The Churchill Center is a non-profit organization which encourages study of the life and thought of Winston Spencer Churchill; fosters research about his speeches, writings and deeds; advances knowledge of his example as a statesman; and, by programmes of teaching and publishing, imparts that learning to men, women and young people around the world. The Center also sponsors Finest Hour, special publications, symposia, seminars, conferences and tours. The Churchill Center was organized in 1995 by the International Churchill Societies, founded in 1968 to inspire and educate future generations through the works and example of Winston Churchill.
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48 A Game of Dominoes, 1942
The Big Three Take on the Enemy

Cover: An American propaganda poster issued in 1940 after Franklin Delano Roosevelt's reelection as President of the United States. Drawn by Henry Guignon, the poster was intended to alert isolationist Americans that Great Britain and Churchill then represented the best bulwark against totalitarianism. The drawing was later issued in Britain as a postcard, and is the first to graft WSC's jowly features onto the body of a bulldog—but by far not the last. From the collection of Douglas Hall, whose article, "Bulldog Churchill," appears on page 18.
GORT RETORT

In *FH* 104 Simon Riordan says Lord Gort "practically invented Blitzkrieg in 1918." Gort was only a major when he won the VC in 1918, hardly in a position to exercise that much influence. Admitting native bias, I believe the Canadian Corps "invented" Blitzkrieg: first, led by General Byng, during the brilliant capture of Vimy Ridge in April 1917; second, in the breakthrough at Amiens in August 1918, when the Canadians under General Currie led the assault and the three-month follow-up ending with the capture of Mons on 11 November 1918. My father fought at Vimy, Passchendaele and Amiens, so I know something about these things.

DEREK LUKIN JOHNSTON, VANCOUVER, B.C., CANADA

SINGAPORE SLING

I read with dismay some articles in your website regarding your "Personality of the Century" and the Singapore debacle. Churchill was apparently surprised when informed that Singapore had no landward defences; yet he read both the 1939 and 1940 British Chiefs of Staff Far Eastern Appreciations, which clearly stated that Britain could not defend the colony. A copy of the 1940 report was captured by the Japanese Navy; Churchill ordered that this intelligence disaster not be divulged to anyone, including Singapore's military leaders. Why did Churchill insist on sending approximately 70,000 further troops to Singapore (post-8 December 1941) when he knew it was already lost? Only when such issues are openly discussed will we be able to evaluate Churchill's true contribution to the allied war effort during WW2.

ALAN MATTHEWS, WREXHAM, NORTH WALES, UK

I should refer all enquiries on this subject to Arthur Marder's *Old Friends, New Enemies*, all about the Royal Navy and the Imperial Japanese Navy, Volume 1 (Oxford University Press 1981). Naval history of the twentieth century is full of queries as to Churchill's actions and intentions.

PROF. BARRY GOUGH, WILFRID LAURIER UNIVERSITY

We would publish Mr. Matthews's critique, provided it didn't float unprovable conspiracy theories. But before making generalizations he needs a little more experience with our website. Try "Errors and Character Flaws," including "believing that capital ships were safe from hostile aircraft." Or, in "Churchill the Great?" in *FH* 104: "Opinion polls canvassed in Belfast, Cardiff and Edinburgh do not provide much comfort: memories are exceptionally long in Belleek, Topsyand and parts of Dunfer." Undoubtedly those memories include Welshmen like Mr. Matthews. But we are not sure they would all be shared by another Welshman, who both criticised and admired Churchill, David Lloyd George.-Ed.

COVER OFF//104

Churchill was entitled to wear an RAF uniform after his appointment in 1939 as an Honorary Air Commodore of No. 615 (County of Surrey) Squadron, an auxiliary or reserve unit. (The letter "A" on the uniform lapel is for "Auxiliary."). The ribbons appear to be (L-R): Row 1: Order of the Companions of Honour, India Medal, Queen's Sudan Medal, Queen's South Africa Medal. Row 2: 1914-1915 star, War Medal(?), Victory Medal, 1939-1945 Star. Row 3: Africa Star, Italy Star, France and Germany Stars, Defence Medal. Row 4: George V Coronation Medal, George V Jubilee Medal, George VI Coronation Medal, Territorial Decoration. Row 5: Order of Military Merit (Spain), Cuban Campaign Medal(?), U. S. Distinguished Service Medal and Khedive's Sudan Medal (?). Those with question marks are indistinct.

HON. DOUGLAS S. RUSSELL, IOWA CITY, IOWA, USA

DUMPING DE GAULLE

One wonders why the press made such a fuss over this episode (Datelines, *FH* 105) since the matter is referred to not only by Churchill in Volume IV of his *Second World War* (Chapter XLIV) but by Eden's memoirs, *The Reckoning*, Chapter VIII, published in 1965: "The Prime Minister had been for nearly a fortnight in Washington and subject, of course, to repeated American denunciation of the Free French leader. He now telegraphed suggesting that his colleagues should urgently consider whether de Gaulle should not now be eliminated as a political force." Diary, 23rd May 1943: "Cabinet at 9 pm re de Gaulle and Winston's proposal to break with him now. Everyone against and very brave about it in his absence. Attlee and I replied to the Prime Minister immediately after the meeting." A lengthy telegram is then quoted.

PAUL H. COURTENAY, ANDOVER, HANTS., UK

AMAZON SALES FIGURES

Regarding ("Around & About," *FH* 105, p. 9), Amazon.com informs me that their numbers represent a best seller list: "The calculation is based on Amazon.com sales and is updated regularly. The top 10,000 best sellers are updated each hour to reflect sales over the preceding 24 hours. The next 100,000 are updated daily. The rest of the list is updated monthly, based on several different factors." So a rank of 6000 means a book is their 6000th best selling title. Thus *The Great Republic* was 394 when released but is now 8705. But since there are at least a million books in print, Churchill's numbers are holding up well. When Jim Overmeyer checked, *xer War* ranked 65,717th, *History of the English-Speaking Peoples* 38,459th, *My Early Life* 16,726th and *The Second World War* 6425th.

SUZANNE SIGMAN, MILTON, MASS., USA
PERSONALITY OF THE CENTURY-. OUR READERS WRITE

In the context of the recent World Trade Organization protests in Seattle, it should not be forgotten that Free Trade was so much the fibre of Churchill’s political make-up that he crossed the floor over that principle 95 years ago. The European Community, which has come to be such an economic powerhouse, was strongly advocated by Churchill at Zurich in 1946 and consistently thereafter. Let us not forget that his second volume of postwar speeches is entitled Europe Unite. Those are world-impact positions of far greater international moment than the New Deal. While not perfect (and which rival for Person of the Century is entitled equal in the century to come."

The principal motivation of the Politically Correct types in control of the universities and the media is that human beings are lost and hopeless victims of an irrational chaos against which the human spirit is powerless. Such a view cannot be laid at Einstein’s door, but his conception of the vastness of the cosmos and the seeming irrationality of its laws, when translated by the PC crowd, probably justifies for them the pessimism that underlies their view of the universe—hence their choice of Einstein. Contrast the PC-view of Mankind with the self-motivated, positive, up-and-at-em spirit of Churchill, and you can comprehend how the doom-and-gloom crowd couldn’t possibly have picked someone like Churchill. He was simply too grandly human to qualify for Time’s award.

Time says Einstein, and time may ultimately agree. But history will conclude with clarity and finality that Winston Churchill had the greatest impact on political and military outcomes during the entire 20th and much of the 21st century. You know this as well or better than anyone....

Einstein was brilliant and made great strides in theoretical physics but this was based on the previous work of many others as he in turn provided the basis for the further work of others. As with Newton and his Calculus, there were others in a position to take up the threads of development. Liebnitz made an independent major contribution to calculus using a different notation. The development of mathematics and physics would have been the same had there been no Newton; the timing may have been altered by a decade or two. Had there been no Einstein, the world would be the same, give or take a year, or decade, or two.

Churchill’s worldwide political influence could be said to start in 1911 with his appointment as First Lord of the Admiralty and endure until his resignation as Prime Minister in 1955. His literary life for which he received his Nobel Prize started with the Malakand Field Force published in 1898 and ended with his epilogue to the abridged edition of The Second World War published in 1959. Not even Roosevelt can claim anywhere near this record.

In 1914 the Royal Navy would almost certainly have been less well prepared for the Great War. The war might indeed have been "lost in an afternoon" on the North Sea. In 1940, with Halifax or another as Prime Minister, further appeasement or some sort of accommodation with Axis powers was quite possible. He did not do it alone as he himself acknowledged. "The nation had the lion's heart. I had the luck to give the roar." Without Churchill the world would be a very different place.

When the Twentieth Century really ends on 31 December 2000, we hope that the editors of Time will have used the ensuing twelve months learning the lessons provided by this dummy run and name the real Person of the Century.

While I was disappointed to hear of the selection of Einstein, I was even more disappointed to hear Time's rationale that politics has only temporary impact, while science is forever. With this kind of logic driving the train, I can see how they made this gross error.

Obviously the editors of Time took a safe path, ignoring the fact that Sir Winston was crucial to the continuance of the life we currently enjoy. In fact, were it not for him, there might not even be a Time magazine today. Given the middle-of-the-road "politics" required for keeping magazine subscribers, I should not have expected a different outcome. The day after I heard the Time announcement I received Finest Hour 104. For a few seconds I was taken in by the cover. This was display of cleverness that I think Sir Winston himself probably would have enjoyed. In any case, I liked it. My compliments to whoever came up with the idea.

There would we be if not for him
Instead of giving in to tyranny
"XT ever surrender was his rallying cry
"XT America joined his cause
Our world would be a different place
had he
X Tot stood up to the Nazi beast

-BILL CRANFORD, PERKASIE, PA. USA
DATELINES

QUOTE OF THE SEASON

"People do not want to get enthusiastic about anything...politics are extremely dull; no exciting debates, no close divisions, no violent scenes ruffle the serenity...no violent agitation disturbs the tranquillity of the country—all is rest and sleepy, comfortable peace. In the words of the popular song you might have heard: 'Every eyelid closes; All the world reposes; Lazily, lazily, drowsily, drowsily; In the noonday sun.'"

WSC, CLAVERTON MANOR, BATH, 26 JULY 1897

PARENTAL LEAVE

If Winston Churchill had taken leave for the birth of his daughter Sarah in October 1914, he would have had to abandon the defense of Antwerp, which would have fallen a week sooner, preventing the French and British Armies from moving northwest and allowing the French Channel ports to be occupied by the Germans, a calamity that might have altered the course of World War I. Memo to Tony Blair: Ministerial Leavetaking may lead to discomfiting results.

VLADIMIR PUTIN, CHURCHILLIAN?

Moscow, February 21st—Churchill is reputed to have said, "Anyone who is not a liberal at twenty has no heart; anyone who is not a conservative at forty has no brains." In an interview with The New York Times sent to us by Marc David Miller, Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, is quoted as saying, "Anyone who doesn't regret the passing of the Soviet Union has no heart...anyone who wants it restored has no brains." We fully share half his sentiment.

GETTING TO CHARTWELL

This time of year we are often asked how to get to Chartwell other than by driving (complicated and time-consuming what with London traffic). The Chartwell Explorer is an efficient coach service operated by Country Lanes West Kent in an effort to cut down on the appalling traffic over Kentish lanes. Last year it operated weekends and bank holidays from mid-May to early September and on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays during July-August (closed Mondays and Tuesdays). Departures from Charing Cross began at 0930 with returns from as late as 1750. We advise the earliest departure and last return possible, as there is much to do, luncheon facilities and plenty of room to roam when you've seen the house and grounds. Return coach fare (with a pot of tea thrown in!) cost £3. A "London Special," including coach out, train back and entry to Chartwell was only £12, or £7.50 if you are a National Trust member. Children half price. Sounds like a deal to us. Ring the Chartwell Explorer at (0345) 696966.

British Rail. Our readers recommend the Capital Coast Express from Victoria Station, or any other train marked, "to East Grinstead and calling at Oxted." You must get one that stops at Oxted, which is the closest rail station to Chartwell. Fare is about £6 and a cab to Westerham costs another £6. You can arrange with the taxi driver to meet you at Chartwell for the ride back. If you make a mistake and go to Sevenoaks, the taxi fare will be at least three times as high.

Be sure to ring Chartwell if you have any questions about opening times, etc.: (01732) 868381.

SIR GEORGE KENNARD, BT.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir George Kennard, 3rd Bt. has died at the age of 84. Rafal Heydel-Mankoo reports: "Born 1915, Sir George was the commanding officer of the 4th Hussars (Churchill joined the regiment in 1895 and would later become its colonel), the son of 'eccentric' parents. His father was a penniless baronet who was mesmerised by Arabia. His mother was a drug addict who spent the last years of her life in an institution believing she was a dog." ICS UK chairman Col. Nigel Knocker writes: "I knew Sir George slightly when I was in the British Army. He was a delightful eccentric who was nicknamed 'Loopy,' and was one of those officers whom soldiers followed more out of curiosity than anything else!" Sorry we never met the gent.

