My Day

By Eleanor Roosevelt

HYDE PARK, Monday.—Yesterday afternoon I
went to the annual Roosevelt Home Club party,
which had been scheduled for Saturday afternoon
but had to be postponed.

In spite of the change of time
it was well attended. We all lis-
tened to a recording made by
the War Department of the last
message sent from the Fortress
of Corregidor. The mother of
the boy who sent it was in the
audience and she came to the
rostrum to say a few words.

She has heard nothing from
her boy and the best she can
hope is that he is a prisoner and
can survive under whatever con-
ditions to which he is subjected.

I have a letter from a gentleman who is very
much exercised because our women pilots are not
being utilized in the war effort. The CAA says
that women are psychologically not fitted to be
pilots, but I see pictures every now and then of
women who are teaching men to fly. We know
that in England, where the need is great, women
are flying planes and serving innumerable men
for combat service.

It seems to me that in the civil air patrol and
our own ferry command women, if they can
pass the tests imposed upon our men, should have
an equal opportunity for noncombat service.

I believe in this case, if the war goes on long
enough and women are patient, opportunity will
come knocking at their doors. However, there is
just a chance that this is not a time when women
should be patient. We are in a war and we need
to fight it with all our ability and every weapon
possible. Women pilots, in this particular case, are
a weapon waiting to be used. As my corre-pond-
ent says:

"I think it is time you women spoke up for your-
selves and undertook a campaign to see that our
3500 women pilots, every one of whom is anxious
to do something in the war, be given a chance to
do it."

Hence I am speaking up for the women pilots,
because I am afraid we cannot afford to let the
time slip by just now without using them.