

News Story

... the Picture Newsmagazine

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KEY FIGURE IN ROOSEVELT MYSTERY

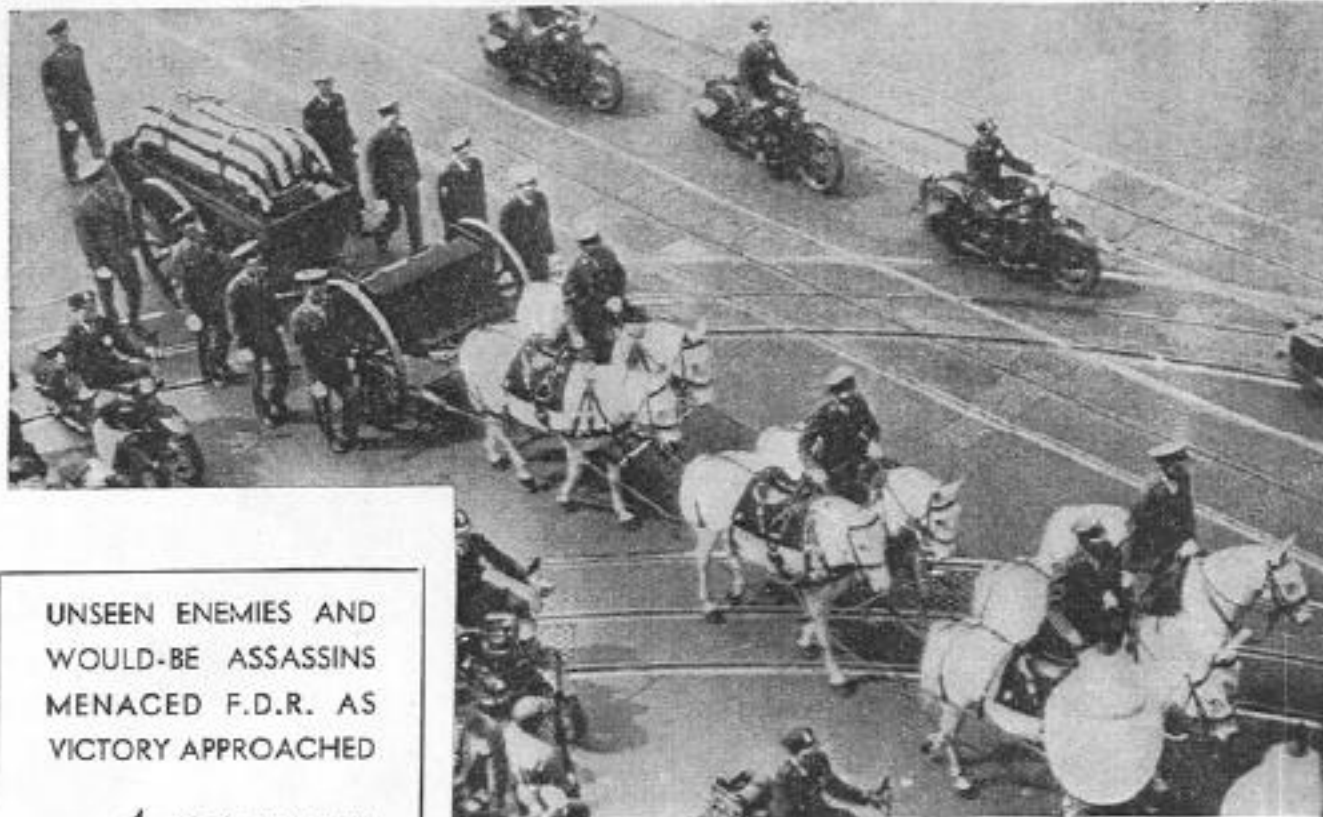
Meet Vice-Admiral Ross T. McIntire, chief physician to President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

This widely respected officer, who is also Surgeon General of the Navy, is the keyman in the search for the whole story of Mr. Roosevelt's illnesses.

Already a demand has been voiced on the floor of Congress that Admiral McIntire be questioned as to whether political considerations influenced his medical advisors to certify Mr. Roosevelt's health to be excellent when it was failing rapidly.

In this issue, the Editors of NEWS STORY, pursuing their inquiry into "The Strange Death of President Roosevelt," present evidence that sheds startling light on what the doctors found when they examined Mr. Roosevelt before the November 7th, 1944, election. (See Page 2).

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UNSEEN ENEMIES AND
WOULD-BE ASSASSINS
MENACED F.D.R. AS
VICTORY APPROACHED

A mid the momentous events transpiring since the sudden death of Franklin D. Roosevelt on April 12, doubts and rumors have continued to spread in ever widening circles of suspicion. Dark hints of foreign intrigue now come into the cauldron of unverified whispering. Nazi mouthpieces, eager to perpetuate the Hitler myth, have uttered cryptic double-talk, insinuating the U. S. President was poisoned.

Meanwhile, the Editors of NEWS STORY pursued their impartial investigation. In this issue is presented the second chapter of their discoveries. Evidence presented by the First Reporter resulted from the intrepid reporting of Gene Davis. The Second Reporter, Tora Selander Nelson, pries the lid from the story of the Axis plot to assassinate Mr. Roosevelt in Teheran.

When ALL the available facts have been checked—our readers may then decide what is the verdict.

The Strange Death of President Roosevelt

By THE EDITORS

SECOND SESSION OF PUBLIC INQUIRY

Continuation Of Testimony Of Reporters

PRESIDING EDITOR: At our last public session, we surveyed the gigantic problem ahead of us. We then called our First Reporter, who stated that Mr. Roosevelt died of cancer. This announcement was so momentous that we adjourned in order to examine the evidence privately, before proceeding with our disclosures. We are satisfied that the statements made to us are bona fide.

