

# Quentin Roosevelt II

**Quentin Roosevelt II** (November 4, 1919 – December 21, 1948) was the fourth child and youngest son of Theodore "Ted" Roosevelt III and Eleanor Butler Alexander. He was the namesake of his uncle Quentin Roosevelt I, who was killed in action in 1918 during World War I. His elder brothers were World War II veterans Theodore Roosevelt IV and Cornelius Van Schaack Roosevelt III. He was a grandson of President Theodore Roosevelt.

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## Life

Quentin Roosevelt II was born on November 4, 1919 in Oyster Bay, New York, less than one year since the death of his grandfather, Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th president of the United States.

Roosevelt published a paper through the American Museum of Natural History in 1934, describing a new species of fossil pronghorn that he and a boyhood friend, Joseph W. Burden, had found in a cave in southern Arizona.<sup>[1][2]</sup> He attended Harvard College, where he wrote his senior thesis on some Nakhi (Naxi) manuscripts he had collected while visiting Western China at the border of Tibet.<sup>[3][4]</sup> *Life* magazine published images from his journey, which he made at the age of 19.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Military career

### Quentin Roosevelt II



<b>Born</b>	November 4, 1919 Oyster Bay, New York
<b>Died</b>	December 21, 1948 (aged 29) Basalt Island, Hong Kong
<b>Place of burial (Cenotaph Only)</b>	Youngs Memorial Cemetery
<b>Allegiance</b>	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> United States of America
<b>Service/branch</b>	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> United States Army
<b>Years of service</b>	1941–1945
<b>Rank</b>	<span><span></span></span> Major
<b>Unit</b>	<span><span><span></span></span><span> </span></span> 1st Infantry Division
<b>Battles/wars</b>	World War II <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><span><span></span></span> Battle of Kasserine Pass</li> <li><span><span></span></span> Battle of Normandy</li></ul>
<b>Awards</b>	<span><span></span></span> Silver Star <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><span><span></span></span> Purple Heart</li></ul>



He graduated from Groton School followed by Harvard College in 1941 and soon after joined the Army.

## World War II

Roosevelt served in the 1st Infantry Division, alongside his father. He served as an artillery officer in the unit.

In 1942, he was seriously wounded by machine gun fire from a German aircraft but survived, and returned to service within a year.<sup>[6]</sup>

During the war, he fought in the Battle of Kasserine Pass (February 1943).<sup>[7]</sup> Roosevelt was among the first wave of soldiers to land at Omaha Beach while his father landed with the first wave at Utah Beach on D-Day.

Roosevelt earned the Silver Star, Purple Heart, and French Croix de Guerre for his war service. He was promoted to Major by the end of war and left active service.

## Death

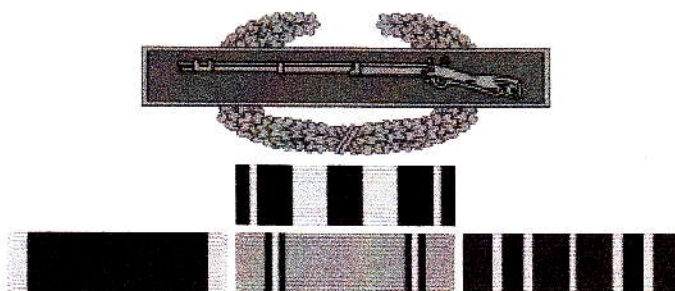
While serving as the Director of the China National Aviation Corporation, he was killed in a plane crash in Hong Kong, on December 21, 1948. He was 29. His C-54 plane crashed on a mountain on Basalt Island, near Sai Kung. All 35 on board were killed instantly.<sup>[8]</sup> There is no clear record of recovery or disposition of his remains, but they are believed to have been left on Basalt Island.<sup>[9]</sup> A memorial gravestone for him is located at his wife's grave in Youngs Cemetery in Oyster Bay, New York.<sup>[10]</sup> <sup>[11]</sup> A memorial is placed for him in the Basalt Island.

## Family

On April 12, 1944, he married Frances Blanche Webb,<sup>[12]</sup> an American Red Cross worker, at Blandford Forum. They had three daughters: Alexandra, Susan, and Anna C. Roosevelt, a noted archaeologist specializing in Amazonia, who won a MacArthur Fellowship. Alexandra married Ronald W. Dworkin.<sup>[13]</sup> Susan Roosevelt Weld graduated from Harvard University with a JD and PhD, and was married to former Massachusetts Governor William Weld; they had five children: David Minot Weld, Ethel Derby Weld, Mary B. Weld, Quentin Roosevelt Weld, and Frances Wylie Weld.<sup>[14]</sup>

## Military awards

Roosevelt's decorations and awards include:



	<u>French Croix de Guerre</u>
<b>Spouse(s)</b>	<u>Frances Blanche Webb</u> (m. 1944)
<b>Children</b>	<u>Alexandra</u> · <u>Susan</u> · <u>Anna</u>
<b>Other work</b>	<u>Director of the China National Aviation Corporation</u>





Combat Infantryman Badge		
Silver Star		
Purple Heart	American Defense Service Medal	American Campaign Medal
European–African–Middle Eastern Campaign Medal w/ Arrowhead device and two 3/16" bronze stars	World War II Victory Medal	<i>French Croix de Guerre</i>

## Works

- "Buddhism" (<https://books.google.com/books?id=mj8EAAAAMBAJ&pg=PA30&ots=JRwFqi9uBu&dq=Buddhism%20-%20study%20of%20its%20history%20takes%20Quentin%20Roosevelt%20to%20Tibet.&pg=PA30#v=onepage&q=Buddhism%20-%20study%20of%20its%20history%20take%20Quentin%20Roosevelt%20to%20Tibet.&f=false>), *Life*, Jan 8, 1940

## References

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- "Burden's Pronghorn: an Arizona Story" (<http://www.thewildlifemuseum.org/exhibits/prehistoric-pronghorn/burdens-pronghorn-an-arizona-story/>). *Prehistoric Pronghorn*. International Wildlife Museum. Retrieved 2015-11-21.
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- David Pickerell (19 November 2007). "Basalt Island Crash Investigation" (<http://www.cnac.org/sun-dby03.pdf>) (PDF). Retrieved 10 August 2015.
- "Circumstances of the Crash on Balsalt Island, Flight originated in Shanghai" (<http://www.cnac.org/accident015.htm>), *Crash of Airplane carrying Quentin Roosevelt II on December 21, 1948*, www.cnac.org, retrieved 2008-09-30
- "Maj Quentin Roosevelt, II (1919 - 1948) - Find A Grave Memorial" (<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSIIn=Roosevelt&GSiman=1&GScty=2007&GRid=17653540&>). *findagrave.com*.