

THINK

THINK MAGAZINE'S DIARY OF U.S.
PARTICIPATION IN WORLD WAR II



THE issue of this war is the basic issue between those who believe in mankind and those who do not—the ancient issue between those who put their faith in the people and those who put their faith in dictators and tyrants. There have always been those who did not believe in the people, who attempted to block their forward movement across history, to force them back to servility and suffering and silence.

The people have now gathered their strength. They are moving forward in their might and power—and no force, no combination of forces, no trickery, deceit or violence, can stop them now. They see before them the hope of the world—a decent, secure, peaceful life for men everywhere.

A tremendous, costly, long-enduring task in peace as well as in war is still ahead of us.

However, as we face that continuing task, we may know that *the state* of this nation is good—that *the heart* of this nation is sound—that *the spirit* of this nation is strong—that *the faith* of this nation is eternal.

—FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

(From Annual Message to Congress—January, 1943)



FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
President of the United States
March 4, 1933 - April 12, 1945

IT is with a heavy heart that I stand before you, my friends and colleagues, in the Congress of the United States.

Only yesterday, we laid to rest the mortal remains of our beloved President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. At a time like this, words are inadequate. The most eloquent tribute would be a reverent silence. Yet, in this decisive hour when world events are moving so rapidly, our silence might be misunderstood and might give comfort to our enemies.

In His infinite wisdom, Almighty God has seen fit to take from us a great man who loved, and was beloved by all humanity. No man could possibly fill the tremendous void left by the passing of that noble soul. No words can ease the aching hearts of untold millions of every race, creed and color. The world knows it has lost a heroic champion of justice and freedom.

Tragic fate has thrust upon us grave responsibilities. We must carry on. Our departed leader never looked backward. He looked forward and moved forward. That is what he would want us to do. That is what America will do.

—HARRY S. TRUMAN

(From Inaugural Address before Congress—April, 1945)



HARRY S. TRUMAN

President of the United States
April 12, 1945 -

A BRITISH STATESMAN of the last century said of the American Civil War that it was notable for two things: first, that there was no way in which it could have been avoided, and, second, that the result was worth the cost.

What John Morley wrote of the Civil War was true of World War II. With military dictators set on domination of the whole world, there was no way in which free people who were determined to save their freedom could avoid fighting for it. Collision by armed force was sure to come. And it is also plain that the outcome of the war—the saving of freedom—was worth all that the war cost, high as that cost was.

As we turn the leaves of this diary of United States participation in World War II, the stirring events of those war years come back to us vividly. While confidence in victory was never lacking, all of us felt the anxiety, the grief, the sense of crisis that is inevitable in waging war; and the material in this book, particularly the photographs, bring back those emotions that were then part of our daily lives.

We are reminded, too, that the war was an unlimited war—unlimited in the issues that were at stake, unlimited in the effort the American people put forth. We pledged every resource of the nation to the struggle, and we did our best to mobilize every resource. We cannot say that we succeeded in mustering every resource, for the work was not done to perfection. Those who were standing close to the war machine could see that it did not always run with smoothness and precision. But after full allowance is made for every mistake and miscalculation, it is still true that by and large the national resources were bent to the task. The united strength that was put forth had a driving power that astonished the world.

Finally, the diary recalls the matchless valor of those in the armed forces who fought it out on land, sea and air. Their duty took them to the stifling heat of jungles and deserts, to the bitter cold of mountain ranges and snow-covered fields. It was their part to come to close grips with determined and fanatical foes. If those on the home front were the muscles and sinews, the fighting men were the striking fist. Without them all our striving would have come to nothing. Theirs was the ultimate struggle; theirs was the final contribution.

Our debt to them, the living and the fallen, will never let us slacken in our resolve to win lasting peace for the world. In the United Nations the people of all nations have the means for prevention of war. By common and devoted effort they have it in their power to bring peace and brotherhood to a war-weary world.

ROBERT P. PATTERSON

Secretary of War, 1945-1947

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The Beginning of World War II

As a preface to this volume, it is fitting that the reader's attention be directed to the outstanding causes of World War II and that his memory be refreshed by a résumé of the acts of the Axis nations which finally precipitated the global conflict. Fortunately, this chapter of history has been summarized by Mr. Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, in a statement made by him before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on January 15, 1941. The indictment of the Axis Powers which this statement presents is all the more impressive because it was made almost a year before Pearl Harbor and reflects both the efforts of our Government in behalf of peace and its concern over the growing peril as Germany and Italy in Europe, and Japan in Asia, proceeded with their careers of conquest.—ED.