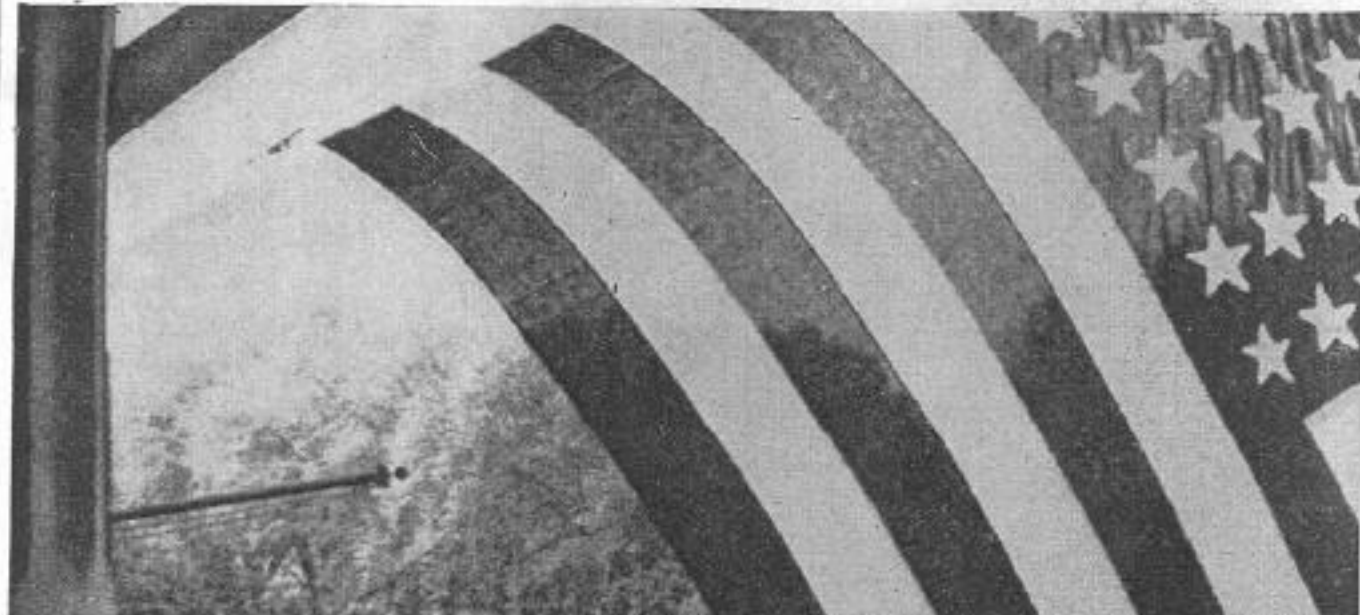
Mr. Reporter, kindly summarize your findings, for the record. Proceed, please.

FIRST REPORTER: Briefly, the key to the

Roosevelt mystery is found in the medical examination which he underwent in the U. S. Naval Hospital at Bethesda, Maryland. It showed

PRESIDING EDITOR: The date, please.
FIRST REPORTER: I was coming to that. The date is very important. It should be fixed clearly in mind. The date was Friday, the Thirteenth of October, 1944.

PRESIDING EDITOR: By way of background, please record the fact that on Thursday October 12,—the day before this examination, the President's personal physician, Vice-Admiral Ross



LAST TRIP TO WHITE HOUSE. The body of the late President in flag-draped casket is brought to the executive mansion. The flag at half-mast symbolized the grief of a stunned nation.

McIntire, was asked for "an authoritative statement on the President's health, in view of the rumors in political circles and elsewhere"—correct?

FIRST REPORTER: That's right. And this is what Dr. McIntire told the newsmen: "The President's health is perfectly O.K. There are absolutely no organic difficulties at all. He is eight or nine pounds under his best weight." Answering specific question, Dr. McIntire said the President had "recovered his flat tummy" and was proud of it. But he repeated—*nothing wrong organically at all.* He's perfectly O.K. He does a terrific day's work. The stories that he is in bad health are understandable around election time, but they are not true." Those were McIntire's exact words.

PRESIDING EDITOR: And those were published during the afternoon of October 12 and the morning of Friday, October 13. In those statements you just quoted—did Dr. McIntire say that the President was to undergo examination at Bethesda the very next day?

FIRST REPORTER: No.

PRESIDING EDITOR: Now tell precisely what happened at the Naval Hospital on Friday the Thirteenth of October, 1944.

FIRST REPORTER: President Roosevelt was examined by recognized specialists. First,

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THE STRANGE DEATH OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT CONTINUED

the heart. It was normal. Next, blood pressure; O.K. Lungs: good, no trace of tuberculosis. In the respiratory tract, there was evidence of sinus, but Mr. Roosevelt had long been thus afflicted. The examination proceeded point by point, with negative results until specialists examined the urogenital tract and organs. There was where the trouble lay.

PRESIDING EDITOR: Please state exactly what was the diagnosis, and the prognosis.

FIRST REPORTER: The diagnosis was malignant cancer somewhere in the urogenital system. The exact location was not stated in the private confidential report given to my informant. The prognosis was unfavorable. They gave him . . .

PRESIDING EDITOR: One moment—besides the visit to Bethesda, just described, what other medical information did you obtain?

FIRST REPORTER: After his return from Yalta, while en route from Washington to Hyde Park, the President stopped off at Baltimore and went to Johns Hopkins Hospital—whether for further examination or for treatment, I do not know. I learned also that one of the foremost urologists of a prominent

INTIMATION OF DEATH. At Yalta Prime Minister Churchill sensed the rapid decline of Mr. Roosevelt's health in the grip of a deadly malady. Mr. Churchill later spoke of the distant look in Mr. Roosevelt's eyes at the historic Crimea meeting of the Big Three in February 1945.

hospital in New York City was called in consultation on the President's case. He confirmed the prognosis.

PRESIDING EDITOR: Did this specialist advise an operation?

REPORTER: No. It was pronounced a case of inoperable cancer. Not only had the disease advanced too far—too many involvements—but the President's



IN SPOTLIGHT. FDR's physician, Vice-Admiral Ross T. McIntire came under fire by some critics who deplored the withholding of the facts of Mr. Roosevelt's health.

age—then close to 63—and his general condition were against it. An operation, they felt, would be fatal. Without operation, they thought he might possibly—

PRESIDING EDITOR: Wait—please . . . before we put any further medical evidence into the record. Who are your informants? You should be able by now to identify the source of your facts.

REPORTER: Men of the very highest standing—medical and otherwise. But I am under a pledge not to reveal their names.

PRESIDING EDITOR: But your statements throw an entirely new light on the President's death. The public thinks he died of a cerebral hemorrhage. That might have been the immediate cause—but there was something else. It is of the utmost importance for the public to know our authority, our sources . . .

FIRST REPORTER: The obstacle is—professional ethics—ours as well as the informants'.

