

*The fourth is freedom from fear--which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide*

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*of tyranny which the dictators seek to create with the aid of a law. To that new order*

# **FREEDOM FROM FEAR: FDR, Commander in Chief**

**September 2, 2005- November 5, 2006**



An exhibition at the  
Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum  
Hyde Park, New York

*quietly adjusting itself to changing conditions--without the concentration camp or the*



*FDR tracks the progress of the war from the Oval Office on the globe presented to him by General George Marshall, December 1942.*

## **FREEDOM FROM FEAR: FDR Commander in Chief**

September 2, 2005 - November 5, 2006

### EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION:

On September 2, 2005—the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formal end of World War II—the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum will open a major new exhibition that gives visitors an extraordinary insider’s view into FDR’s years as a wartime leader.

The exhibit will be organized around a fascinating collection of revealing—and often top secret—documents and manuscripts from the FDR Library’s vast archive of World War II records. These will include many items that have never been displayed in public, including secret military documents from the President’s “Map Room”; communications between key military, diplomatic and political leaders; planning documents; reports from the war fronts; and personal memos and correspondence.



Famous documents like Albert Einstein's letter to FDR outlining the feasibility of an atomic bomb will be included. But many other equally dramatic—but lesser known—letters and documents will appear as well.

FREEDOM FROM FEAR will offer visitors an insider's view of presidential decision-making and life in Roosevelt's wartime White House. The priceless public and personal papers on display will provide revealing glimpses into pivotal moments and decisions, along with the human side of FDR as he led America through its greatest international crisis. Of special interest will be his correspondence with his sons—all of whom served in America's military. Mrs. Roosevelt's telegram to FDR's sons after the President's death is but one example of the type of little known, but powerful documentary material that will appear in the exhibition.



*Albert Einstein's August 2, 1939 letter to FDR regarding the atomic bomb.*

### ***Chronology and Content***

Franklin Roosevelt's "wartime" leadership began long before America entered World War II. During the late 1930s he worked to organize American public opinion against the rise of international fascism and methodically moved the nation towards a war footing. For this reason, FREEDOM FROM FEAR will begin in the mid-1930s, providing visitors with context about American isolationism and the growing threat of war in both Europe and Asia.

The main portion of the exhibit will explore the war years, including key programs and policies like Lend-Lease; the nation's first peacetime draft; the decision to defeat "Germany First"; the atom bomb project; the policy of "unconditional surrender"; the strategic bombing campaign; the

Normandy invasion; the mobilization of American industry to support the war effort; and the GI Bill. Controversial decisions such as the order to intern Japanese Americans will be included as well.



*Box of cigarettes given by Stalin to FDR at the Yalta Conference, 1945.*

FREEDOM FROM FEAR will also illuminate FDR's sometimes colorful relationship with war leaders like Winston Churchill and Josef Stalin. Key wartime conferences, especially those at Casablanca, Teheran and Yalta, will be highlighted.



## Exhibitory

Carefully selected gems from the Library's collection will be presented in a variety of different innovative settings. Archival film footage, photography, and artifacts drawn from the Library's museum holdings (along with important items from other museums and libraries in the United States—including other presidential libraries) will help set the documents into context and sweep visitors up into the broader narrative of America's participation in World War II.

Special interactive displays will give visitors the chance to contrast the "insider's" view of the war (as reflected in top secret documents and private correspondence) with the "public" view presented by the President in radio addresses, newsreel appearances and speeches to Congress and other organizations.



*Page 1 of FDR's December 7, 1941 Day of Infamy speech.*

The exhibit will conclude with an exploration of America's emotional reaction when the nation's wartime leader died on the eve of victory. Roosevelt's unfinished draft of the Jefferson Day speech expressing his hopes for the postwar world will draw the exhibit to a poignant close as we examine Roosevelt's postwar legacy—particularly the establishment of the United Nations.



*One of the Four Freedoms posters with images by Norman Rockwell.*

Some documents will appear alone in simple, dramatic settings. Others will be arranged as part of a thematic group in exhibit cases. Still others will be integrated into audiovisual programs in which actors read from letters or documents. Finally, some will be enlarged dramatically to provide a theatrical introduction to a particular subject.



*Drawing by Arthur Szyk, 1945, marking the death of President Roosevelt.*



## PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES

### *Exhibit Opening*

Friday evening, September 2, 2005: An opening reception and curator's tour of the new exhibit will be followed by a dinner in the Wallace Center. David Eisenhower, grandson of Allied Supreme Commander and President Dwight D. Eisenhower, will deliver the keynote address. Tickets for the event are \$125, supporting future exhibitions in the William J. vanden Heuvel Gallery.

Saturday and Sunday, September 3 -4: Historical World War II re-enactors will set up an encampment on the Library lawn for the weekend. Saturday afternoon, we will host a public forum featuring Allida Black, Jon Meacham, and Joseph Persico who will speak to public audiences on different aspects of the war. Festivities will conclude with a Big Band Concert in the evening.

September 23-24-25: International scholarly conference on FDR Commander-in-Chief organized by the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute.

### *Public Programs 2005-2006*

December 7, 2005: Intergenerational program involving veterans of World War II and the Homefront in an interactive program with students. During the event we will announce the winners of an essay contest to be conducted in partnership with the *Poughkeepsie Journal* in which students write about FDR's wartime leadership. U.S. savings bonds will be given as prizes for the best essays.

Winter, 2006: Pare Lorentz Film Festival III: "The Films FDR Loved."

Memorial Day Weekend 2006: WWII bivouac encampment and USO show.

Exhibit Guide: 10-15 page full color booklet on exhibit for museum visitors.

Virtual tour of the exhibit to be featured on Library and Roosevelt Institute websites.

### *Student programs*

Curriculum guides for grades 3-12 will be developed with suggested classroom activities, an educational video, and facsimile documents. Curriculum guides will be widely distributed to schools for classroom use. On-line versions will be posted to the Library website. All curriculum-based materials will be designed so as not to be "time-bound" to the life of the exhibit. Additional programming will be developed as Gallery Talks, self-guided tours for use in the museum, and topics directed student research programs directed by FDRL staff.