WAR PAPERS UNPUBLISHED

In our last issue (p. 8) we reported April 6th as the launch date for "The Ever-Widening War," Volume 3 of The Churchill War Papers, corresponding to Companion Volume 6, Part 3 of the Official Biography, Winston S. Churchill. The book did not appear. We have no further details to give you. We shall make no further announcements until we have copies in our hands. We regret to have misled the many readers who were looking forward to this work and assure you our disappointment is as keen as yours.

continued overleaf...
FIRST WOMAN MP

CHURCHILL TRIVIA answer 979 (FH 104), that Nancy Astor was the first woman MP, requires amplification. The first woman actually elected to Parliament was Constance Markiewicz (nee Gore-Booth), as Member for the St. Patrick's Division of Dublin in the General Election of 1918. As a member of Sinn Fein, she did not however take her seat at Westminster, in line with Sinn Fein policy which (relative to the remaining Westminster seats for Northern Ireland) continues to this day.

Nancy Astor, the first woman actually to take her seat, was elected MP for Plymouth Sutton at a by-election in 1919, replacing her husband, who had been ennobled. Astor is remembered as the author of the shameful quip, "The D-Day Dodgers," a reference to the Allied Armies in Italy who fought a dreadful and thankless campaign against bitter opposition which culminated in the crushing of the German forces on the Po and their unconditional surrender on 2 May 1945. They unofficially adopted the title "D-Day Dodgers" and even produced a ditty by the same name set to the tune "Lili Marlene." -Peter Macfarlane

HAIDER ON WSC AND DRESDEN

According to a Tasmanian newspaper, in a supposed interview with the Sunday Telegraph, the leader of Austria's Freedom Party, Jurgen Haider, said Churchill was responsible for destroying the German city of Dresden during the Second World War. Haider was thought to have made the remark to a Viennese magazine which he pressured not to print before recent Austrian elections. When his remark was quoted he said: "Yes. With Churchill there are a lot of bad things—and a lot of honour. He did right and wrong. That's the fate of an important politician."

Asked what Churchill had done wrong, Haider said: "The bad things were like the decision to destroy cities such as Dresden, where there were no soldiers of the German army. There were only citizens." Mr. Haider's comments came as the Duke of Kent was preparing to commemorate the 55th anniversary of the Dresden raid by presenting a replica orb and cross to Dresden's cathedral, which was bombed on 13 February 1945. Haider also implied Austrians would not be upset by the Prince of Wales's cancellation of a planned visit in May in protest at his election, snorting, "The Austrian people would have been disappointed if Diana had been coming, and then cancelled. But this...is not the case."

Member Martin Fischer (Austria) comments: "Haider never gave an interview with the Telegraph, so the Tasmanian newspaper cites a fake. What he did say, in an interview with the Vienna paper Der Falter in September 1999 was, approximately: 'If I'd look at Hitler, Churchill and Stalin, I'd have a hard choice; they are all the same.' (Source in German can be found at the website: http://store.falter.at/interview.html.)

"However, as our state secretary last night pointed out, we had little choice beside reelection. Now we have the opportunity to prove that he as well as his cronies are not able to govern the country, a situation that is foreseeable as long as people elect those with the highest entertainment value."

COATES ON WSC & DRESDEN

Neil Coates comments on the above: If news like the above is to be taken seriously, it should run alongside two quotes from the Official Biography, Vol. VII:

"On the night of 13 February 1945...British bombers struck at the city of Dresden, dropping 1471 tons of high explosive bombs, and 1175 tons of incendiaries. A few hours later American bombers carried out a daylight raid over the same city, dropping 689 tons of bombs on the still-burning ruins. The raid was a direct result of the agreement reached at Yalta by the British, United States and Soviet Chiefs of Staff, to make emergency use of Anglo-American air power in order to disrupt German reinforcements moving eastward to the Russian front." (1219)

"Churchill said: 'The destruction of Dresden remains a serious query against the conduct of Allied bombing. I am of the opinion that military objectives must henceforward be more strictly studied...I feel the need for more precise concentration upon military objectives such as oil and communications behind the immediate battle-zone, rather than on mere acts of terror and wanton destruction however impressive.' Churchill did not initiate this series of raids but soon modified them when he became aware of their effects." (1257)

The bombing of Dresden must be regarded as one of the fortunes of war. If there is any residual criminality it pales to insignificance beside a government policy of the murder of millions of people merely because of their ethnic origin or religion. continued overleaf...
2000 BLENHEIM AWARDS TO FROST, DARRAH

The Churchill Center Board of Governors has presented the coveted Blenheim Award to three members of ICS United Kingdom: John Frost of New Barnet, Hertfordshire and Jack and Rita Darrah of Luton, Bedfordshire. The awards will be presented at the next ICS UK meeting they are able to attend.

John Frost's legendary collection of newspapers has served as the basis of research for writers, filmmakers and historians for two generations. Every few weeks for the past twenty years, a large bundle has arrived at Finest Hour from John, our cuttings (clippings) editor: Churchill articles of every stripe, which are turned into articles or entries for "International Datelines" or serve as leads to features. John provides occasional historical gems, such as an original newspaper from VE-Day, which go into the magazine's permanent collection to be handed down from editor to editor. The Blenheim Award comes with many happy returns, for April 2000 marks John Frost's eightieth birthday.

Jack and Rita Darrah set up the "Churchill Rooms" at Bletchley Park, Bucks., displaying books and memorabilia from Jack's personal collection, augmented by additional material donated by members. Their work was reported in Finest Hour 91: "Bletchley Park Blooms with Churchilliana."

But Jack and Rita have done more than stock some cases with Churchilliana. They serve as active ambassadors of good will, enthusiastically greeting and guiding thousands of people, including CC/ICS members and tour groups through the Churchill Rooms. They especially welcome school children, hoping to acquaint them with a story that is not much taught in schools. In the last two years Jack has hosted over 4000 students.

The Blenheim Award is a recognition of those who have notably contributed to the memory of Sir Winston, the understanding of his life and times, and/or for notable contributions to The Churchill Center and Societies. We are all very grateful to John, Jack and Rita.

THANKS WENDYI ENDOWMENT NEAR $2,000,000

HONORARY member Wendy Reves, Sir Winston's hostess during his retirement and widow of his literary collaborator Emery Reves, has bequeathed $500,000 to The Churchill Center Endowment to create the Wendy and Emery Reves Library at the Center's Washington headquarters. Together with Emery's book collection, which she had previously bequeathed, Wendy's generous gift is the largest to the endowment fund yet, bringing the total commitment to $1,868,291.

Hungarian-born Emery Reves had distributed Churchill's articles to the European press since the 1930s, but as Hitler's influence grew his press outlets dried up. When the war started the Jewish Reves was on Nazi target lists; Churchill helped him escape from Paris to London and eventually New York, where he set up Cooperation Publishing Co. After the war, Reves spearheaded the sale of Churchill's war memoirs (see "Sales Department for the Production Chief," FH 96 p. 34), and dozens of other titles which he spread worldwide. After stepping down as Premier Churchill spent much of his time at the Reves's villa "La Pausa," where Wendy, who still resides there, worked tirelessly to please their guest. It was Wendy, likewise, who in 1988 put up the editorial fees to make possible the Churchill War Papers series.

The Churchill Center plans to centralize its administrative offices in Washington, the seat of American government, the most visited city for foreign leaders, with the greatest concentration of schools of international affairs. The Reves Library will contain a standard reference collection of Churchill's books in all their editions, plus books about him. In addition to Emery's books, which include many rare foreign editions, the library has received a first edition of the Malakand Field Force from Edwin F. Russell, the Conover Collection of signed books, letters and photos, and books donated by Celwyn Ball and Dorothy Reinke. All are currently held in trust by the editor.

ARCHIVES EXHIBIT GUARANTEE

Wendy Reves further underscores her support by guaranteeing up to $100,000 of the financing necessary to produce a major Churchill Archival Exhibit in the United States. The Churchill Center is presently in discussion with Churchill Archives Centre, and other large archival sources, along with likely venues in Washington and elsewhere. With its American location in mind, the exhibit will concentrate on aspects of Churchill's relationship with the USA and its leaders. As usual, FH readers will be first to know of developments.

FINEST HOUR 106/8
of Parliament, Mr. Churchill left the Commons to devote more time to his career as a journalist, which predates his political years. He is a contributor to *Finest Hour* (his latest article is in this issue), and has granted FH permission to reprint his grandfather's work in our pages. He is also promoting development of an electronic reference to the Churchill Papers by Southampton University and the Churchill Archives. In addition to being an Honorary Member and Associate, Mr. Churchill serves as a Trustee of The Churchill Center. We are proud to have Sir Winston's grandson so much involved in our affairs and are grateful as always for his generous support.

**LADY SOAMES TO JOIN ALASKA CRUISE AND CONFERENCE**

Our Patron looks forward to joining Churchillians for views of glaciers and whales from the cruise on southeast Alaska's "Inside Passage" before the 17th International Churchill Conference, to be held in Anchorage in mid-September. The cruise on the *Endeavour*, departing from Seattle on September 2, will visit Misty Fjords, Ketchikan, Sitka, and Glacier Bay National Park before arriving in Alaska's capital city of Juneau on September 9th. At this writing, some cabins were still available: to make reservations, or for more information, call Cindy Smirnoff at Custom Travel Consultants at (907) 344-8786, or fax her at (907) 344-8802.

The Conference will be held in Anchorage on September 13-17, beginning with a Mountaintop Reception hosted by the British Consul-General of San Francisco. Reservations may be made at the headquarters hotel, the Westin Alyeska Prince Hotel in Anchorage, by calling (800) 228-3000 in Canada or the USA (or, in the UK, 0800-325-959-595); ask for the International Churchill Conference rate. Or fax your request, with a credit card number, to (907) 754-2220.

Members of the Churchill Center and the International Churchill Societies have already received conference registration materials. For more information on the conference, see our website (www.winstonchurchill.org).

**CELIA SANDYS SEeks ACCOUNTS OF GRANDFATHER’S TRAVELS**

Celia Sandys’s third book on her grandfather will involve his world travels, and she is particularly interested in hearing from anyone who can relate the experiences of relatives or friends who may have met WSC on his visits to North America. Anecdotes, printed information, letters and photographs are especially sought. Please describe material to Celia by email to (celia.sandys@ukgateway.net) or by fax: dialed from North America, the number is (01144) 1672-871066.

**TORONTO**

**November 29th—** Members of The Other Club of Ontario gathered in the superb library of the Royal Canadian Military Institute to hear local member Terry Reardon present "Thoughts on the Eve of the 125th Anniversary of Churchill's Birth." There were many new members in the crowd of about fifty. Some had recently attended the Gettysburg Theme Conference, about which ICS Canada President Randy Barber reported.

Randy writes: "As is my wont, I brought several 'show & tell' articles for the multitudes to fondle in the touchy-

*continued overleaf*
feely part. Coffee and light snacks were provided so no one went home ravenous and chewed out die spouse. Indeed a high percentage of the fairer sex were in attendance: until one of the male members lit up the biggest stogie I've ever seen and the crowd thinned rather noticeably for ten feet around him...."

Past President Bernard Webber concluded the evening with a video presentation of Chartwell. For information on future events, with and without cigars, contact Other Club President Norm MacLeod (address on page 2).

GETTYSBURG
SEPTEMBER 24-26TH—Ghosts of History walk hallowed ground at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. From the awful days of 1863, when Lee led his troops to the "High Water Mark of the Confederacy" and Chamberlain and Pickett charged through the portal of fame, to Lincoln's immortal address at the new national cemetery, to later years when other world leaders came to visit, Gettysburg has hosted history's greats.

In May 1959, Churchill came by helicopter from Washington to see the battlefield from the air and to visit the farm of his wartime colleague, Dwight Eisenhower. Their meeting was celebrated in Finest Hour 103, marked by Charlotte Thibault's expressive painting, "Churchill and Eisenhower at Gettysburg."

Both the Civil War battle and the 1959 Churchill visit were highlighted at the first Churchill Theme-Conference at Gettysburg on 24-26 September, chaired by John Plumpton, with the significant help of Ruth Plumpton and Lorraine and Craig Horn. Attended by several hundred members and friends, it was a most successful event which impressed several important facts on us: people like events where Churchill shares the spotlight with another key historical theme; they also like the idea of shorter, less expensive conferences offering a choice of overnight accommodations at different prices.

Friday September 24th involved registration at the Hotel Gettysburg, staffed by Lorraine Horn and Ruth Plumpton, who offered a variety of Churchill Stores items provided by Gail Greenly. In the afternoon we repaired to the church attended by President Eisenhower (and Abraham Lincoln when he came to town for his famous address) to hear Michael Birkner, Professor of History at Gettysburg College, discuss Eisenhower's years in town. Coaches then took us to the Eisenhower Historic Site, the only home Ike and Mamie ever owned, visited by a host of people from Montgomery and de Gaulle to Nehru and Sir Winston. At the evening dinner our speaker was Warren Kimball of Rutgers University, who considered "Churchill and Eisenhower: A Relationship Forged in War." Prof. Kimball also received the 1999 Farrow Award for Excellence in Churchill Studies.