PRESIDING EDITOR: (earnestly) But you will try again, because of the grave nature of the disclosures, to get a release from the pledge, will you not?

FIRST REPORTER: I will, indeed, I will put the matter up to my informants; but you must realize the delicacy of their position.

PRESIDING EDITOR: We fully appreciate it. All we ask is that you explain our



PRESIDENT'S FRIENDS. Grief over the death of Mr. Roosevelt knew no class, color or creed. These women (above) wept in Washington as his cortege passed.

PRESIDENT'S FAVORITES. Fala, (above) Mr. Roosevelt's scottie, mourned, too. (Below) Anna Roosevelt Boucquier, his only daughter, guarded him from worry.



purpose and convey our request for permission to use their names, for the sake of America—now and in the post-war world. We will suspend your examination while you contact your informants. I will now call our Second Reporter.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Does this testimony relate to the medical evidence just given?

SECOND REPORTER: No, it reveals an attempt to assassinate President Roosevelt while he was at the Teheran conference in December, 1943.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Does that solve the mystery of what happened in April, 1945?

SECOND REPORTER: No, it deepens the mystery, but it does show that after December, 1943, we ought to have been expecting the President to die suddenly and mysteriously and at a crucial moment in world affairs.

PRESIDING EDITOR: The point is, we cannot exclude the possibility of assassination—at least not without positive proof to the contrary. Mr. Reporter, please go ahead.

EXAMINING EDITOR (taking over the questioning): Isn't it true that Mr.

Roosevelt himself made rather light of that supposed assassination plot?

SECOND REPORTER: That's just the point! He was too casual. Either he didn't want to make himself seem too important, or he wanted the conspirators to reveal themselves. Anyhow—his casualness was all out of proportion to the very elaborate measures to protect him.

EXAMINING EDITOR (sharply): You were not at Teheran were you?

SECOND REPORTER: No newsmen were at Teheran, nobody except the principals. But even in Cairo, where the newsmen stayed, it was known that something sinister had happened at Teheran. Here were the circumstances: (1) Brigadier General Patrick Hurley had been sent from China to Iran to arrange for Mr. Roosevelt's accommodations. (2) The American Legation at Teheran—which is well walled . . . was prepared to receive the Presidential party. Protective measures had been taken, food had been purchased for 60 persons; (3) When Mr. Roosevelt's plane arrived, the Russians had fighter planes and a large guard at the field—just in case the plane proved to be German. Then as the Roosevelt



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THE STRANGE DEATH OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT CONTINUED

plane circled for a landing, the Russians trained their guns on the fuselage; (4) There was no formal welcome at the airport. Major General Conolly of the Russian Gulf Service Command greeted the President. As the party drove toward the city, the President sat gazing at the Elbruz Mountains. He was enjoying the magnificent view, not worrying about assassination. At the American Legation, Mr. Roosevelt's luggage was unpacked . . .

EXAMINING EDITOR: How do you know it was unpacked?

SECOND REPORTER: Because, later, when the President changed his quarters, the legation said the luggage had been re-packed. Now observe what happened: F.D.R. was settled at the American Legation; Churchill, in the British legation, and Stalin at the Russian Embassy. Roosevelt dined with the U. S. Minister to Iran, his host. Everything as it should be! Suddenly, the telephone! Soviet Commissar Molotoff is calling Ambassador Harriman. After a short conversation, Harriman calls Major General Hurley. The message is sensational . . . The OGPU has discovered a German plot to kill President Roosevelt! Immediately, Stalin invites the President to become his personal guest at the Russian Embassy. This eliminates the danger of daily travel to and from the conference and the American Legation which is a mile away.

As an extra precaution, the President remained indoors that first night, while safety measures were taken, and he remained at the American Legation until just before 3 o'clock the following afternoon.

Meanwhile, Teheran became virtually an armed camp. For several hours, traffic stood still. During the President's transfer to the Russian Embassy, all persons on the streets had to stop and enter the nearest building. Overhead circled Soviet fighter planes. All through the conference, the air and street patrols continued. Teheran's people must have thought the city was under martial law. Around the Embassy area, the whole region swarmed with guards. Tall screens were built across the street and behind them the gates to the Russian and British embassies were thrown open so that the two



GRIEF-STRICKEN CHILDREN. Pupils at the Hyde Park, N. Y., school, near the home of the late President, are shown at special memorial services outside the school. The children stand at attention, while a bagler sounded taps in solemn tribute.

separate compounds were made into one. Rings of soldiers stood outside the screens, and bearded Sikhs with armored cars were parked beyond the soldiers in a solid cordon. Distributed through a five-block area were no less than 72 Russians with tommy-guns. Inside the Russian Embassy and its grounds, machine guns were posted at all strategic points. After the President moved in, the guards were doubled—American and Russian—and when the servants, cleaning the hallways, bent over, their pistols stuck out behind . . . they were all N.K.V.D. (Russian secret service) men.

EXAMINING EDITOR: Exactly what was the danger?

SECOND REPORTER: The official explanation was that 38 German paratroopers had been dropped in the Teheran area before the Big Three arrived and only 32 had been rounded up. If that were the only reason, so many safeguards would not have been required. President Roosevelt was quartered on the second floor of the central building. Stalin himself moved out to share a small villa with Molotoff.

The first meeting of F. D. R. and Stalin was a 90-minute talk with only the two interpreters present. After that F. D. R. left the Russian Embassy only

once—to go to Churchill's birthday party just across the street. And that was the only outside meal he ate in Teheran—except during the first 24 hours at the American Legation. Furthermore, the President did not even call on the Shah of Persia,—as custom required. Instead, the Shah lunched with Roosevelt, at the Soviet Embassy. Meals there were prepared by Russian cooks, when Stalin was the host, and by Filipinos from the Presidential yacht "Potomac," when the President entertained.

PRESIDING EDITOR: It is clear that something sinister was feared. Ordinarily, F.D.R. never missed an opportunity to sight-see when traveling. Look how he jeeped around in Egypt! But just what does all this mean? How does it connect up?

SECOND REPORTER: It shows that for a long time the President was as much in danger from outside enemies as from physical, organic ailments. He was thoroughly protected from external dangers. We can never know how close he was to being poisoned at Teheran—unless the Soviet government chooses to reveal the precise details.

PRESIDING EDITOR: That will all be taken into account. Kindly remain in readiness for further examination.

Meanwhile, our First Reporter will resume the chair.

