country than for us".

The news was flashed to Prime Minister Winston Churchill whose immediate reaction was: "Good Lord!" He issued no further statement.

General Charles de Gaulle sent condolences on behalf of France. "I will be in mourning for President Roosevelt for he is my friend," remarked a French peasant woman.

News commentators were on the verge of tears as they told the sorrowful story to the American people.

Shortly after 5 PM, Vice-President Harry S. Truman was called. Before 7 PM, Chief Justice Harlan Fiske Stone was called to the White House and Truman took the oath as Chief Executive of the United States at 7:08 PM, shortly before his 51st birthday.

President Roosevelt was 63. None of his family were at his bedside when death came. His wife was in Washington, where the President was expected to return the first part of next week. His four sons are serving with the Armed Forces. Mrs. Roosevelt sent wires to the boys telling them: "Your father slept away." She told them that he had remained at his post, as she was sure their father expected them to do.

The news spread fast through the Washington capital and the city had gone into mourning for one of the most electrifying Presidents the country ever had. The death, on the even of the San Francisco Conference for the United Nations, cast a temporary pall on peace plans.

The forgotten man, Harry S. Truman, became the 33rd President of the United States. He had been informed of the President's condition, and for weeks had been prepared for any sudden event. When informed of the news, he told his Washington office staff, "I'm going to the White House", and left.

The President had had a colorful career. His start in politics came during the last war when he was named Assistant Secretary of the Navy under Secretary Joseph Daniels. His career in political circles was cut short by an attack of infantile paralysis in 1921.

Under the guidance of physicians, and with the aid of capable friends, he returned to the limelight, and in 1924 nominated his friend, Al Smith, for the nomination on the Democratic ticket, referring to Al as "The Happy Warrior". The sight of this popular figure, his form supported by crutches, won the enthusiasm of the convention.

In 1928, when Smith ran for the Presidency and forsook his gubernatorial position of New York state, Roosevelt was placed on the ballots for the Governorship. Though Smith lost the Presidential race, Roosevelt was acclaimed Governor of New York by a substantial margin. In 1932, he was nominated as Democratic candidate for President. He defeated the incumbent, Hoover; and up for

re-election in 1936 (with John Nance Garner of Texas as his running mate) defeated Alfred M. Landon. In 1940, running for the unprecedented third term, he defeated Wendell Willkie. And last November, this time coupled with Harry Truman, won the election over Thomas Dewey.

Dewey sent condolences to the Roosevelt family saying, "The freedom loving people all over the world will mourn the loss of the President", upon hearing of the death.

The new President, Harry S. Truman, literally came to the Presidency from a farm-cabin. Best known for his stern economy, Truman announced that he would carry out the policies of the late President, but would, of necessity, lay more responsibility on the members of the cabinet.

Secretary of Commerce Wallace, running mate with Roosevelt in 1940, was so overcome with grief upon hearing the news, that he had to be carried from the room by Edward Stettinius, Secretary of State.

The news was flashed to the European continent, and Reuters reported that Berlin had announced the news with no com-



PRESIDENT HARRY SHIPPE TRUMAN

ment.

President Truman requested that all members of the Roosevelt cabinet remain in office. White House sources announced that the San Francisco conference would be held as scheduled the 26th of the month.

Throughout the world the people were shocked and grieved to hear the news. The cop on the beat outside the White House shook his head sadly. The boys on the newly-won island of Iwo Jima pondered the death.

White House announcements indicated that the President was fatigued after his exerted trip to Yalta, and had not been in good health since. The past few days he had complained that food was tasteless to him. However his visit to Warm Springs was in a recuperative manner, and his condition was not described as serious until his coma this afternoon brought on his rapid death.

Only Commander Paulin was at his side when death came. He died in his sleep as the result of a cerebral hemorrhage.

Thus, for the first time since 1923, a President died in office. And Harry S. Truman became the 7th vice-president to have the highest job in the United States

thrust on his shoulders.

President Roosevelt was more than a Chief Executive. His powers as a wartime President were the greatest in the history of the United States. His smile, his charm, his personality had made peoples throughout the world look upon Roosevelt as a personal exemplification of the United States.

As early as 1937 (at the dedication of Chicago's outer-shore-drive) he had ruthlessly denounced the wartime aggressors—Japan's attack on China, and the Italian rape of Ethiopia. He encouraged other nations of the world to "quarantine these aggressors".

The death of Roosevelt came 80 years to the day after the death of Abraham Lincoln, murdered by John Wilkes Booth, at Ford Theatre.

The telephone rang shrilly on the desk—heaped high with documents and unsigned papers. Vice President Truman broke away from his work, lifted the receiver to hear Stephen Early's voice urging him to come to the White House immediately. Without hesitation, he hurried out of the neat office, across the city to the house on Capital Hill.