On Saturday a short walk took us to Gettysburg College for a lecture and slides by Judge Frank Williams, Chairman of the Lincoln Forum, before an audience which included students. His topic was "Roosevelt, Lincoln, Churchill and Eisenhower: Communitytarians, Warriors and Echo Men." Judge Williams didn't hesitate to express opinions which were debatable enough to spark a lively exchange with the audience! We enjoyed this because it was a most stimulating experience. After the lecture, coaches took us to a tour of the famous battlefield, where we were able to observe a lifelike reenactment by Blue and Grey soldiers of the skirmishing on the Emmitsburg Road and Peach Orchard in July 1863.

After dinner Saturday evening at the historic Dobbin House Tavern, we were entertained by Abraham Lincoln—well, James Getty, attired as (and making a very convincing replica of) America's 16th President. He had to be convincing, for the Q&A was again lively, with Iowan-turned-Maryland Confederate Craig Horn confronting the President on why he thought it appropriate to suspend Habeas Corpus! Mr. Lincoln handled the challenge with aplomb, and for good measure redelivered the Gettysburg Address at closing ceremonies at the National Cemetery Sunday morning.

Congratulations to John Plumpton for this exciting concept which proved such a success, and to Ruth, Lorraine and Craig for their time and effort not only during the events but in the extensive planning and pre-registration.

BACK TO CALIFORNIA IN 2001
The International Churchill Conference returns to California for the first time since 1990 in the San Diego area on August 9-13th, 2001. The date was selected with younger members in mind, to occur at a time when school is out. Accommodations will be reasonably priced with lower cost alternatives available, and members, friends and students will be admitted at low or no charge to daytime events and evening speeches. The object is to allow younger members and those with children to attend more easily. (Average age of CC members is only 48).

The conference committee, under Vice-President Bill Ives, includes the enthusiastic members of California Churchillians, who will help organize and staff the events. Programs will involve more audience participation, as at Gettysburg (see left), with freewheeling debates and the sharing of opinions. If you are interested in playing a part (or just learning about the next California event this year), please contact Curt Zoller, 21335 Amora St., Mission Viejo CA 92692, email zcurt@earthlink.net or telephone (714) 581-6534.

FINEST HOUR 106 /10
MICHAEL WYBROW 1930-2000

GUILDFORD, SURREY, MARCH 3RD—His many friends in Churchill and bookish circles mourn the death of our friend and colleague Michael Wybrow, Churchill collector extraordinaire, who created one of the finest collections in Great Britain and was also an active member of the Committee of ICS/UK for many years.

Michael Wybrow and Dalton Newfield were the world's first Churchill specialist booksellers, both in business as early as the 1970s. Many collectors remember the bookfairs Michael organised in the alley next to the Royal Academy, or met him at the Cafe Royale bookfairs. Mark Weber recalls Michael's collecting enthusiasm: "He left no stone unturned and had some remarkable schemes to acquire material. I remember him telling me that in the Sixties after Churchill died, he wrote to many titled people asking if they had programmes or memorabilia from any ceremonies involving Churchill. The result was a nice collection of tickets and leaflets on the various Freedoms of Cities and similar ceremonies honouring Churchill. What rich pickings he must have had back then."

The greatest day I ever spent at Chartwell was with Michael Wybrow. Former administrator Jean Broome had kindly invited us on a "closed day" and, after a rousing ride out in his beloved Rover 3.5 V-8, we were turned loose to examine the book collection. We found many editions we had never laid eyes on before, particularly foreign language issues like the Brazilian, Spanish, even Turkish editions of the war memoirs. That day really was the spark that inspired me to write A Connoisseur's Guide to the Books of Sir Winston Churchill, published in time to send Michael a copy and show him the acknowledgement recalling our trip.

I doubt alas if he was able to read the whole book, for his eyesight had failed, and anyone who loves books can imagine how frustrating that would be. It is to his great credit, and an inspiration to his friends, that all he would ever say about his increasing infirmities was that they amounted to "a spot of bother."

"Some men when they die after busy, toilsome, successful lives leave a great stock of scrip and securities, of acres or factories or the good will of large undertakings," Churchill once wrote of his friend F. E. Smith. Michael Wybrow, like F. E., "banked his treasure in the hearts of his friends, and they will cherish his memory till their time is come."

-RML

WORLD CRISIS TO W.C.

1 September 1999
Department of State, Office of Protocol
Gifts to Federal Employees from Foreign Government Sources Reported in 1999:
Person Accepting Gift: President Clinton
Identity of Donor: His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco

The other books the King gave to the President on this occasion were Orme's Anecdotes, Petrarch's Sonnets, and Caesar's Commentaries; total estimated value of all these books, including The World Crisis, listed as $14,400.

ENIGMA ENIGMA

BLETCHEY PARK (REUTERS), MARCH 19TH—A thief walked off with a rare Enigma machine used by the Nazis to send coded messages during World War II and one of only three in the world. It was lifted during an open day on Saturday at the once top-secret Bletchley Park estate where the code was broken.

"The machine was stolen from a display cabinet," a police spokesman said. "There does appear to be quite a large market for World War II memorabilia and if you are a collector then an Enigma machine would be something you would want in your collection." Police said the machine was worth several thousand pounds but its historical value is impossi-
AROUND & ABOUT

David Irving, the Hitler apologist and Churchill hater, has lost a three-month libel battle in England's High Court against Penguin Publishing and Deborah Lipstadt, whose book, Denying the Holocaust, had called him a World War II holocaust denial fanatic. The judge's summary was damning, branding Irving as a "racist and an anti-Semite" who associated with neo-Nazi groups. There wasn't a redeeming sentence in the judgement. Irving doesn't seem to be at all repentent, but we suspect his bank manager is. Estimates are that this case will have cost him at least £2 million.

1) GAME: A novel bleat was published in the February 18th Globe and Mail, Canada's national newspaper, from one David Kipling, protesting a February 16th column by Marcus Gee, who named Churchill the greatest figure of the 20th century: "Well, the man certainly scored a heck of a body count among soldiers and citizens—including a few striking Welsh miners even before the Second World War. A parliamenary tactician devoid of political commitment, with an artful line of patter straight out of Queen Anne's reign, he climbed on stage for the Hitler thing and caused less evil than Adolf. This ranks as 'great'?...Under orders 'we' had to fight each other on the beaches, but you bosses fought from cozy concrete bunkers 50 feet underground....No more 'Churchills' of any name or nation!" Finest Hour replied: "There are plenty of legitimate Churchill critics and critiques, so why give space to cranks? The Churchill Mr. Kipling says fought World War II from cozy concrete bunkers' had to be restrained from spending Blitz nights on the Downing Street roof, and—aged 65-70—flew around the world in cold, unpressurized aircraft, contracting pneumonia on one trip, in the interest of the war effort, which is more than we recall any other leader doing."

2) SET: Incredibly, this drew a response from David Irving (see above), who apparently subscribes to the Globe and Mail! "If I may respond, as a historian who has worked for 20 years on the great man's biography: It may well be, as Richard Langworth says (letter, March 8), that Mr. Churchill spent many a night on the roof of No. 10 Downing Street. As we now know, however, those nights on the roof were nights when Winston knew from codebreaking that London was not the target. When he knew that London was going to cop it, he hopped into his Daimler and had himself driven out to Ditchley [sic] in Oxfordshire, for the night. Comparison of his desk diary, which I have, and the Air Ministry records indicate this beyond doubt. Of course, he was a magnificent orator...."

3) AND MATCH...It took us just ten minutes to send the Globe and Mail the first citation challenging Mr. Irving: The War and Colonel Warden, by Gerald Pawle, based on the recollections of Churchill's wartime naval aide Cdr. C. R. "Tommy" Thompson (London: 1963, chapter 8, page 82): One night at Downing Street, "a strong presentiment of danger" prompted Churchill to send his kitchen staff to a shelter, just before the kitchen was destroyed by a bomb falling on the Treasury. Churchill immediately went in search of his staff and, finding them safe, led some guests "through the India Office quadrangle to Storey's Gate, and up to the sandbagged emplacement which had been built for him as an observation post on the roof of the Air Ministry. This was his favourite coign of vantage in air raids." (He had it BUILT—get it?) Mr. Irving (we wrote) says he is a historian, but he is clearly unfamiliar with the function of Ditchley. Churchill went there not to avoid London, but to avoid Chequers (the official country house of Prime Ministers) when, on weekends of the full moon, Chequers could easily be spotted by enemy bombers. The PM explained that he did "not object to chance but feels it a mistake to be a victim of design." (Fringes of Power, Colville, London: 1985, p. 263). Churchill visited Ditchley exactly seven times during the entire war. (Gilbert, Winston S. Churchill, vol. VI, London: 1983, passim.) Mr. Irving may like to know that the Luftwaffe visited London rather more frequently, and not just on weekends. Numerous serious historians, from Higgins and Roskill to Rhodes James and Charmley, have written cogently of Churchill's flaws which, like his qualities, were on a grand scale. The points is that the qualities outnumbered the flaws—which did not include cowardice.

4) JUST SHUT UP! All of the above (and many other letters to the editor), was too much for Globe and Mail columnist Rick Salutin, who wrote on March 17th: "Will all you people please shut up about Winston Churchill? It hasn't stopped since before the millennium....Now, four months later, with Y2K just a memory, the Churchill torrent pours on. Letters, articles, columns... Last week, David Irving took time off from his Holocaust denial trial in London to write The Globe on Churchill, followed by a flood of rebuttal. My own view of Churchill is more restrained. I'd say he was wrong on every issue in his life except one. But if you're only going to be right once,
it's a good thing if it's about Hitler. Otherwise: He largely opposed the vote for women; favoured forcible sterilization of 'the feeble-minded and insane classes'; helped repress the Irish independence movement; supported military intervention against the Russian revolution; welcomed Mussolini's coup in Italy; wanted to use the 1926 General Strike as a pretext to smash British labour; opposed India's independence; and helped launch the Cold War by sending British troops to Greece to crush the anti-Nazi resistance. He was also an unapologetic racist. He called Indians 'baboos' and Africans 'fuzzy-wuzzies.' In 1919, when asked to allow use of poison gas 'against recalcitrant Arabs as an experiment,' he said: 'I do not understand the squeamishness.'...He believed in the destiny of the 'British race' and 'English-speaking peoples'....One merit of the Churchill yakfest is it lets us notice that the old-fashioned racism of imperial days is still around. Take the allegations about murders of natives by Saskatchewan police...." and on and on ad infinitum in which Mr. Salutin managed to insert his view of Canadian politics.

6) SHUT UP YOURSELF!  The trouble with replying to the same old lies by people who ignore responsible sources is that they get paid to write, whereas letters to the editor get no pay. But new legions were coming to our aid...

"Rick Salutin has identified a point that we must not forget: even our heroes were human, with flaws in their character and mistakes in their record. Winston Churchill's 90 years of life and 70 years of military and political service certainly have moments that were not his "finest hour."

"Babe Ruth struck out more than 1,000 times, but his legacy is based on his record. Churchill led the resistance to a communist takeover in Greece, but surely Mr. Salutin is not suggesting that Stalin would have removed Soviet troops from Poland, Hungary, East Germany, etc. had Churchill given him that war-ravaged land! Churchill warned of the "Iron Curtain" from "Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic" when other world leaders either didn't see it or refused to recognize it. He did indeed have his battles with labour leaders, but his leadership established unemployment insurance and labour exchanges (employment centres) in Britain prior to WWI.

"Yes, he made his mistakes, and being "a man of his times" is not always justification, but he just as often admitted them. He readily accepted that he sometimes had to eat his own words. "And on the whole I find them a tasty diet," he said. I do hope that Mr. Salutin, after a deeper reading of history, will find his just as tasty."

John Plumpton, President, The Churchill Center, to the Globe and Mail

"Send for Churchill": The 1951 Campaign Pin
The Washington Society for Churchill offers this finely enameled replica of the pin Churchill's supporters wore in the election which made him Prime Minister again in 1951. The craftsmanship is a significant improvement on the original—crisp, clear and bright. US $10 or the equivalent postpaid. Cheques to WSC, c/o Dan Borinsky, 2080 Old Bridge Road #203, Lake Ridge VA 22192.