(First Reporter takes seat at table.)

PRESIDING EDITOR: You have contacted your sources, I presume (Reporter nods)—and what did they say?

FIRST REPORTER: There is absolutely no way to get around the restriction of confidence. They have again explained that it would be utterly unethical for their names to be used. The whole medical profession would be up in arms. The informants would be disciplined. But they are willing to let us put the facts into the record.

PRESIDING EDITOR: Well, gentlemen, we have no choice but to accept the restriction. Now, please tell us more about the prognosis. What did the specialists say as to how long the President could live.

FIRST REPORTER: It was their considered judgment that Mr. Roosevelt could not possibly live very long. They gave him—not more than six months!

PRESIDING EDITOR: Six months from the day of the examination at Bethesda?

FIRST REPORTER: Six months—which would fix the expected date of death about on April 12 or 13, 1945.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Pardon me—this is most important—did they so inform Mr. Roosevelt?

SECOND REPORTER: I have it on good authority that they did. After the consultation, Mr. Roosevelt faced his advisors and requested them to tell him the whole truth and to withhold nothing. They told him what the specialists had found. When they had departed, Mr. Roosevelt lit a cigarette, inhaled deeply, blew out smoke and smiled. Then he studied a calendar on the desk and thumbed through six months to Friday, the Thirteenth of April, 1945.

PRESIDING EDITOR: Then you are positive that he knew that he could not live more than six months?

SECOND REPORTER: I am positive that the doctors so advised him. As to whether he believed them—whether he accepted their prognosis as final, well . . .

PRESIDING EDITOR: This is a very portentous matter. Your statement raises new questions. We will adjourn for private conference.

To be continued
in September NEWS STORY.



THEIR PRESIDENT DEAD. (Top) People of Washington stood vigil through the night in the park opposite the White House following word of Mr. Roosevelt's death. (Bottom) Vice President Harry Truman swiftly took up the reins of the presidency within a few hours without a misstep. Like others of the inner circle, Mr. Truman knew Mr. Roosevelt's death was imminent and carefully prepared himself for the emergency.

WHAT PROMPTED MR. ROOSEVELT TO SEEK REELECTION WITH ONLY SIX MONTHS TO LIVE?

It has been shown that the Chief Executive died of apparently natural causes within the time limit set by doctors. Why did he run again? *The answers will rock the nation. Read the sensational follow-up disclosures in the next issue of NEWS STORY, the magazine that reveals.*

THE STRANGE DEATH OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

SUPPRESSED MEDICAL FACTS AND UNCALLED-FOR
SECRECY GIVE RISE TO SINISTER RUMORS.



THREE WEEKS TO LIVE! Last official photograph of President Franklin D. Roosevelt was taken at White House dock on March 22 last, at time of his radio appeal for American Red Cross. He seemed tired, but otherwise well.

By THE EDITORS

FIRST SESSION, PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

Opening Statement By The Examining Editor

EXAMINING EDITOR:

"President Roosevelt—dead! Stunned populations here and abroad could not believe the first radio flashes. But there were the headlines. The radio was intoning the bare facts: Mr. Roosevelt died from cerebral hemorrhage—in the Little White House—at Warm Springs, Georgia at 4:35 P.M., EWT, April 12th, 1945. Almost immediately some people began to whisper: 'That's not the real story—Somebody's covering up . . .'"

"True, the official statements didn't agree, but this was no time nor was there opportunity to ask why.

"Events moved with breathless, confusing speed. The late President's body was brought to Washington. President Truman had taken over. A whole world mourned. But the whispers continued. Newspaper columnists took up the undertone of suspicion. Boston and New York headlines declaimed:

"WOMAN PAINTER ALONE SAW ROOSEVELT STRICKEN."

"A New York columnist asked: 'Who is N. Robbins?' Disclosure that 'N. Robbins' was a Russian photographer who accompanied the Russian woman artist, prompted the columnist to ask: 'Why did the couple make such a hasty departure from Warm Springs, instead of remaining there for questioning?'"

"Nazi radio broadcasts, rejoicing that Mr. Roosevelt was dead, hinted darkly: 'The same miracle which saved the Fuehrer, has removed the man who turned a European war into a world war.' [Hitler, though wounded by an assassin's bomb on July 20, 1944 survived. Editor's note.]

"Was this a blackguardly insinuation

WHY WAS THERE NO AUTOPSY? WHO ORDERED THE FULL FACTS WITHHELD?

Dark whispers are spreading in all directions, in ever-widening ripples of suspicion. Other American Presidents have died in peculiar circumstances or by an assassin's bullets. In one noteworthy instance—that of President Warren G. Harding's death—the complete truth was permitted to elude reporters. In consequence, sinister legend outstripped authentic history. This time no such legend of half-truths should be given a chance to spread farther unless the true facts support such suspicions. To ascertain the truth, the editors, reporters and photographers of NEWS STORY now begin a thorough inquiry into the entire mystery of Mr. Roosevelt's death. As promptly as the facts can be sifted thoroughly, these will be published impartially and fearlessly in ensuing issues of NEWS STORY. Our readers are invited to serve as a jury of public opinion to weigh the evidence.



LINE OF SUCCESSION: Mid-summer 1944 found President F.D.R. and Vice-Presidential candidate Harry S. Truman working on Fourth Term campaign. Truman was the real winner.

Presidents and great world leaders. "Not even a death-mask was taken of one of the greatest, if not the greatest of all the Presidents of the United States of America.

"Why the mystery? Why the haste? Why the neglect of the customary ceremonies? Why the contradictions?

"From beginning to end the supposedly first-hand accounts of his last hours on earth are confused and jumbled. There were no radio or press witnesses. The representatives of three press services—the only ones allowed to accompany Mr. Roosevelt on this last visit to Warm Springs—were miles away from the scene.

"The published accounts either came from persons present in or near the room when the fatal moment came, or from press representatives



STUNNED BY TRAGEDY, government officials gathered at White House. [l to r] NHA Chief Marford, Atty-Gen. Biddle, Madame-Secretary Perkins in the arms of Reparation Advisor Isador Lubin; Agriculture Secretary Wickard and House Minority leader Joseph Martin.

of a medical 'miracle' that saved one man's life and killed another?

