



PRESS RELEASE

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Cliff Laube (845) 486-7745

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library author talk and book signing:

Thomas Parrish author of

**TO KEEP THE BRITISH ISLES AFLOAT:
FDR'S MEN IN CHURCHILL'S LONDON, 1941**

August 12, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

HYDE PARK, NY -- The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum is pleased to announce that **Thomas Parrish**, author of **TO KEEP THE BRITISH ISLES AFLOAT: FDR'S MEN IN CHURCHILL'S LONDON, 1941**, will speak at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center on Wednesday, August 12, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Following the talk, Mr. Parrish will be available to sign copies of his book.

After the fall of France in June 1940, London became the center of world political theater. For the U.S. president, the vital question was: could Britain, with American help, hold out against the might of Nazi Germany?

While keeping the United States officially neutral, Franklin D. Roosevelt devised an unprecedented strategy, leading to the revolutionary idea of lend-lease. But was Winston Churchill—famous as a speechmaker but regarded by many as a reckless politician and possibly a drunk—a good bet? To find the answer, Roosevelt dispatched his closest associate, Harry Hopkins, to Britain on a mission. Hopkins's endorsement of Churchill put an end to FDR's doubts, and with the passage of the Lend-Lease Act the president sent Averell Harriman, a wealthy financier and entrepreneur, to London "to keep the British Isles afloat." For Harriman, the assignment turned out to be the great adventure of a remarkable life.

TO KEEP THE BRITISH ISLES AFLOAT explores the still-misunderstood beginnings of the unique Anglo-American alliance in World War II, offering an intriguing new look at Roosevelt's thinking and a fresh perspective on the relationship between the president and the prime minister. Roosevelt grandson Curtis Roosevelt (author of **TOO CLOSE TO THE SUN: GROWING UP IN THE SHADOW OF MY GRANDPARENTS, FRANKLIN AND ELEANOR**) remarked, "Parrish's book brings Hopkins and Harriman vividly to life--each was indeed a character, and the author's perception of FDR's thinking is exceptionally sensitive. For historians most useful. For the rest of us a very good read, a page turner for me."

Copies of Mr. Parrish's book will be available for sale after the talk. There is no charge for this program. Please contact Cliff Laube at (845) 486-7745 or email clifford.laube@nara.gov with questions about the event.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum is dedicated to preserving historical material and providing innovative educational programs, community events, and public outreach. It is one of thirteen presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. For information about the FDR Presidential Library call (800) 337-8474 or visit www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu.

Historic Hyde Park is a group of government and private non-profit organizations based in Hyde Park, New York. Each has a unique mission, but all are united in their dedication to extending the legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt to new generations. HHP includes the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. For more information about HHP visit www.HistoricHydePark.org.