FOREIGN PRONUNCIATION
Saryl Radwin (sradwin@station.sony.com) representing Hasbro, the originators of "Trivial Pursuit") asked if Winston Churchill ever said, "Everybody has a right to pronounce foreign names as he chooses." The editor is writing a book, The Churchill Lexicon, which he hopes will be the ultimate source of quips and quotes, but neither my database nor any references contain the above. But I did find other cute ones on the subject:

D "I must say, even from the point of view of the ordinary uses of English, that it is not customary to quote a term in a foreign language, a capital town, a geographic place, when there exists a perfectly well-known English equivalent. It is usual to say 'Paris,' not 'Paree.'" -Pawle, The War and Col. Warden, London: Harrap 1963

D [When someone pronounced Walshavn as "Vals-harvern"]: "Don't be so B.B.C.—the place is WALLS-HAVEN!" -Pawle, op. cit.

a "Jack, when you cross Europe you land at Marsai, spend a night in Lee-on and another in Par-ee, and, crossing by Callay, eventually reach Londres. I land at Mar-sales, spend a night in Lions, and another in Paris, and come home to London." -WSC to his friend Jack Seely, later Lord Mottistone, in Eade, ed., Churchill by His Contemporaries, London: Hutchinson 1953

"In all correspondence, it would be more convenient to use the word 'Persia' instead of 'Iran,' as otherwise dangerous mistakes may easily occur continued overleaf
through the similarity of Iran and Iraq...Formal correspondence with the Persian Government should of course be conducted in die form they like."


D "I always thought it was a most unfortunate and most tiresome thing when both Persia and Mesopotamia changed their names at about the same time to two names which were so much alike—Iran and Iraq. I have endeavoured myself in the domestic sphere to avoid such risks [in naming Ministers]."

-House of Commons, 7 May 41

a Visiting Russia on 13 Feb 45, he was told by a Russian-speaking RAF officer that arrangements had been made to fly him home via "Sevastapol."

WSC replied: "Sebastapol's good enough was told by a Russian-speaking RAF officer that arrangements had been made to fly him home via "Sevastapol."

- House of Commons, 7 May 41

D "I do not consider that names that have been familiar for generations in England should be altered to study the whims of foreigners living in those parts. Where the name has no particular significance the local custom should be followed. However, Constantinople should never be abandoned, though for stupid people Istanbul may be written in brackets after it. As for Angora, long familiar with us through the Angora cats, I will resist to the utmost of my power its degradation to Ankara, [and...]

D "Bad luck...always pursues people who change the names of their cities. Fortune is rightly malignant to those who break with the traditions and customs of the past...Ankara is banned, unless in brackets afterwards. If we do not make a stand we shall in a few weeks be asked to call Leghorn 'Livorno,' and the B.B.C. will be pronouncing Paris 'Paree.' Foreign names were made for Englishmen, not Englishmen for foreign names. I date this minute from St. George's Day." - WSC, Minute to the Foreign Office, 23 Apr 45

- The news which has come from Monte Viddy-oh has been received with thankfulness....The pocket battleship Graf Speee...has met her doom..."

-House of Commons, 18 Dec 39, after die scuttling of the Graf Spee off Montevideo, Uruguay, three days earlier.

- "It is for me a high honour to receive today the Charlemagne Prize in this famous German and European city of Aachen, which some call Aix-la-Chapelle." - Speech on receiving the Charlemagne Prize, 10 May 56.

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RIDDLES, MYSTERIES, ENIGMAS

*Send your questions to the Editor*

Q I am an undergraduate at Bristol University about to embark on a project of 10,000 words with the provisional title "Inconsistency or Uniformity? Churchill's Actions and Attitudes Toward France from the Beginning of his Career until the Fall of France in June 1940". Obviously I already have quite a substantial bibliography but any books, documentation or websites which you could suggest would be much appreciated.

-Rebecca Hardee (rh7677@bristol.ac.uk)

A There is a passage in Churchill's "The Dream" where he comments (to the ghost of his father) of a boyhood visit to the Strasbourg monument, draped in black, on the Place de la Concorde. "The Dream" is published in full toward the end of vol 8 of the official biography. Kershaw's book Churchill and de Gaulle, though an excellent source, is mainly about events after June 1940. Reynaud's book In the Thick of the Fight (NY: Simon & Schuster 1955) is good on Churchill through May 1940. Of course the official biography should be combed for France references through volume 6. Then there are Churchill's essays on Foch and Clemenceau (published in Great Contemporaries). And you should also check French references in Churchill's two war memoirs, The World Crisis and The Second World War.

Q What books did WSC read during his "university" period whilst in India? - Robert Courts, UK

A See My Early Life, chapter IX, in which he lists: Gibbon's Decline & Fall of the Roman Empire (8 volumes) and Autobiography; Macaulay's Lays of Ancient Rome, History of England and Es-
PERSONALITY OF THE CENTURY

THE VERY MODEL OF A DEMOCRATIC STATESMAN

At the heart of Churchill's politics were a deeply felt dedication to and confidence in the people he led.

CHRISTOPHER MATTHEWS

ON A cold, drizzly night in November 1989, rumors flew in East Berlin that the Brandenburg Gate might be opened. People started to gather, hoping to be among the first to cross over to the West. Wading into the crowd, I tried to find out, with my limited German, what freedom meant to them. I asked, "Was ist Freiheit?"

"This is Freiheit," said a young man wearing an old army surplus jacket. "This, standing in a public place arguing openly about such things as democracy, capitalism, and socialism." A nearby woman who said she was a nurse broke in: "Four weeks ago we couldn't have done this."

A few years later, in Cape Town, I stared in awe at a line of voters that stretched across a wide plain from horizon to horizon. For the first time in history, South Africans of every color could cast ballots. Said one bright-eyed woman, "This is the day I've waited for my whole life."

Such are the triumphs at this century's end. A world threatened by Nazism and communism was saved twice. People long silenced now can speak. Countries once democratic in name only now experience the real thing. And of all this, one man is the emblem. As Britain's prime minister, he saved his country and perhaps the world from Adolf Hitler. But what he did out of office—alerting an indifferent world to the Nazis' rise in the 1930s; giving the Iron Curtain its name in 1946—deserves an equal place in the history of our times.

For Winston Churchill—a man of words, an orator and author—freedom was the word that made speech and writing both possible and noble. Declaring him an honorary citizen of the United States, John F. Kennedy quoted an earlier remark by Edward R. Murrow: Churchill sent the English language "into battle." With the Czechs, the Poles, the Belgians, the Dutch, the Danes, and the French beaten and the continent of Europe overrun in June 1940, his was the voice that said Britain would "never surrender."

It was the same voice that spoke—again, while others were silent—of the postwar peril from Moscow. At Yalta in February 1945, Churchill alone pushed for free elections in Poland. Sick, wearied by the war, and tragically unwary of the new global menace from the left, Franklin Roosevelt felt he could rely on the old charm; he could "handle" Stalin. In his view, free elections in Poland were a "distant" concern for the United States, since Polish-Americans were mostly of the second generation. But to Churchill, democracy was paramount. When Stalin broke his promise to hold elections in Poland, Churchill saw the writing on the wall. A year later, he alerted the world at Fulton, Missouri.

WHAT gave Churchill majesty was not just his horror of the century's twin scourges, against which he spearheaded the fight. It was his dedication to the democratic creed. No one in this century so personified the democratic ideal. When the British people made him their leader, he excelled at the task. When they rejected him, he gave truer leadership in opposition than the government in power. Winston Churchill needed no badge of office to see, to think, to speak, to lead.

In this, he was a different sort of leader. A son of the British upper classes, he had the public persona of a man who earned his way by his pen and his tongue. He saved Britain not by protecting it but by rousing his countrymen to brace themselves for what he assured them would be their "finest hour." He could do this because the sentiments to which he gave such fine expression were his own.

That is the heart of it. The sentiments, about England and about the cause of freedom, that he championed on the world stage were Churchill's personal convictions, and he brought to them the courage of a fighter. John Lukacs's new book, Five Days in London: May 1940 (reviewed in Finest Hour 105), lays it out in detail: At the crucial moment, Churchill's understanding of Hitler, of Britain's danger, of politics, and of his countrymen allowed him to face down the appeasers and make the case decisively for all-out war.

"You ask, what is our policy?" he told the House of Commons in his first speech as prime minister.
I will say: It is to wage war: by sea, land and air, with all our might and with all the strength that God can give us; to wage war against a monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark and lamentable catalogue of human crime. That is our policy. You ask, What is our aim? I can answer in one word: Victory—victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory however long and hard the road may be; for without victory there is no survival.

Churchill's bold words rested on a hard foundation. An undistinguished student, he spent his youth and young adulthood proving himself as a military man. Upon graduating from the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, he went to India, and the result was his first book, The Story of the Malakand Field Force. If writing about warfare after a single campaign seemed precocious, Churchill quickly outdid himself. He joined Kitchener's campaign to regain Khartoum from the disciples of the Mahdi, who had vanquished and beheaded General Charles "Chinese" Gordon. Churchill wrote of Kitchener's exploits in The River War—and criticized him for desecrating the Mahdi's tomb.

In South Africa, where he went as a war correspondent, Churchill's capture and daring escape from the Boers late in 1899 won him celebrity. He was narrowly elected to parliament in the "khaki election" of 1900. Though he campaigned as a proponent of Britain's effort in the Boer War, he also expressed high regard for his recent enemy.

At Westminster, Churchill quickly proved independent on matters of policy. His maiden address challenged the defense budget as excessive (the very indictment that had cost his father, then chancellor of the exchequer, his political career). In 1904, he showed that his allegiance to principle overrode even party loyalty. When the Tories adopted a tough protectionist stance, the free-trader Churchill crossed the floor to the Liberals.

No one knew the vagaries of democratic life better than Churchill. Named to the Cabinet in 1908, he was required by precedent to stand for reelection. He lost. Shaking off the embarrassment, he ran in a district more favorable to his party and won.

In World War I, he rose to First Lord of the Admiralty, a position where his audacity would carry a catastrophic price. Hating trench warfare, he pushed for a combined land and sea invasion of the Dardanelles, the gateway to Constantinople. His aim was to take Turkey out of the war and encourage rebellion in the Balkans against Germany and Austria. His mistake was in backing a halfhearted campaign that relied exclusively on sea power. He learned never again to take responsibility for a military effort without the requisite authority. Churchill would bear the blame for the casualties at Gallipoli.

Incredibly, he survived. Following World War I, he was defeated along with the rest of the Liberal Government. The loss coincided with some emergency surgery, and he found himself, as he put it, "without a seat, without an office, without a Party, and without an appendix." Seeking to return to Parliament in 1923, Churchill was rejected again. Undeterred, he tried, again without success, for a seat in a February 1924 by-election. Finally, in that year's general election, he rejoined the Conservatives and won. "Anyone can rat," he said, "it takes a certain amount of ingenuity to re-rat."

In 1929, Churchill made what looked to be a final break with the Conservative leadership, this time over dominion status for India, which he opposed. Yet his rebellion carried a bonus for human history. During the decade when it would count for most, Winston Churchill would be out of the Government, free to speak his mind.

Even his heroic role as Britain's wartime leader did not shield him from defeat. In July 1945, he returned from the Potsdam conference with Stalin and the new American president, Harry Truman, to learn of the Conservatives' loss to Clement Attlee's Labour Party. In 1950, Churchill and the Tories lost again to the socialists, if by a much-diminished margin. But in 1951, thanks to some vigorous street campaigning, the man who had led Britain to its finest hour was back as premier.

A scarred veteran of democracy, Churchill scorned those who loved the word but rejected free elections. "Democracy is not some harlot in the street," he said in condemning the Greek Communists toward the end of World War II, "to be picked up by some man with a Tommy gun. Democracy is based on reason, a sense of fair play, and freedom and a respect for the rights of other people."

To William Manchester we owe the most vivid portrait of Churchill the writer, working into the wee hours on some speech or article, long after his dinner guests had left or gone to bed. His daughter Mary recalled a family that lived "literally from book to book, and from one article to the next." Every time he suffered a political defeat, Churchill produced another daunting work of history.

After World War I, it was The World Crisis. "I am immersed in Winston's brilliant autobiography," a colleague wrote, "disguised as a history of the universe." In the 1930s, he produced some 400 magazine articles in addition to his books. After his defeat in 1945, he wrote a history of World War II that is still in print today after millions of copies. For the totality of his literary work he won the Nobel Prize.

Churchill's writing, speaking, and governing all derived their strength from his honesty. What made his "Dunkirk speech" in early June 1940 his greatest was the understatement of its message. With the British Expeditionary Force, sent to save France, successfully evacuated to England, he used the upbeat occasion to lay out the possible cost of what remained to be done. "Wars are not won by evacuations," he told his hearers bluntly. A great fight lay ahead, from which Britain would not flinch. "We shall go on to the end," Churchill said:
"Sick, wearied by the war, and tragically unwary of the new global menace from the left, Franklin Roosevelt felt he could rely on the old charm; he could 'handle' Stalin....When Stalin broke his promise to hold elections in Poland, Churchill saw the writing on the wall. A year later, he alerted the world...."

Even though large tracts of Europe and many old and famous states have fallen or may fall into the grip of the Gestapo and all the odious apparatus of Nazi rule, we shall not flag or fail....And even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this island, or a large part of it, were subjugated and starving, then our empire beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the British Fleet, would carry on the struggle, until, in God's good time, the New World, with all its power and might, steps forth to the rescue and liberation of the old.