"In America, the general public could not define their misgivings. Most people were either too sorrowful or too confused. Gradually, however, as the strange pattern emerged, it became clearer that the foremost statesman of this age was not only struck down in a place and in conditions remote from the customary medical and personal safeguards but that long-planned measures were taken to conceal or minimize the circumstances leading up to his death.

"There was no post-mortem inquiry, so far as the public record shows, no autopsy. Local Georgia officialdom, even if disposed to press an inquiry, was overawed by White House authority. Nobody outside the Presidential entourage dared to raise a question. Legal formalities were met by the filing of the death certificate signed by the visiting Atlanta physician, Dr. James P. Paullin.

"When the body of Franklin D. Roosevelt did emerge from the Little White House, atop Pine Mountain, it was in a sealed coffin covered with the Stars and Stripes. The coffin was never again opened.

"Contrast the funeral rites of Mr. Roosevelt with those of other U. S.

KEY FIGURES AT DEATH SCENE SAW CHIEF EXECUTIVE SUCCUMB



IN HER LAP is shown last sketch of Mr. Roosevelt. Russian-born Mme. Shoemtoff (above) saw the President succumb in Little White House (right). Pharmacist Lt. Cmdr. Fox (upper right) was Chief Executive's personal therapist. When death came in lonely cottage, they looked on helplessly. Abroad, Allied armies stood on the threshold of victory which he struggled to gain. Circumstances as yet unrevealed were the mysterious fate which decreed for F.D.R.: "Thus far—and no farther!"



CHILDREN PATIENTS WEEP as Roosevelt hears leaves Warm Springs Foundation for burial at family home in Hyde Park, N. Y. Above: President's secretary, William D. Hassett (l) and Naval doctor, Commander Howard C. Bruen, were among small group that surrounded the Chief Executive stricken at moment when his leadership was more needed than ever before to insure peace and Allied unity. From the moment of death to the final burial, the public had no chance to see remains.



who arrived much later, or from official spokesman who did not choose to go into details or to explain away the contradictions.

"White House Secretary, William D. Hassett, told the press service men that he was in the room with the President, along with the Filipino mess boy, the Negro valet, Arthur Pevyman and the artist whom Hassett named as 'N. Robbins, of 520 West 139th Street, New York City.'

"Yet Stephen Early, Presidential Secretary, was quoted by the Associated Press as saying that only one person was with the President at the time, the Russian artist, Madame Elizabeth Shoumatoff.

"The United Press correspondent, Merriman Smith, describing the President's last moments said that he had signed some documents and that Hassett had left the room, leaving some papers behind. 'His next visitor,' continued the Smith account, 'was N. Robbins, a New York artist, who began sketching the President, while he continued to examine the papers Mr. Hassett had left.'

"Suddenly, around 1 p.m., the Pres-



ident put his hand to the back of his head and said: I have a terrific headache. Those were his last words. About 1:15 he slumped into unconsciousness.'

'The Navy physician, Commander Howard G. Bruenn, who had accompanied the President to Warm Springs, but was NOT present at the crucial moment, said Mr. Roosevelt was sitting in a chair while sketches were being made by an artist. 'At 1 o'clock,' Dr. Bruenn continued, 'he suddenly complained of a very severe occipital headache. Within a very few minutes he lost consciousness, and he died at 3:35 p.m. Georgia time.'

'The wrong identification of the artist was never explained. 'N. Robbins' turned out to be the assumed name of Nicholas Katzubinsky, a Russian photographer, who has rooms at 520 W. 139th St. He was assisting the real artist, Madame Shoumatoff, who later said she came to America with her husband, Lee Shoumatoff, in 1917 . . . as representative of the Kerensky government. [Bolshevik revolutionists,

WHAT COMES NEXT? Dazed service men at New York Stage Door Canteen try to figure out incredible headlines flashing the death of their Commander-in-Chief—"killed in action?"

led by Lenin, Stalin and Trotsky overthrew the Kerensky provisional government in 1917. Kerensky, in exile in America, has consistently opposed Stalin. Editor's note.]

"Madame Shoumatoff and Katzubinsky had motored all the way to Warm Springs. They left almost immediately after the President's collapse and together motored back to New York. When Madame Shoumatoff was finally interviewed she denied being alone with the President. In fact, she named as present while she sketched: Hassett; Katzubinsky; Miss Grace Tully, the President's private secretary; his two cousins, Miss Margaret Suckley and Miss Laura Delano; and the Filipino butler. While the butler was setting the table for lunch the President said: 'We have about 15 minutes more to work.'

"Those were the last words I heard him say," stated Madame Shoumatoff.

'I did not hear him say he had a terrific headache. Others may have heard him. Those last fifteen minutes he really did work. He wanted to finish the business he had in hand.'

"Such were the statements of supposed eye-witnesses and others closely connected with the official party at Warm Springs. Against this background of contradictions and discrepancies, we now begin the examination of facts to determine what grounds, if any, exist for suspecting that President Roosevelt died of other than natural causes."

The first witness, a news reporter, was called to the witness stand.

FIRST REPORTER:

"I have learned that Mr. Roosevelt died of cancer . . ."

EXAMINING EDITOR:

(Interrupting the witness) "We must first see your facts. "We will take a short recess to study the credibility of this data before accepting it as evidence."

To be continued
in August NEWS STORY.

Startling New Disclosures To Appear In Our Next Issue

Did Mr. Roosevelt know what his doctors had discovered weeks before the crucial November, 1944 elections? The public did not know then and even now cannot know.

Clues of something even more sensational than the cause of President Roosevelt's death have been found as we go to press. Watch for these exclusive factual disclosures.

The Strange Death of President Roosevelt

Here, stripped of its official secrecy, is the gripping climax of a great drama.

By THE EDITORS

Final Session of Public Inquiry into the Causes of the Collapse of the Chief Executive, being a Continuation of the Testimony Presented in the July and August issues of NEWS STORY magazine.

PRESIDING EDITOR: Our investigation is now nearing the point where we should summarize. As this will be our final session, the record ought to be a complete, so that readers, the American public, and future generations can reach well-based conclusions.

FIRST ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Pardon me, Mr. Chairman, I understand we were to have more testimony concerning Mr. Roosevelt's last days.

SECOND ASSOCIATE EDITOR: What's the point of that? Doesn't everybody know the whole story now?

PRESIDING EDITOR: Not the medical aspects. Those have an important bearing. Our Third Reporter will now take the stand.

