

# FDR's Last Year Of Heart Disease

New York

A physician who treated President Franklin D. Roosevelt says that Roosevelt suffered from heart disease during the last year of his life but that he was able to perform his duties and to make decisions.

Dr. Howard G. Bruenn, who was the president's physician during 1944-45, made public his diagnosis in an article in a medical magazine coinciding with the 25th anniversary of Roosevelt's death.

Bruenn said his report in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, official publication of the American College of Physicians, is "in the interest of accuracy and to answer some unfounded rumors."

He said one rumor was that the president had suffered several "small strokes" before his death of a massive stroke on April 12, 1945.

The president showed no evidence of strokes, declared Dr. Bruenn, 64-year-old professor of medicine at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons who pronounced Roosevelt dead.

"His memory for both recent and past events was good," Bruenn said. "His behavior toward his friends and intimates was unchanged and his speech unaltered."

Bruenn said that Roosevelt did suffer from "congestive heart failure," a general weakening of the heart muscle, during his last year of life.

Bruenn was commander of the Naval Corps Reserve at Bethesda, Md. during the war. He was called in as a consultant in cardiology when Roosevelt was brought to the hospital for a checkup on March 27, 1944, and saw him almost daily from then on.

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