ALWAYS he tried to avoid over-promising. "Long, dark nights of trials and tribulations lie before us," he warned in an especially bleak radio address. "Not only great dangers, but many more misfortunes, many shortcomings, many mistakes, many disappointments will surely be our lot. Death and sorrow will be companions of our journey, constancy and valor our only shield. We must be united, we must be undaunted. We must be inflexible."

One man who recognized the strategy behind Churchill's dismal honesty was the top Nazi propagandist, Joseph Goebbels. "His slogan of 'blood, sweat and tears' has entrenched him in a position that makes him totally immune from attack," Goebbels complained. "He's like the doctor who prophesies that his patient will die and who, every time his patient's condition worsens, smugly explains that he prophesied it." By preparing the public for bad news, Churchill denied the Nazis the full PR value of their victories. They could not kill British morale if the British had already heard the worst from their own leaders.

But there was more going on here than spin. Churchill wielded power through close contact with the truth. His years as a soldier and war correspondent, his battles with party leaders, his cabinet position in World War I, his stubborn independence, all had helped to prepare him for his historic role. By the early 1930s, he had the vision, the resolve to tell his country what it needed to know. A decade later, like Charles de Gaulle, he saw that the battle of France was more than that: It was part of a global conflict in which Adolf Hitler would ultimately be outnumbered. He saw, where the appeaser Lord Halifax could not, that to meet with Hitler was suicide, for the man in Berlin would conclude no deal that left Britain on its feet.

FOR all these reasons, Churchill is the democratic hero of our age. From his first electoral defeat in 1899 to his cr usted defeat at the very hour of military victory in 1945, he lived out that defining fact of democracy: You win some, you lose some. The politician who sticks to his principles will know defeat as well as victory. As Anthony Eden pointed out, "Courage for some sudden act, maybe in the heat of battle, we all respect; but there is that still rarer courage which can sustain repeated disappointment, unexpected failure, and shattering defeat. Churchill had that too, and had need of it, not for a day, but for weeks and months and years."

No leader was so clear-eyed about the century's villains. An instinctive anti-Communist, he understood nevertheless that Hitler posed the more present danger. "We have but one aim, and one single irrevocable purpose," he said after Hitler's invasion of Russia in 1941. "We are resolved to destroy Hitler and every vestige of the Nazi regime. From this nothing will turn us, nothing. We will never parlay, we will never negotiate with Hitler or any of his gang. Any man or state who fights against Nazidom will have our aid. Any man or state who marches with Hitler is our foe."

He said the same in private. "If Hitler invaded hell," he told his private secretary, John Colville, "I would make at least a favorable reference to the Devil in the House of Commons." In fighting Nazism, Churchill marched alongside the Soviets in a military sense, but very much against them in ideological purpose. The goal of World War II, he said, was "to revive the status of man." He wanted to raise up the individual beyond the reach of the Hitlers and Stalins of this world.

Churchill accomplished that end, and not just in his leadership against Nazism and communism. Simply by being the courageous, independent, self-reliant man he was, he was a tribute to the species. His life is a guide to what a free man can be.
ON 8 JUNE 1940, less than a month after Churchill became Prime Minister, the Daily Express published a cartoon by Sidney Strube. Standing pugnaciously astride a map of the British Isles was a bulldog wearing a collar with a number 10 tag and a steel helmet captioned "Go To It." Well—not quite a bulldog, because grafted onto the sturdy canine body were the unmistakable bejowled features of Winston Churchill.

Sidney Strube's association of the Prime Minister with that broad-headed, muscular breed was to become almost a latter-day personification of John Bull, the 17th century literary character deemed to be representative of the British people. Strube (1891-1956), a true Cockney, was staff cartoonist for the Daily Express from 1912 until 1948. Like David Low (FH 80) his cartoons had generally attacked Churchill before World War II united political enemies. His Churchill/bulldog association was to be picked up by many other artists throughout World War II. The slogan "Go To It" featured on many Ministry of Information posters.

Later in 1940 Henri Guignon's cartoon was issued as a colour poster in the United States. It had the same Churchill head and bulldog body combination, but this time standing astride a Union Flag with the caption, "Holding the Line!" The Nazi occupation of much of mainland Europe was causing some concern amongst many Americans over the future of world democracy and a rising debate over whether the United States should become involved in another war. The poster expressed...
Above: Drawn by "Poy" (Percy Fearon) in 1941, ACCENT ON THE WINSTON! was not published until after Poy's death in 1948. Right: Drawn by "Vicky" (Victor Weisz) for Time and Tide 10 July 1943, this cartoon refers to news reports of repeated RAF bombing of German industrial targets. Below: Leslie Illingworth's cartoon in Punch of 26 August 1942 adds wings to the man/dog hybrid to comment upon Churchill's flight from Cairo to Moscow to visit Stalin. The meeting occurred on 12-15 August but details were not released to the press until he was safely back in Cairo.

In August 1942 Churchill flew from Cairo to Moscow to visit Stalin and an Illingworth cartoon in Punch of 26 August added a large pair of wings to the man/dog hybrid and gave it the caption, "The Bulldog has Wings." Leslie Illingworth (1902-79) had succeeded Poy as staff cartoonist at the Daily Mail in 1939, although he continued to contribute regularly to Punch. He was among the most prolific portrayers of Churchill in cartoon form.

"Vicky" (Victor Weisz, 1913-1966) was of Hungarian parentage and born in Berlin. He came to England in 1935 and worked as a freelance as well as for several newspapers. His cartoon for Time and Tide on 10 July 1943 used the Churchill head/bulldog body device to comment upon the increased bombing attacks by the RAF on German targets above the caption "Never was there such a case of the biter bitten"—Mr. Churchill.

SCULPTORS and potters also picked up the theme. A bronze cigar-smoking bulldog wearing a yachting cap at a jaunty angle was captioned "Winston." Another bronze figure had Churchill and a bulldog side-by-side in equally aggressive stances. I have seen Churchill/bulldog combinations carved in wood and moulded in plaster. Burgess & Leigh included a bulldog in the design of their Churchill toby jug, as did Wilkinson's and Kevin Francis Ceramics. The Burgess & Leigh jug, designed by Ernest Bailey, carries an inscription on the base reading, "John Bull Churchill 1940 'We shall defend every village, every town and every city.'" Under wartime restrictions the toby was originally available on the UK market only in a plain white undecorated version. Coloured examples were designated for export to Commonwealth countries and the USA. Although some UK newspaper cartoonists had picked up on the Churchill/bulldog theme before the "Bulldogs" toby first went on sale in 1941 it is generally acknowledged that Ernest Bailey was the prime mover behind the winsome twosome.

The concept quickly caught on and Churchill/bulldog combinations were produced in every conceivable style...
Many potteries incorporated the figure of a bulldog alongside Churchill in an assortment of toby jugs, figures, ashtrays, etc. Other potteries embellished their bulldog figures with a homburg hat, a yachting cap, a cigar or even a paw raised in a V-sign (!) to leave no doubt to whom they were alluding. This is the only known ceramic item which combines Churchill’s head with a bulldog body. It is unmarked, the pottery is unknown and it is very rare. Photograph courtesy of Ronald Smith.

Below: The massive, eleven inches tall, Burgess & Leigh toby designed by Ernest Bailey (left) was the first piece of china to associate Churchill with a bulldog. After many images of Churchill’s head on a bulldog body, Robert Harrop of Shropshire turned the concept around in his Country Companions series of “almost human canine characters” (right).

It took fifty-five years for a pottery to take the opposite approach and transplant a bulldog head onto Churchill’s body! "Bulldog Winston" came from Robert Harrop of Shifnal, Shropshire. It was an addition to his Country Companions series of "almost human canine characters" which presents all breeds of dogs in amusingly apposite human form and costume. "Bulldog Winston" is 5 1/2 inches tall. He has a cigar firmly clamped in his jaw and wears a homburg hat, bow tie, waistcoat, watch chain, black jacket and pin-striped trousers. Clutching a pair of gloves in one paw and a walking stick in the other, this little figure leaves us in no doubt at all over who is being celebrated.

and material. Various ashtrays depicted the duo with captions like "The Star-Turns" and "Who Said Hitler?" Royal Doulton and Crown Devon produced bulldog figures which, although having a dog’s features, sported a yachting cap and a cigar so that the allusion was entirely clear.

So far as is known only one pottery came up with the Churchill’s head and bulldog body combination. The pottery is unknown and the piece, in an unglazed gold finish, is extremely rare. It may be found in colour on page 173 of Ronald Smith’s Churchill: Images of Greatness.
FURTHER to Stephen McGinty's very interesting notes on the Gallipoli campaign in *Finest Hour* 97, I feel it important to mention the "missed opportunity" which ensured the Gallipoli campaign's failure. It involved the successful assault on the Sari Bair massif, which dominated the peninsula. Alas, in tune with the rest of a badly mismanaged campaign, the assault came to naught.

What was left of the 1st Battalion 6th Gurkha Rifles (1/6 GR), now under the command of a Major Allanson, had been ordered to attack, take and hold the strongly entrenched Turkish position atop Sari Bair. At the time, Allanson had with him only four other 1/6 GR British officers and the battalion's medical officer, and a numerically depleted battalion. However, over a period of two days and three nights, during which the four British officers were lost and the battalion suffered many more casualties, the 1/6th reached the crest.

After fierce hand-to-hand fighting, involving fists, kukris and bayonets, the 1/6th evicted the Turks and pursued them down the slope of Sari Bair. Allanson was severely wounded but managed to stay in command of the situation. The taking of Sari Bair had been achieved. But the British battalions which were to take over and exploit this success had lost their way in the maze of gullies leading up to the crest and never arrived on the scene. Further, shortly after the position was captured, the British Navy began shelling it. Appreciating their opportunity, the Turks rallied and made a successful counter-attack.

The 1/6 GR, now under the command of the medical officer but with the assistance of the Gurkha Subadar Major, was able to pull off a withdrawal which Michael Hickey in his book *Gallipoli* recalled with admiration: "It is doubtful if any other unit under [General] Birdwood's command on that terrible evening behaved with the classic professionalism of the 1/6th Gurkha Rifles."

In passing, may I add that, after witnessing all this, a young Royal Warwick's officer named William Slim applied for a transfer to the 6 GR, from which base he eventually achieved World War II fame as Commander of the British 14th Army in Burma. M>

Mr. Dales, a Churchill Center Associate, wrote from personal experience about the Malakand Pass in *Finest Hour* 100.
THAT OTHER WINSTON CHURCHILL

"I propose to become Prime Minister of Great Britain. Wouldn't it be a great lark if you could be President of the United States at the same time?"

-Winston Spencer Churchill to Winston Churchill, 1903

RICHARD M. LANGWORTH

As a bookseller specializing in Winston Churchill the Englishman, I am constantly offered novels by Winston Churchill the American. Thinking readers might welcome a brief account of the American— but with no hope that people will stop offering me his books—I am prompted to write this capsule history of Sir Winston's distant relative, who had an interesting career of his own.

Winston Churchill was born in St. Louis, Missouri on 10 November 1871 and educated in the city's public schools ("public" in the American sense, "state schools" in the British sense). In 1894, a year before his English counterpart graduated from the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, Churchill graduated from the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis. After the Naval Academy, he served briefly on the editorial staff of the Army and Navy Journal. In 1895, when Winston Churchill of England was paying his first visit to the United States, American Winston became managing editor of Cosmopolitan magazine. Three decades later, English Winston would begin a lengthy series of articles for the same journal.

The two Churchills became aware of each other in 1900 when books by the English author began to join those of the already well-established American. Indeed, such was the American's prominence at the time that Winston Spencer Churchill wrote him a polite letter promising to use his middle name to distinguish himself from the far better-known American. The latter replied that had he a middle name he would have been pleased to return the compliment! The amusing correspondence between them ("Mr. Winston Churchill to Mr. Winston Churchill") appears in English Winston's autobiography, My Early Life.

In 1901, the young authors met in Boston during English Winston's lecture tour, when his American relative threw a dinner for him. Great camaraderie prevailed and each agreed there would be no more confusion...but English Winston got the bill! From 1903 to 1905, American Winston was a member of the New Hampshire legislature, to this day the third largest representative body in the world after the Indian and British Parliaments. His election caused English Winston, already established as a Member of the British House of Commons, to write: "I propose to become Prime Minister of Great Britain. Wouldn't it be a great lark if you could be President of the United States at the same time?"

American Winston was an early recruit of the famous artist and writer colony at Cornish, New Hampshire, that brilliant "aristocracy of brains" founded by Augustus Saint-Gaudens in the 1890s. Among its distinguished cadre Cornish counted illustrators Stephen and Maxfield Parrish, the garden designer Charles A. Platt, and artists Kenyon Cox, Florence Scovel Shinn and Willard Metcalf. Statesmen, notably Theodore Roosevelt, were among its occasional visitors.