EXAMINING EDITOR (to witness): Were you with President Roosevelt at Warm Springs at the time of his death?

THIRD REPORTER: No, sir. Only three correspondents, of three press services, were at Warm Springs during the President's last visit and they were mostly far away from the Little White House on Pine Mountain. On the afternoon of Thursday, April 12, when the President succumbed, they were at a barbecue several miles distant, thinking that Mr. Roosevelt would speak to the small gathering. They were completely off guard.

EXAMINING EDITOR: Then, precisely, what did you personally witness?

REPORTER: I was at Hyde Park on Palm Sunday, March 25. Mr. Roosevelt had been advised by his physicians to take a much-needed rest. Impossible, he said, the world situation was too critical. He had to keep in touch with Churchill in London and with General Eisenhower at SHEAF. At the same time he was working on two messages—one to Congress, urging U. S. participating in the United Nations Food program; the other a Jefferson Day message to be read to Democratic gatherings all over the nation . . . on Friday, April Thirteenth. The message to Congress was transmitted on Monday, March 26. The Jefferson Day message was finished, but never personally delivered—it was, in reality, a farewell address to the American people—as historic as Washington's.

EXAMINING EDITOR: Very true. But on



this Palm Sunday, March 25 — what happened? Were you inside the Hyde Park residence?

REPORTER: Not exactly. You see, press headquarters was the Nelson House, Poughkeepsie, adjoining Hyde Park. Early that Sunday afternoon, while telephoning to my office, I suddenly became aware that something terribly

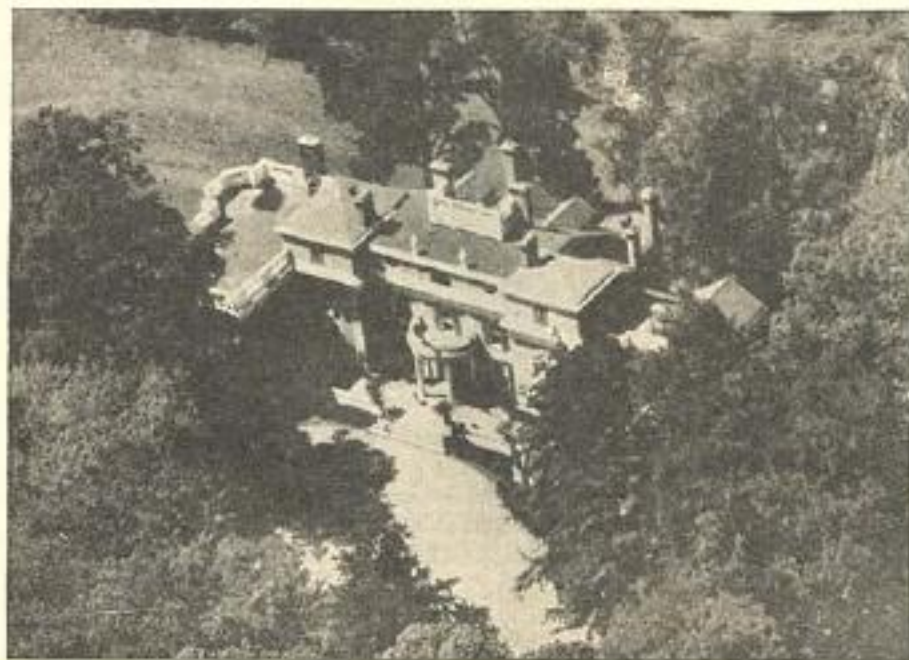
important had happened. The local telephone exchange was swamped with urgent calls. Ordinarily, the private switchboard at Hyde Park handled all White House business. While waiting for my own calls I heard excited conversations . . . a special train being ordered.

EXAMINING EDITOR: What did you do?

REST AND QUIET in his own home at Hyde Park was not to be. It might have been like other pleasant Sundays spent with Mrs. Roosevelt. Instead, death hovered near and duty called, insistent.

REPORTER: I grabbed a taxi and dashed to the Roosevelt estate; but at some distance from the house, Secret Service

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INSTEAD OF PEACE HERE HE FOUND DEATH HERE.

IN THE SECURE comfort of his beloved home at Hyde Park, N. Y., on Palm Sunday, the Chief Executive was dangerously near death seventeen days before he finally succumbed. Unknown to the public, he suffered the second in a series of at least three cerebral hemorrhages. Hurried conferences were held as he lay semi-conscious. Plainly, the emergency called for hospitalization and the most vigilant of medical care but he seemed to recover.

EVEN THOUGH MR. ROOSEVELT had survived the attack, a complete rest was indicated. However, his aides decided that military considerations required the utmost concealment of the President's collapse. Accordingly Mr. Roosevelt mustered enough strength to journey to Warm Springs, Ga. There, in this simple cottage, lacking special facilities, but safely removed from public view, the weakened Chief Executive prepared for the end.

THE STRANGE DEATH OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT CONTINUED

men intercepted the cab. They told me there was no news . . . that nobody was available to the newsmen, and—to proceed no further. I asked, "What's up?" One replied, with a very artificial yawn, "Not a thing. It's the deadeast—I mean the dullest—Sunday you fellows ever had, not a line of news."

Well, it was useless to argue, but I knew something was wrong. I drove back to Poughkeepsie and got busy with my own sources.

EXAMINING EDITOR: What did you learn?

REPORTER: On the very best authority,—that Mr. Roosevelt had suffered a stroke—a cerebral hemorrhage; that he was unconscious for some time, and physicians feared it might be fatal. But, miraculously, he soon recovered and in a few hours appeared quite normal. The next thing I knew—Mr. Roosevelt was aboard a special train, headed for Warm Spring, Georgia.

EXAMINING EDITOR: Was anything printed or broadcast about this attack?

REPORTER: Not a word. You see, the White House Press corps was under a double restriction—war-time censorship and our personal pledge not to publish anything concerning the President's plans, unless authorized. Any violation of this rule meant immediate loss of White House privileges.

EXAMINING EDITOR: You mean to say that newsmen could not reveal a serious—really a fatal illness—of the President of the United States?

REPORTER: We could—but with disastrous results to ourselves. First, we would be barred from the White House contacts; second, Steve Early would repudiate the story; third we would be charged with violating the censorship . . .

PRESIDING EDITOR: Preposterous!

REPORTER: Not at all. The President—as we were constantly reminded—was Commander in Chief of the U. S. armed forces. His health, like his movements at home and abroad—was a military secret.

