

These boys presented the appearance of well seasoned, and completely equipped, troops - ready for combat duty anywhere. One of their officers told us that all physically unfits had been weeded out from this division and those remaining were in top physical condition.

After an inspection of the 80th Division in bivouac, which inspection included a drive through the entire division, the party returned to the area where the honor detachment was drawn up, departure honors were rendered, and the President returned to the train. Before entraining, however, he chatted for a while with Governor Cooper, Lieutenant General Lear and Major General McBride.

At 3:30 P.M. (CWT), we pulled out of Camp Forrest for Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Arkansas, going by way of Nashville and Memphis, Tennessee.

Sunday 18 April

(Forenoon)

Camp Joseph T. Robinson (formerly known as Camp Pike) is located seven miles north of Little Rock. It is the site of the Army's only Branch Immaterial Replacement Training Center. Recruits are received here for basic training (13 weeks), at the completion of which the soldiers are available for assignment to any of the several branches of the Army (air corps, medical corps, signal corps, for instance). The present strength of Camp Robinson is approximately 44,000. These include approximately 7,000 colored troops. This camp was reactivated in February 1942 and since that date 79,000 men have been given their basic training here.

Our train arrived at Camp Robinson at 7:50 A.M., being brought

right into the camp. It was still raining lightly on our arrival but the rain soon stopped and the weather cleared, so that by 10:00 A.M. it was quite nice. However, it was decided to hold the Palm Sunday services indoors instead of in the huge outdoors bowl, as originally planned, because of the wet seats and the heavy mud. (One of the first comments overheard here concerned the fact that the President had brought them good weather for a change and for that reason they were doubly glad to see him.) There was considerable evidence of recent heavy rains here - both in the fields of mud and in the almost unanimous and constant coughing during the services.

The President detrained at 10:00 A.M. and was met by Governor Homer M. Adkins of Arkansas; Brigadier General Francis B. Mallon, Commanding General, Branch Immaterial Replacement Training Center; Brigadier General James E. Bayless, Commanding General, Medical Replacement Training Center; Brigadier General W. H. Colbern, Commanding General, 3071 Combat Team (colored troops); and Colonel Grover C. Graham, Post Commander. Riding with the President in his car during the activities here were Governor Adkins and Brigadier General Mallon.

The party proceeded first to the central part of the post, where honors were rendered by a battalion of trainees from the B.I.R.T.C. (14th Training Regiment); thence on through the post and past the post hospital, along streets lined with troops in single file, at present arms. Behind this long single line were more thousands of troops, in company fronts. As the President passed, he was repeatedly greeted with enthusiastic cheers from those troops not actually at attention. His answering waves brought untold delight to the troops, as they had eagerly anticipated this sight

of their Commander-in-Chief but had not expected to be accorded such a signal honor. There was, perhaps, more enthusiasm shown here at the President's visit than at any other place visited, except possibly by the WAAC trainees at Fort Oglethorpe on the previous day.

The highlight of the visit here was the Palm Sunday service, held at the field house and attended by the President and his party. The President entered the house to find a group of some 3,400 officers and troops present to observe the service with him. The simple, yet impressive, service was conducted by Chaplain Crawford W. Brown (First Lieutenant, Chaplain Corps, U.S.A.) and included a massing of the colors of the various units stationed at Camp Robinson. Perhaps the most outstanding part of the service was the fine singing of the choir (100 members, all male), which had been carefully selected from among hundreds of eager volunteers from the camp.

After the Palm Sunday service, and as the President was about to leave the field house, he waved a greeting to the officers and troops present and was answered by a roaring cheer. Outside the field house, he chatted with Chaplain Brown for a few minutes, remarking to him how well those boys sang.

From the church service the President and his party returned to the train, going by way of the area where the honor battalion was formed for departure honors. No gun salute was fired here. (This was according to previous arrangement.)

Our party on board, the special train departed Camp Joseph T. Robinson at 11:00 A.M. for Camp Gruber, Oklahoma.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt - 32nd President of the United States



Franklin D. Roosevelt on the U.S.S. Houston in Charleston, South Carolina, 03/03/1939 (National Archives)

Franklin Delano Roosevelt (January 30, 1882 - April 12, 1945) was the 32nd (1933-1945) President of the United States. He was elected to an unprecedented four terms of office - the only U.S. president elected more than twice.

He was born on January 30, 1882 in Hyde Park, New York, and died on April 12, 1945 in Warm Springs, Georgia of a cerebral hemorrhage.

He graduated from Harvard University (1903), and attended Columbia Law School (1904-1907). On St. Patrick's Day, 1905, he married Eleanor Roosevelt, a distant cousin. He was a fifth cousin of Theodore Roosevelt. Government Positions include: Assistant Secretary of the Navy, 1913-1920; Governor of New York, 1929-1933.

In 1935-1936, the Supreme Court struck down eight of FDR's New Deal programs. In response Roosevelt submitted to Congress in February of 1937 a plan for "judicial reform," which proposed adding a justice for every justice over the age of 70 who refused to retire, up to a maximum of 15 total. This came to be known as his attempt to "pack" the Court.

Campaigning for reelection in 1940 against Wendell L. Willkie, Roosevelt said that he would not send American boys to fight in foreign wars. Some have suggested Roosevelt had prior knowledge of the December 7, 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and welcomed it as a way to get the U.S. into World War II. Others point out, that while U.S. code-breakers had broken Japanese codes in Washington, D.C. and knew something was about to happen, communication delays prevented the messages for getting to Pearl Harbor until 4 hours after the attack.

In hindsight, perhaps the most controversial decision Roosevelt made was Executive Order 9066 which resulted in the internment in concentration camps of 110,000 Japanese nationals and American citizens of Japanese descent on the West Coast. Considered a major violation of civil liberties, it was even opposed at the time by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover as well as Eleanor Roosevelt as well as many other groups. The Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Executive Order.

Some have said of all the American Presidents of the 20th century, that he was the most loved and most hated. He was so well known, he was referred to by his initials, FDR.

One speech he is famous for delivering was his State of the Union Address in 1941. This speech is also known as the Four Freedoms Speech.

[From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)



During World War Two, President Roosevelt's Second American War Plant Tour at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Ark., the presidential procession passes between two rows of troops presenting arms. The Chief Executive visited this camp Palm Sunday, April 18, 1943, and attended church services with 3400 officers and men in the camp gymnasium., 04/18/1943 (National Archives)



American soldiers leave Coast Guard landing boats under heavy Nazi machine gun fire during the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944. FDR had led the nation to this climatic battle for the heart of Europe.



Franklin D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill in Quebec, Canada , 09/12/1944 (National Archives)