That the two Churchills were not political soulmates is suggested by American Winston's close friendship—which was shared by Maxfield Parrish—with Teddy Roosevelt, who nursed a famous antipathy toward English Winston. (See Finest Hour 100, p. 46.) American Winston actually ran for Governor of New Hampshire on the ticket of TR's Progressive Party in 1911, but was not elected. I believe, though I cannot prove it, that Roosevelt's influence had something to do with the two Churchills' lack of contact as the 1900s wore on. When American Winston visited London during the Great War to interview leading statesmen for his only non-fiction work, A Traveller in Wartime, he paid no call on English Winston.

The two Churchills were alike in their appreciation for the heroism and sacrifice of the American Civil War. In The Crisis, Winston Churchill the American offers an epic tale of that war, showing the tragedy and the glory it brought to Federals and Confederates alike. He explained some of his feeling about the book in an afterword, which reads in part:

"The author has chosen St. Louis for the principal scene of this story for many reasons. Grant and Sherman were living there before the Civil War, and Abraham Lincoln was an unknown lawyer in the neighboring state of Illinois. It has been one of the aims of this book to show the remarkable contrasts in the lives of these great men who came out of the West....St. Louis is the author's birthplace, and his home—the home of those friends whom he has known from childhood and who have always treated him with unfaltering kindness. He begs they will believe him when he says that only such characters as he loves are reminiscent of those he has known there. The city has a population large enough to include all the types that are to be found in the middle West."

The Crisis was in print at least through 1970, and I used to think it survived so long because people mistook it for English Winston's The World Crisis. In fact, it is a historical novel that well deserves to stand on its own among other great works of its type. American Winston said his book spoke "of a time when feeling ran high. It has been necessary to put strong speech into the mouths of the characters. The breach that threatened our country's existence is healed now. There is no side but Abraham Lincoln's side. And this side, with all reverence and patriotism, the author has tried to take. Yet Abraham Lincoln loved the South as well as the North."

Here then is another interesting convergence between the two Churchills: each shared a belief in the nobility of those who fought, both the Blue and the Grey, and in the unifying genius of Abraham Lincoln. To demonstrate Lincoln's love for the South as well as the North, Winston Churchill the American ends The Crisis with the closing words of Lincoln's second inaugural address:

"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations."

Those indelible words were also quoted, in other contexts but with equal fervor, by Winston Churchill the Englishman.

"The meeting of the two Churchills," illustration from the Boston Herald, 18 December 1900. WSC and WC took a stroll on Boston Common, exchanging pleasantries and experiences. American Winston hosted a dinner for English Winston, promising no more confusion. The next morning, English Winston got the dinner bill!"
WINSTON CHURCHILL, 
AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN

WHO was Winston Churchill's speechwriter? This is a question I am frequently asked in America. Conditioned to modern day politicians who, all too often, have not just one, but a whole team of speechwriters—not to mention staffers to write Op-Ed pieces that appear under their boss's name and ghostwriters to script their books—Americans are filled with disbelief when I reply, "Churchill did not have a speechwriter—he wrote them all himself."

That, of course, is why his speeches were outstanding. In the case of his great wartime speeches, my grandfather would regularly devote an hour of preparation to each minute of delivery. Thus it was not unusual for him to spend thirty to forty hours preparing a single speech. What politician does that today? Perhaps that is why, even fifty years on, his speeches have the power to stir and thrill those who listen to them.

While Churchill is best known as a statesman and the leader of an embattled Britain in World War II, it was with his pen that he earned his living, having been left penniless at the age of twenty by the premature death of his father. His work as an author and historian, though less well known, is every bit as remarkable as his contribution in the field of politics. (See also "Winston Churchill: The Art of the Statesman-Writer," FH 102.)

After World War I he turned his newly acquired home of Chartwell, in the rolling Kent landscape, into a literary factory where the lights would burn to a late hour every evening, most especially during the 1930s, his years in the political wilderness when he was out of office. He would employ a team of up to half a dozen "gentleman-researchers," for the most part Oxford graduates, who would work for him part-time, preparing material and doing research work. In addition, he had a raft of half a dozen secretaries, at least two of whom would remain on duty until he retired for the night.

Churchill was his own stern taskmaster, driving himself and all around him from morning until the early hours, churning out articles, speeches and chapters for books. My father Randolph recorded an example of this when, as a boy of 18, he accompanied his father on a journey across the United States and Canada in 1929: "I remember how on a very hot train journey in California, or perhaps further north, he shut himself up in his own small compartment and wrote the article [for The Strand Magazine] which was overdue. He had, for at least the last thirty years, had the habit of dictating everything, but he had no secretary with him. In two or three hours he wrote in his own hand an article of 2000-3000 words, which he read to us at dinner.

"He did not do this so just because he needed the money: he had a sense of guilt which he felt he must expiate. I remember complimenting him on the article when he read it to us. 'You know,' he replied, 'I hate to go to bed at night feeling I have done nothing useful in the day. It is the same feeling as if you had gone to bed without brushing your teeth.'"

One of our honorary members, Miss Grace Hamblin, who is in her 90s and still living close to Chartwell in the village of Westerham, first came to my grandfather as a secretary in 1930. The hours were long. She recalls that even when my grandfather had dinner guests, which was most evenings, the guests would be encouraged to leave or go to bed by about 11 PM when the two secretaries on the "late shift" would be summoned. Work would continue until two or three in the morning. Indeed it was by burning the midnight oil that he achieved such a phenomenal output, doing his best work in the quiet hours of the night when there were no interruptions, such as visitors or the telephone, to distract him. If, in the watches of the night, any of the team showed signs of flagging, my grandfather would rally them—as would my father after him—with the following lines of verse:

"The heights achieved by men, and kept, 
were not attained by sudden flight, 
but they, while their companions slept, 
were toiling upwards through the night!"
When, finally, he wrapped up everything for which he felt responsible and called it a day, Miss Hamblin, a girl in her early twenties, would walk home alone, half an hour's distance along dark, unlit lanes. But even the "late shift" had to be back with everything typed up in time for the boss's awakening at 8:30 AM!

A S A BOY of five or six years of age, in the years immediately following the Second World War, I would spend considerable parts of my school holidays with my grandparents at Chartwell. At about 9 each morning I would make my way through my grandfather's study on the first floor, with its high vaulted ceiling and old oak beams, his works of reference on the shelves and galleys of his latest book set out on his upright desk where he would stand to make his corrections, and through to his small bedroom beyond. There, through the thick haze of cigar smoke, I would find the venerable Grandpapa. He would be propped up in bed, wearing a quilted silk bedjacket. Before him was a bed-table, cut out to accommodate the shape of his ample belly! To his right, on a narrow bookshelf would stand a weak whisky and soda, from which he would take the occasional sip. While puffing one of his Havana cigars, usually a Romeo y Julieta, he would be dictating a speech or a letter to one of the secretaries.

On my arrival, peering above his gold-rimmed, half-lens spectacles, he would break into a beaming smile and would promptly dismiss the secretary so that we could discuss our plans of the day, which would invariably include visits to the golden orfe, his large fish which lurked in the series of ponds he had built in the garden; the black swans with their scarlet bills, a gift of the Government of Australia; and, last but by no means least, his pigs in the farmyard. Frequently, if it was not raining, he would make time for an hour or two bricklaying. He was at the time engaged in completing a high wall around his large kitchen garden with the help of a couple of professional bricklayers. Well do I recall the many happy hours we would spend together. I would pass him the bricks while he would mix up his "pug," as he called the sand and cement mixture he used to bond one course of bricks upon the next.

Though he was by then in his late seventies and still a Member of Parliament, indeed, Leader of the Opposition—and yet to return as Prime Minister for four years—the main work in hand at the time was the writing of *The Second World War*, recently voted by *National Review* the non-fiction work of the century. Later, I was there when he was working on the completion of his *History of the English-Speaking Peoples*, a four-volume work spanning two millennia of British history from Julius Caesar's invasion of Britain in 55BC to the dawn of the 20th century.

Buried in among this work were some wonderful chapters on the history of America, from the voyages of discovery, through the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, right up to the middle of the 20th century. But Churchill's writings on America remained largely unknown beyond the circle of true aficionados. This is an omission which has been repaired with the publication for the first time in its own right of his history of America, which I have entitled *The Great Republic*—the name he used with great fondness to refer to the United States, the land of his mother's birth.

I feel very privileged to have been able to get to know my grandfather on such an intimate and personal basis, for I was 24 before he died. It is impossible not be awestruck by the sheer volume of his lifetime's output. By the time of his death in 1965, at the age of 90, he had published over fifty volumes of history, biography and speeches. As a talented amateur artist he had painted over 500 canvasses, some of remarkable quality. As a builder, he had built largely with his own hands three cottages, as well as the massive wall I helped him with and, in between times, he even managed to beat the daylights out of Hitler. His was a remarkable life to which none can hold a candle.
One hundred years ago:
Spring 1900 »Age 25
"Politics, Pamela, finances, books"

Spring 1900 found Churchill very much engaged in the war against the Boers, heedlessly taking chances with his life on occasions where only his death would have afforded him any publicity. On one occasion, in April 1900, Churchill, as a correspondent, joined a cavalry attempt to capture a small hill, racing a group of Boer horsemen to the summit. The Boers won and Churchill and the others were in danger of being cut off. They had just dismounted when the Boers arrived and started firing. Churchill's horse was spooked and bolted, leaving him behind and on foot. Dodging bullets, he ran towards his own men and was saved by a trooper who picked him up but whose horse was killed in the process. His son Randolph recounts that the trooper was unawed: "Oh my poor horse," moaned the trooper. "Never mind," said Churchill, "you've saved my life." "Ah," rejoined the scout, "but it's the horse I'm thinking about."

On another occasion in late May, WSC risked being shot as a spy when, based on a report from a Frenchman he had just interviewed for an article, he rode a bicycle through the middle of Boer-occupied Johannesburg, dressed in civilian clothes, carrying a British military report from General Hamilton to Lord Roberts. Manchester critically wrote: "Even the debonair Frenchman—if indeed he was what he said he was; Winston, with his own atrocious French, was no judge of that, and no one else here had ever laid eyes on the man before—conceded that armed Boers were thick in the streets. A simple search by any one of them and Winston would be shoved against the nearest wall and executed by an ad hoc firing squad."

As a reward for Churchill's daring in Johannesburg, Lord Roberts let WSC and his cousin, the Duke of Marlborough, ride at the head of the column which entered Pretoria a few days later. Churchill and his cousin made a beeline towards the POW camp he had escaped six months earlier where, in poetic justice, they liberated the camp. As one of the freed prisoners wrote in his diary: "...suddenly Winston Churchill came galloping over the hill and tore down the Boer flag, and hoisted ours amidst cheers and our people some of which had been in for six months or more were free and at once the Boer guards were put inside and our prisoners guard over them! It was roarable and splendid."

On 11 June, Churchill's initiative under fire enabled the British to win the Battle of Diamond Hill. General Hamilton wrote in his memoirs: "...Winston gave the embattled hosts at Diamond Hill an exhibition of conspicuous gallantry [the phrase often used in recommendations for the Victoria Cross] for which he has never received full credit..." Hamilton recommended Churchill for the V.C. but Roberts and Kitchener refused because Churchill "had been only a Press Correspondent."

Two days before Diamond Hill, Churchill had written to his mother: "...I need not say how anxious I am to come back to England. Politics, Pamela, finances and books all need my attention..." Such a ranking of Churchill's priorities probably explains as well as anything why Pamela Plowden faded from the picture, to be replaced a few years later by a life mate, Clementine, who understood perfectly well and agreed that this was how their lives together would be ordered.

Seventy-five years ago:
Spring 1925 • Age 50
A Forecast of the Next War

Churchill was hard at work on his first budget as Chancellor of the Exchequer in Stanley Baldwin's government. He presented it in his first budget speech on 28 April, taking over two and a half hours to do so. He led off with the return to the Gold Standard (uncriticized by any party at the time). Next was his new plan of pensions for widows, their children and orphans, covering more than 200,000 women and 350,000 children.

"I like the association of this new scheme of widows' pensions and earlier old-age pensions with the dying-out of the cost of the war pensions," Churchill said. "I like to think that the sufferings, the sacrifices, the sorrow of the war have sown a seed from which a strong tree will grow, under which, perhaps many generations of British people may find shelter against some at least of the storms of life. This is far the finest war memorial you could set up to the men who gave their lives, their limits, or their health, and those who lost their dear ones in the country's cause."

Finally, Churchill introduced the centerpiece of his first budget: across-the-board income tax reductions, with the greater benefits going to lower income groups. He termed his budget "national, and not class or party in its extent or intention," adding, "I cherish the hope...that by liberating the production of new wealth from some of the shackles of taxation the Budget may stimulate enterprise and accelerate industrial revival, and that by giving a far greater measure of security to the mass of wage-earners, the non-wage-earners, their wives and children, it may promote contentment and stability, and make our Island more truly a home for all these people."