FIRST ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Then, today,

Now and only now can the dark whispers concerning Mr. Roosevelt's death be effectively stifled. All the facts have been laid bare by the Editors of NEWS STORY in their public inquiry of which this is the third and concluding session. There is but one justifiable verdict and it is clearly stated but not without full presentation of an opposing summation.

—President Truman's health is a military secret?

REPORTER: It would be, if he were ill.

FIRST ASSOCIATE EDITOR: I still say that the President's health is legitimate, public, uncensorable news. And I think the White House newsmen were derelict not to publish the truth.

PRESIDING EDITOR: Ah—but they didn't know the story—our man was one of the very few who found out the inside story.

FIRST ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Then, I must say, he was unmindful of his journalistic responsibility. His primary duty was to the public. A reporter is not supposed to suppress the truth. His job is—first, find out; second—reveal. That, gentlemen, is reporting!

SECOND ASSOCIATE EDITOR: I disagree. This reporter's duty was to protect his contacts at the White House—at any cost.

PRESIDING EDITOR: We are digressing, Mr. Reporter, you ascertained that Mr. Roosevelt was rushed off to Warm Springs—unaccompanied by medical specialists or nurses—right?

REPORTER: Correct. The idea seemed to be, to get him away from the public view. But, at Warm Springs, not even Dr. Ross T. McIntire, the President's chief physician, was present. Mr. Roosevelt should have been put in a hospital immediately, but after the quick recovery at Hyde Park, it was decided otherwise. Mr. Roosevelt himself, of course, approved. He did not want to enter a hospital—fearing that the news of his illness might leak out

—not just to America—but to the enemy.

ANONYMOUS SOURCE: To complete the record,—please give us the news background of that Palm Sunday—what was happening?

REPORTER: The Allies were right on the threshold of Victory. German resistance collapsing . . . the entire Western front being pushed across the Rhine. Seven Allied armies moved forward in the Big Push. Patton's Third Army was racing across the Main! Churchill himself at the scene.

On the Eastern Front,—Red Armies pushing toward Vienna. Germans falling back all the way from Danzig down to the Balkans.

In the Pacific, American forces were landing on the Ryukus, our carrier planes having smashed a Jap convoy.

PRESIDING EDITOR: That shows that on March 25, when the President had this preliminary stroke, the European war was at its climax and the Pacific war was approaching full-scale—a very critical time for the Allies, and especially for the President.

From then until the President's death,—we already have the main facts. The evidence all shows that the President was seriously ill; that he should have been in a hospital—under ordinary circumstances. The fact that he was shipped off to Warm Springs at this time is further evidence that Mr. Roosevelt's life was being seriously imperiled and that the public was not aware of it. These are the facts. But what about the conclusions? For this public record, I invite your opinions,

—based on the evidence.

The President died of natural causes—that is from a complication of diseases—cancer, physical exhaustion, and finally from a series of strokes—cerebral hemorrhages, culminating in the massive occipital hemorrhage which was the immediate cause of death. Since there is no evidence of poison—we must call the death "due to natural causes." But under what circumstances? Abnormal—we must admit. The circumstances were—for such an important personage—very, very strange.

Natural death, under strange circumstances—this is not a verdict—but the factual basis for a verdict which history must render. The public must decide. Posterity will someday apportion the blame or the praise for those who had the responsibility for the President's well-being. Meanwhile, let us have your views.

FIRST ASSOCIATE EDITOR: If I may address myself directly to the American people, I would like above all to say that no theory of military strategy or soldier morale can justify the terrible thing that was done to President Roosevelt.

In what kind of warfare is a wounded soldier permitted, yes, even more than that, compelled by his advisors to stagger to his feet and fight on and on and on? President Roosevelt was wounded—physically, mortally—not once, but several times, between the bombing of

CHIEF PHYSICIAN Dr. Ross T. McIntire (left) was in Washington when the crisis came. (Below) Scene aboard funeral train.



NEWS STORY



NEWS STORY

Pearl Harbor and his death at Warm Springs, Ga. Not once was he permitted proper medical treatment, nor did he have one tenth of the rest that a man with such grave weaknesses would require . . .

PRESIDING EDITOR: But are you not overlooking the fact that Mr. Roosevelt was himself the "Supreme Commander" and gave the orders that required his subordinates to do just what they did for him?

FIRST ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Mr. Roosevelt's doctors and his family knew all the facts. Their duty, clearly, was to help save his life even if he seemed able to endure the increasing pain. The great exertion of the trip to Yalta was damaging to Mr. Roosevelt's shattered health. It shortened his life by several months; in fact there was a time during the prolonged, arduous journey,—at Yalta—when it seemed likely that Mr. Roosevelt could not safely go on any farther. There is no reason to suppose that Premier Stalin would have refused to come to the United States or to some intermediate point, had he known how gravely ill our Chief Executive was at that time. Instead, Mr. Roosevelt staggered forward again, grimly onward, and stuck it out for the Big Three Conference at Yalta, notwithstanding the fact that he was so ill, so exhausted at times as to be unaware what was being agreed to or promised. This is clearly shown by

THREE WOMEN witnessed the fatal attack at Warm Springs. They were (l. to r.) Grace Tolley, former Secretary to the President; Margaret Sulkley, a cousin who is leading Fala; and Louise Delano, a cousin. Here they are shown in funeral procession.



what happened at the San Francisco Conference. Yalta was a wasted effort, diplomatically and politically speaking. Everything had to be done over again by Mr. Roosevelt's successor.

A thick camouflage was draped around the personal being of the great-hearted President to conceal the fact that his death was being hastened needlessly, all because the idea has been built up that the enemy would somehow rally from the brink of defeat if it became known that the U. S. President was taking a prolonged rest or undergoing hospital treatment.

No qualified military leader can be found who will say that the war against Germany would have lasted but a few weeks longer if Mr. Roosevelt had stayed away from Yalta. If, instead, he had gone to a safe climate during the winter to rest and renew his strength for the World Security Conference, which he wanted so much to attend, we might now have an even greater guarantee of world peace than the World Charter seems likely to provide.

As we look back, we can see that the President's doctors told us the very minimum; the press failed us miserably because nothing of the real condition of the President and his dangerous exertions were revealed at any time.