Baldwin called Churchill's speech "one of the most striking Budget speeches of recent years" and wrote to the King: "The general impression was that..."
Mr Churchill rose magnificently to the occasion. His speech...was a first-rate example of Mr Churchill's characteristic style. At one moment he would be expounding quietly and lucidly facts and figures relating to the financial position during the past and current years. At another moment, inspired and animated by the old political controversies on the subject of tariff reform, he indulged in witty levity and humour which come as a refreshing relief in the dry atmosphere of a Budget speech. At another moment, when announcing the introduction of a scheme for widows' and mothers' pensions, he soared into emotional flights of rhetoric in which he has few equals; and throughout the speech he showed that he is not only possessed of consummate ability as a parliamentarian, but also all the versatility of an actor."

During this same period, Churchill was instrumental in defeating a proposal in the Cabinet, by Foreign Secretary Austen Chamberlain, for a defense pact with France based upon maintaining the Versailles treaty and guaranteeing Britain would come to France's aid if attacked by Germany. Churchill was opposed to helping France until she backed off the oppressive terms of Versailles and agreed to a "real peace" with Germany, one which involved a "substantial rectification" of Germany's frontier with Poland. As Churchill had earlier told the French President, Doumergue, he "was personally convinced that [Germany] would never acquiesce permanently in the condition of her eastern frontier." Without such a revision, Churchill presciently told the Committee of Imperial Defence, a new war loomed on the horizon over Poland:

"This war which has occurred between France and Germany several times has broken up the world. What guarantee have we got while things are going as they are that we shall not have another war. In fact, it seems as if we were moving towards it, although it may not be for twenty years, certainly not until Germany has been able to acquire some methods of waging war, chemically or otherwise."

In March, the senior Cabinet ministers assembled, in Austen Chamberlain's absence in Paris, and endorsed Churchill's view that no defense pact with France would be concluded unless it included an arrangement with Germany as well.

Fifty years ago:
Spring 1950-Age 75
"Fertile milch cows are greatly valued..."

Churchill's vision for Europe was that no enduring peace was possible without an understanding between France and Germany. As he told the House on 28 March: "Let me, therefore, express our policy as I see it in a single sentence. Britain and France united should stretch forth hands of friendship to Germany, and thus, if successful, enable Europe to live again."

Cutting oppressive income tax rates was still on his mind. On 28 April, Churchill spoke to the House on the Labour Party's budget. Speaking of the confiscatory tax rates set by the budget, he remarked: "Hate is not a good guide in public or in private life. I am sure that class hatred and class warfare, like national revenge, are the most costly luxuries in which anyone can indulge. The present Chancellor has boasted of the number of persons who have net incomes of £5,000 or over a year. He has boasted that it has been reduced from 11,000 before the war to 250 at the present time, and that the number of those over £6,000 has been reduced from 7,000 to 70."

Churchill's view was that the government should follow policies which lowered taxes and increased the number of rich people so they could pay more in taxes, the same policies which resulted in unprecedented prosperity in the United States during the last twenty years of the twentieth century. Using his experience as a dairy farmer, Churchill illustrated why Labour's pride in reducing the ranks of the rich was a bad idea: "It is a great advantage in a dairy to have cows with large udders because one gets more milk out of them than the others. These exceptionally fertile milch cows are greatly valued in any well-conducted dairy, and anyone would be thought very foolish who boasted he had got rid of all the best milkers, just as he would be thought very foolish if he did not milk them to the utmost limit of capacity, compatible with maintenance of their numbers."

"I am quite sure that the Minister of Agriculture would look in a very different way upon the reduction of all these thousands of his best milkers from that in which the Chancellor of the Exchequer looks upon the destruction of the most fertile and the most profitable resources of taxation."

Twenty-five years ago:
Spring 1975
Jock Dead at "91"

For the first time in seven years there was nothing to report from the International Churchill Societies, which had gone into hibernation following three successive failures to find an editor for Finest Hour, which Dalton Newfield could no longer produce. But Newfield banked the treasury in an interest-bearing account, hoping that one day the Churchill journal would revive.

Chartwell reported another death in the family: "Jock," Sir Winston's mar-malade cat, died aged 13, the feline equivalent of 91, one year more than Churchill's 90 years. A gift from Jock Colville, the cat had accompanied WSC on his lap during commutes between Chartwell and Hyde Park Gate, and Sir Winston kept a photograph of him by his bedside as his life drifted away in January 1965. The cat was immediately replaced by "Jock II," who dominated the scene at Chartwell for many years until he passed on, giving way to "Jock III," the present Lord Warden of the Cinque Mouseholes.

On April 2nd, Baroness Clementine Spencer-Churchill of Chartwell celebrated her 90th birthday with a family lunch at Claridge's Hotel in London. She was reported in good spirits despite failing eyesight which had afflicted her in recent years. Ten days later she was escorted by the Duke of Marlborough to the Temple of Diana at Blenheim where WSC had proposed to her 67 years before. Mi
DURING Winston Churchill's first visit to America, he wrote to his brother Jack: "A great, crude, strong, young people are the Americans... Some day Jack when you are older you must come out here." That letter and others were on display for my family and me to see on a visit last January to the Churchill Archives Centre at Churchill College Cambridge. Allen Packwood, Exhibitions Officer and Archivist at the Centre, gave us a tour of the "inner sanctum" of the archives plus an up-close look at several of the many thousands of Churchill papers housed there.

Since we were visiting from the United States, Allen had selected for us items with an American connection. We saw a draft of Churchill's address to Congress in December 1941, with his handwritten changes scribbled between the lines; his famous what-if essay "If Lee had not won the Battle of Gettysburg" (FH 103); wedding photos of Winston and Clementine; Churchill's official photo album from the Teheran Conference; and much more. One of the most fascinating items was a letter from Truman to Churchill written in October 1947, in which Truman refers to the "ungrateful" Russians and says, "Your Fulton, Mo. speech becomes more nearly a prophecy every day."

Allen also updated us on the Centre's progress in computer cataloguing the boxes and boxes of Churchill papers, demonstrating how to access the papers through the Centre's computers. It was quite impressive. We also met Sarah Lewery, the conservator, who explained to us how the papers are preserved. And we learned of plans for a possible exhibit of Churchill Papers in North America in the near future. (See Churchill Center news. -Ed.) That was exciting and I hope it will be supported by many on this side of the Atlantic. We round the Churchill Archives Centre to be just as Sir Martin Gilbert described it in Finest Hour 87: "a rich seam of historical gold."

The Centre was one of several Churchill-related stops on our travels. Prior to our departure, my wife and I spent several weeks planning our itinerary. We wanted to do more than just see the usual sights. Scheduling a winter vacation posed a problem for our 12-year-old son, since taking him out of school in January for a two-week trip to England required school board approval—a worthwhile chore. He is learning history, and the names Churchill and Chartwell, Blenheim and Bletchley, Bladon and Blitz are not unfamiliar to him.

In London we found many reminders of Churchill's greatness. There are statues of him on the square opposite Westminster and on Bond Street, where he sits on a park bench with Franklin Roosevelt. There is another inside the Guildhall, and of course at the Churchill Arch in the House of Commons. I found a bust and four portraits in the National Portrait Gallery, including the magnificent painting, "Some British Statesmen of the First World War." The NPG gift shop sells copies in various sizes of any portrait to which they own the copyright, which includes three of the four Churchills on display plus others in storage. At a photographic exhibit there, Churchill had been named...
“Face of the Century” by the previous week’s visitors. And inside the Regent Street store of Aquascutum there is even a large photo of him with the caption, “Churchill in his classic Aquascutum.”

A visit to the Cabinet War Rooms on King Charles Street gives one a sense of the atmosphere and conditions of wartime England. We arrived one chilly morning before there were many other tourists. We saw an interesting exhibit of Churchill papers from the Archives Centre, which is changed every four months, and a new exhibit of Churchill’s own medals, orders and decorations on loan from Winston S. Churchill, just as pictured on the back of Douglas Russell’s book *The Orders, Decorations and Medals of Sir Winston Churchill*. The War Rooms gift shop continues to offer a good assortment of Churchill souvenirs, including medals, books, posters, postcards and trinkets.

A short way from the War Rooms is the Churchill Cafe, where we enjoyed morning coffee under a portrait of the great man. According to Sir Martin Gilbert, it was here that Churchill’s wartime secretary, Kathleen Hill, came during the wee hours of the night that Germany invaded Russia. She kept the information to herself, though, as even Churchill had not yet been awakened with the news.

For us, shopping in London is unlike anywhere else. The prices are generally high, but certain items are bargains, and the selection is always unbeatable. In addition, it is the only city I know of where you can find “Action This Day” pencils or Churchill fridge magnets! Among my souvenirs were reproductions of vintage Churchill posters from the War Rooms and poster-size copies of Cecil Beaton’s 1940 photo of Churchill from the National Portrait Gallery.

One of my favorite sites to browse for books by and about Churchill is Maggs Brothers on Berkeley Square. I bought my first set of Churchill’s *The Second World War* there (first editions in fine condition with dust jackets) in 1985 for $65. The set they had for sale in January cost five times as much and was not nearly as nice. I didn’t buy any books but it was still neat to look through their stock which included a very clean and bright *Malakand* for £3750. (Editor's note: for a day’s worth of London book browsing, possibly encountering Churchills, hie yourself to Cecil Court off Charing Cross Road. Don’t expect bargains, but you may make a discovery or two.)

After a week in London we rented a car and drove northward, passing through Harrow. We spent a day at Duxford, Britain’s aviation museum and site of an historic fighter station in the Battle of Britain. There we saw Spitfires and Hurricanes as well as the world’s only airworthy Blenheim. Tucked away in a corner of the museum’s Land Warfare Hall was an exhibit that interested us the most—the Montgomery Caravans. This three-vehicle mobile headquarters was used by Monty throughout the campaign in Europe. One of the vehicles was an office and contained portraits of four German Field Marshals,

continued overleaf...
Monty's opponents. Another, used as his bedroom, was equipped with bed, bath and wardrobe. A third was a map lorry and it was outside this vehicle that the German delegation came to surrender in May 1945. Montgomery said that he would give up these quarters for only two people, "the King and Winston Churchill."

We also made a return trip to Bletchley Park. There we received a big welcome from Jack and Rita Darrah and saw Jack's fabulous collection of Churchill memorabilia which is laid out in three large rooms in the Bletchley Park Mansion. Jack gave us a personal tour of his exhibit and, along the way, pointed out several items that had been added since our last visit in 1998. He also warmly greeted other visitors to the rooms while we were there, offering to answer questions from anyone about his exhibit or Churchill. A specialist in hosting young people, Jack posed a question to our son that had him combing the giant display cases for the answer. Jack and Rita are dedicated deliverers of the Churchill message who richly deserve their Blenheim Awards, just bestowed by The Churchill Center (see "International Datelines").

We took the guided tour of Bletchley and heard its wartime story. It was here that the government's code and cypher team broke the German codes. Our son grasped the technical principles of the German Enigma machine and the world's first programmable computer, Colossus, much better than my wife and I. Upon our return home, he studied it further. It was right up his alley! And in March his entry into the county Social Studies Fair was entitled, "What Was Britain's Best Kept Secret?" His project showed how the Enigma machine worked and explained how the British broke the codes. A caricature of Churchill appeared on the front cover of his report along with the quote, "...my geese that laid the golden eggs, but never cackled." His entry won first place!

It being January, we did not make our usual pilgrimage to three chief Churchill sites often discussed in these pages: Churchill's country home at Chartwell (see FH 90, also 88-89); his birthplace, Blenheim Palace (FH 48) or his freshly restored gravesite at Bladon (FH 99). But these places are included in the accompanying sidebar.

Chartwell, of course, is the primary shrine of Churchill's England and always offers something new to see, under the sure hands of administrator Carole Kenwright and her capable staff. Thanks to a new direct couch link, access from London is easier than ever. Please refer to "Getting to Chartwell" on page 6 of this issue.

Even without Chartwell this trime, our fortnight in Churchill's England was a memorable one. Going in search of new things, we returned home gladdened by the people we met and enlightened by the things we saw. And we had fun. As Churchill said in My African Journey, "...for the formation of opinion, for the stirring and enlivenment of thought, and for the discernment of colour and proportion, the gifts of travel...are priceless."

### Churchill's England Opening Times

**AVIATION MUSEUM:** off A1, Duxford, Cambridge. Daily except 24-26 Dec. Summer hours 10AM-6PM | 4Mar to 23Oct. Winter 10AM-4PM. Tel. (01223) 835000.

**BLADON, Church of St. Martin's (gravesite):** on A4095 near Woodstock, Oxford. Always open. Parking dicey; the White House Pub, at the foot of the hill, will let you park if you first provide a little "custom," which is fair exchange. Tel. (01993) 811091.

**BLENHEIM PALACE:** off A35, Woodstock, Oxford. Daily, 15Mar-31Oct, 10:30AM-5:30PM. Tel. (01993) 811091.

**BLETCHLEY PARK, Buckinghamshire, off B4034.** Open daily but members should contact Jack Darrah beforehand to consult on best times. Tel. (01582) 561781.