We know now that the President told more than one person that he had

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

THE STRANGE DEATH OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

hoped to retire before the Fourth Term was thrust upon him. Surely, then, he wanted to pause a bit, to rest that tragic Palm Sunday when he suffered another stroke at Hyde Park. Maybe he was fond of Warm Springs but it was no hospital; it was no proper place to send a stricken man of 63, weakened by a painful and deep-seated cancer. How can anyone defend the action of his advisors in rushing him off to Warm Springs without extra doctors and special nurses when proper facilities were within reach of the President's home at Hyde Park? Dr. McIntire has given some kind of an explanation of the reason he didn't go with the President. Dr. Howard C. Bruen, the naval commander who did go along with the President was a heart specialist and his services as such seem not to have been called for when the cerebral hemorrhage came on April 12. No member of the immediate family was present. The nearest hospital with adequate facilities was at Atlanta, 75 miles away.

It is clear—all too clear—that Franklin D. Roosevelt was condemned to an early death by misguided persons who can only plead military convenience, not military necessity. Negligence and heartless indifference show through the official explanations and half-told facts. We derided the desperate Nazis in their Berlin catacombs when they were propping up Hitler's cadaver to keep the fight going. Now we must stand aghast, as we look back to the events of January, February, March and April and reconstruct what actually happened behind the scenes in Washington.

Knowing these facts in their proper perspective, I feel sure that the American people will not soon wish to forgive those who induced or influenced President Roosevelt to keep going, through pain and enfeeblement, until he could stand it no longer.

SECOND ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Frankly, I am amazed at the sweeping opinions of my colleague. He has completely missed the story.

The death of Franklin D. Roosevelt was the heroic climax of a heroic life. It was all one pattern—the life and the

strange death. The pattern was noble . . . from start to finish.

My associate speaks as though Mr. Roosevelt were just a private citizen in the prime of life, engaged in peaceful farming, who was neglected by medical advisors. Let us grant that the medical men might have prolonged his life—for a few years—yes, a few years of shattered health—of illness—with death from cancer staring him in the face.

Franklin Roosevelt did not choose to survive in such a miserable fashion. Once before, in the prime of life, he had been stricken; and he had beaten the dread disease—poliomyelitis—on its own field. Warm Springs is a memorial to that victory. He was unafraid of the Grim Reaper. Twice, in politics, he named Alfred E. Smith "The Happy Warrior." Really the title belonged to the nominator. Roosevelt was the world's happiest warrior. He was a gentleman farmer by chance—a fighter by choice. He never ran away from a fight—his policy prior to Pearl Harbor proves his foresight in the world's greatest struggle. Certainly he was not going to run away from death.

Politically, by 1940, he had all that any man could desire. But he knew the war was just beginning. He could not, would not, run away.

In 1944, as we know, his health was badly impaired. Cancer had already taken a toll. Humanly, he longed to retire. But a soldier has no choice. Having entered the Battle of the Ages, he could not lie down. If the people wanted him as Commander in Chief—so it would be! But, my colleague implies, he was physically unfit for a fourth term. The answer is—he was well enough to carry on until Victory was secure! Who doubts it? Who complains? Not the American people. Not the world's democracies. Churchill saw the meaning of Roosevelt's tragedy. Churchill was grieved, but called it a glorious death! What was the significance of that last lonely visit to the top of Pine Mountain? Some say he prayed . . . I don't doubt it. Probably the prayer of Gethsemane—"Not my will, but Thine . . ."

Ah, but my friend says the public was cruelly deceived. They should have been told—before the 1944 election—

that they were re-electing a dying man. I dissent. I say it was the President's duty, as well as his desire, not to inform the public . . . not to inform the enemy—without and within this nation's borders!

Why, the Nazis were using every device and every drug known to German medical science to keep their man Hitler alive—to keep the Hitler Myth alive—hoping that Roosevelt would die before Hitler—in time to give the Germans new courage and fresh resistance. Friends, here and everywhere—can you doubt the heroic wisdom of Mr. Roosevelt's choice . . . to die with his armor on, face to face with Destiny—sword in hand—the weapon of faith? Could a man's own words be plainer?

We talk about secret weapons! Friends, one of the greatest secret weapons in this war, was the secret of Mr. Roosevelt's health. Had he yielded to medical advice and retired—that would have been better than one hundred armored divisions to Hitler—as good as a whole new navy to Hirohito—just to know that Roosevelt was out of the war!

Roosevelt had another great weapon—only it wasn't much of a secret—the weapon of Faith—added to Courage.

Mr. Roosevelt must have known, from the time of his visit to Bethesda hospital, that he was going to die. I am convinced that he knew all about the six months of grace—due to expire on Friday, April 13,—Jefferson's Birthday! But he beat Death to the punch. He finished the Jefferson Day message, with the absolute knowledge that Death was at his elbow. What did he mean by saying to the artist, Madame Shumatoff—"We have just fifteen minutes more to work." Fifteen minutes later he was stricken—unconscious—never to awaken again in this world—but the Jefferson Day message was left—complete—a rich legacy for humanity everywhere. I can think of no better way to conclude than to read from the last part of this prophetic utterance:

"Let me assure you that my hand is the steadier for the work that is to be done, that I move more firmly into the task, knowing that you—millions and millions of you—are joined with me in the resolve to make this work endure . . ."

Today, as we move against the terrible scourge of war—as we go forward to the greatest contribution that any generation of human beings can make in this world—the contribution of lasting peace,—I ask you to keep up your faith.

"To you, and to all Americans . . . I say: The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith!"

I say—now that we have shattered the flimsy basis for rumors and suspicions about Mr. Roosevelt's death—let us end this investigation, knowing what history's verdict will be, and go forward—with the same magnificent faith as was manifested in his farewell message.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

You have read the testimony and summations of opposing Editors. How, then, do you find the aides and advisors of President Roosevelt, Guilty or Not Guilty of unwarranted concealment of his true condition? Noteworthy opinions of readers will be published in our November issue.



News Story



HONOR GUARDS and thousands of mourners crowded the stations as the funeral train sped northward.



WEEKS BEFORE Mr. Roosevelt was stricken, secret service men were assigned as bodyguards to Vice-President Truman. He assumed the Presidency fully prepared.

LONG LIVE the fame of the Commander in Chief! Supreme Allied Commander General Dwight D. Eisenhower places wreath at Hyde Park Grave as Mrs. Roosevelt looks on.