**CABINET WAR ROOMS, London.** Mon.-Sat. 10AM-5:50PM, Sun. 2-5:50PM. Tel. (0171) 930-6961.

**CHARTWELL, Westerham, Kent (see "Getting to Chartwell," page 6).** Open 11-5 Wed.-Sun. from 1Apr-1Nov. Last admission 4:30. Tel. (01732) 868381.

**CHURCHILL ARCHIVES CENTRE, Churchill College, Cambridge.** By appointment. Tel. (01223) 336087 (bring identification on your first visit). For current exhibitions, displays and open days, Tel. Allen Packwood at (0223) 336087 or email: agp20@cus.cam.ac.uk.

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The Churchill Center is again grateful to our American membership for their generous support to our end-of-year Heritage Fund appeal. Subscriptions provide only 25% of our operating income and we always rely on our friends: 176 of them contributed over $24,000, an average of $136 each. We are particularly grateful to the "Number Ten Club" of $1000 donors: Jack Moseley, Malcolm I. Page, Charles D. Platt and Peter Suzuki. All names will appear in our Autumn issue. Meanwhile, thank-you—you are helping to keep the wheels turning!

Richard M. Langworth, Chairman, Board of Trustees
I provoked a storm of political protest.

Chris Bell

WSC at Munitions


In July 1917, David Lloyd George rescued Winston Churchill from the political wilderness by appointing him Minister of Munitions. This move provoked a storm of political protest. Churchill's judgment was widely distrusted following the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign, and leading Tories had no desire to see Churchill return to a position of power. Not surprisingly, the new minister was denied a seat on the War Cabinet. This was an arrangement which suited Lloyd George well: it enabled him to exploit Churchill's considerable administrative talents and drive for the sake of the war effort, but also kept an unpopular, controversial colleague at a safe distance from the central direction of the British war effort.

While Churchill threw himself into the task of managing munitions production, he also attempted to use his position to influence British grand strategy, just as his opponents had feared. By 1917, Churchill's strategic views no longer resembled those he had held at the beginning of the war. The failure of the Dardanelles campaign made him doubt that victory could be won quickly or easily by attacking Germany's allies in the east, but his service in the trenches helped to ensure that he never became more than a qualified "westerner."

From the time Churchill arrived at the Ministry of Munitions, his strategic advice did not waver: Britain must remain on the defensive against Germany until overwhelming force could be gathered for a great Allied offensive in 1919 or 1920. Costly battles like the Somme and Passchendaele were to be avoided at all costs, while massive American armies were transported to the Western Front to ensure a comfortable margin of superiority over the German army. Most importantly, Allied forces were to exploit mechanical means of waging war: lives would be saved by capitalizing on and increasing the Allies' superiority in new weapons like the tank and aeroplane. As Minister of Munitions, it was Churchill's job to supply these instruments of victory. He also had to convince skeptics within the government and the army that this was the correct path for Britain to follow.

Beiriger is clearly impressed with Churchill's strategic ideas during the final years of the First World War, and with good reason. The Minister of Munitions understood the requirements of total warfare in the industrial age better and sooner than most of his colleagues, and he offered a realistic prescription for achieving ultimate victory. Beiriger is not the first to make this observation, but he does provide a clear and detailed discussion of Churchill's thinking. Unfortunately, the author's vision does not extend much beyond Churchill himself. Other key actors in these events—most notably Lloyd George, Field Marshal Haig, and General Sir Henry Wilson—receive only cursory treatment, while Churchill's relationship with the War Cabinet, the War Office, and Haig's GHQ in France are never systematically examined. As a result, the reader is left wondering when and how Churchill's efforts actually influenced the formulation of British strategy.

The author cannot seem to decide how much credit Churchill should receive for his efforts as Minister of Munitions. He rightly notes that munitions production increased substantially during the final sixteen months of the war, but he does not explain what part Churchill played in this process. He also implies that Churchill single-handedly reshaped British strategy during this same period, and that it was the Allies' superiority in tanks and aircraft built during Churchill's tenure at the Ministry of Munitions that ultimately brought about Germany's defeat in 1918. This is claiming too much.

Churchill was not the only tank advocate in Britain during this period, and credit for the movement towards mechanized warfare should be spread around more widely than Beiriger seems to realise. Moreover, the Allied victory was not simply the result of replacing a "traditional" strategy of attrition with a mechanised and mobile form of warfare. For example, the British victory of August 1918 at Amiens was more a symptom than a cause of Germany's collapse. The reinvention of mobility to the battlefield in 1918 did not mean that attrition was no longer taking place, or that the British army had embraced the tank as the surest means of obtaining victory.

Beiriger's inability to place Churchill's actions in a wider context is traceable to a single cause: the author has skimped on his research. The book's bibliography reveals a shortage of secondary sources—particularly those dealing with the formulation of British grand strategy and the course of the struggle on the Western Front—and a near-total absence of archival sources. In other words, Beiriger has relied almost entirely on Churchill's own writings and a handful of published sources. As a result, the story he tells is often one-sided and incomplete. This is a serious shortcoming in an academic study with a hefty price tag.

reviews continue overleaf...
And Now for Something Completely Different
Richard M. Langworth

Layman's Questions About Churchill, by
Inder Dan Ratnu, Jaipur, India: Mumal Publishers 1998, 112 pages, illus. softbound, Rs./125, Member price $15

What Every Indian Needs to Know

Given what's come out of India on Churchill in the past (see sidebar), it is a pleasure to find an Indian author with something positive to say. Inder Dan Ratnu has been doing so for a quarter century, evidently without the total enthusiasm of his countrymen, or even his family. Finding a paperback copy of Churchill’s Great War Speeches, about to be used to wrap peanuts by a Gujarat street vendor, Mr. Ratnu salvaged it and wore it out with the use for which it was intended: reading. A member of the poet community of “Charans” of Rajasthan State in Western India, he has been reciting Churchill’s war speeches “as an item of entertainment” since 1974. After his first book was published (see next review), Indian readers wanted to know more about the statesman responsible for Mr. Ratnu’s excitement. This book provides it. Perhaps more relevant to non-Indians, it gives a close glimpse of the ordinary Indian’s view of Churchill—about which quite a lot needs to be done.

The author divides his book into seven closely set sections: biographic details, contemporary personalities, the war speeches, Indian independence, “controversial aspects” (charges that WSC was an imperialist, racist, dictator, etc.), “hypothetical” (Churchill and the European Union), and “conceptual” (Churchill on Britain, America, Germany, Liberty; and WSC’s philosophy and achievement). All are interesting, the sections on Gandhi especially so given recent debates over the “Person of the Century,” in which Gandhi was usually a strong contender.

Some of the writing borders on the hilarious, particularly what Ratnu describes as their “fooding habits.” Gandhi, “could not think of killing,” let alone eating, animals....He hardly consumed 2-3 wheat chapatis, vegetables and daal bhatt (pulse and rice) followed by a glass of goat milk just before sleeping...” Churchill—well, never mind! And, whereas “Churchill invariably carried a smoking cigar to burn Hitler and ‘all vestiges of Nazi tyranny’ out of Europe, the Mahatma always carried a long stick to beat the British out of the land ofhis birth.” (64)

Clearly for Mr. Ratnu, Gandhi is as great a hero as Churchill, in the context of which his view of the Gandhi-Churchill quarrel is interesting. When debate over the India Bill erupted in the early 1930s, Churchill led the diehards, which Ratnu acknowledges but qualifies: “He was not an arrogant man...he did suffer from an imperial arrogance...[but] Churchill did not spread freedom, sprinkling it all around. He simply saved’n from being destroyed....” (30)

Inder Dan Ratnu also grasps the broad irony of the British Raj in India: “the British Empire did work to spread the idea of freedom and did ‘impose’ democracies in the countries of its rule.” By its very nature, therefore, British ideas of representative government led inevitably to the Empire’s liberation: “Gradually the British worked out a system to administer and guide the life of the common men and women of India. They ‘imposed’ a rule of law and justice enabling the common persons, if need be, to challenge the authority of the highest...Even the British themselves were subject to it....This had the seeds of freedom.” (38)

The author quotes an Indian United Nations officer, Sashi Tharoor, that “Churchill’s notions of freedom and democracy faltered at the frontiers of India.” Unfortunately Ratnu does not counter this very widespread Indian view by mentioning Churchill’s magnanimity toward Gandhi (“I do not care whether you are more or less loyal to Great Britain...You need not expect anything but silence or help from us.”), recounted in Volume V of Sir Martin Gilbert’s biography. Even in his worst diehard mode, Churchill held sincere fear of what he saw as the dominant Congress Party’s rejection of one-man/vote, particularly for the Untouchables. Churchill also feared a Hindu-Muslim schism once the British authorities departed, which is exactly what happened.

Instead Mr. Ratnu takes a philosophical view, allowing that “time has proved that Indians can march together on the path of progress without any widespread violence and chaos.” If India’s democracy is not yet perfect, he concludes, “No one can deny the credit due to Churchill for [democracy’s] defence. Nor can anyone blame him for the ills of democracy or the distortions of freedom that have crept into the life of this country since Independence.” (42) This recalls Churchill’s 1954 remark to Eisenhower: “The British and American Democracies were slowly and painfully forged, and even they are not perfect yet.”

In other areas Mr. Ratnu has gone rather far afield by imagining what
What Every Indian Needs to Know...
Churchill's attitude might be toward modern questions, like Britain within Europe. "He would almost certainly propose/accept Mr. Gorbachev of Russia as the first elected President of the United States of Europe." (35), although "he would certainly prefer, if it were within his bounds, to make Britain the 52nd State of the United States." (34) Not so fast! (And which state was the 51st?) But Mr. Ratnu is an enthusiast, and we should not cavil over the fact that he has put most of his research into Churchill on the war, on India, and on freedom: which he represents with skill.

This is a useful little book, nicely produced, altogether different from anything else on your library shelf. Technology moves apace, and in the new century the world's nations, to paraphrase Churchill, "are going to be somewhat mixed up together for general and mutual advantage." India is the second most populous country in the world, worth understanding, and worthy itself of Mr. Ratnu's missionary zeal to offer Churchill's truth and wisdom for the consideration of his countrymen. M>

"If Chamberlain Had Not Lost the Battle for Britain"


The theme of this book is "the Eternal Relevance of Churchill," which the author demonstrates by combining fact and fiction. Alternative to Churchill is similar in approach to Norman Longmate's If Britain Had Fallen (reviewed FH 33), factually relating the course of World War II up to a point—then presenting an imagined scenario if a few things had happened differently.

For Longmate, the turning point is Hermann Goering's decision to concentrate the Luftwaffe assault on RAP bases instead of London, leading to a successful German invasion and the fall of Churchill, defending Number Ten Downing Street from the onrushing Wehrmacht, dying with his pistol ablaze. For Ratnu, the turning point (which he calls "the diversion") is the decision of Chamberlain's critics—Amery for the Tories, Lloyd George for the Liberals, and most of the Labour Party—to mute their May 1940 attacks on the Government for the sake of national unity. Thus Churchill does not become Premier on May 10th—or any other time. And there hangs our tale.

Although the surviving Chamberlain delegates increasing military authority to Churchill, the two split fatally over Reynaud's call for Britain to fling the bulk of her air force into Battle of France, which Chamberlain feels he cannot deny. As the British Expeditionary Force is beaten back, Chamberlain fails to withdraw around Dunkirk in a timely fashion, and 300,000 British troops are captured or killed in the greatest military disaster in British history. "Because of the absence of a dynamic, daring and driving personality at the top," Ratnu concludes, "the British fell short of taking appropriate measures well in time at every stage."

What happens next is sudden and frightening. There is no "Battle of Britain," with the RAF maintaining daylight mastery of the air. Instead there is a "Battle for Britain," fought first on the English Channel and then on the beaches and the landing grounds. Churchill directs the Royal Navy in a heroic defense against "Operation Sea Lion," but (as actually happened in another sphere) he underestimates the power of hostile aircraft against ships. The navy succumbs to an all-powerful Luftwaffe, German troops storm the Channel coast, and Blitzkrieg methods so successful in France are applied anew in southeast England. Like the French before him, Chamberlain chooses surrender. His successor, Hali-

If Chamberlain Had Not Lost...
fax, signs the armistice while a raging Churchill sails with the remnants of the fleet to Washington. Rebuffed by a Roosevelt still unwilling to declare war, Churchill departs for exile to the Falkland Islands, there to organize an international resistance movement.

Hitler occupies Britain and spends 18 months preparing for the final settlement with Russia. In the spring of 1942, with no Western Front to divert him, the Fiihrer flings 300 blooded divisions and a waxing Luftwaffe against Russia, which quickly collapses. In concert with Japan, Germany pours troops and material into a cowed Canada, invades America, and finally puts an end to the extended war by dropping atomic bombs on New York and San Francisco. The years go by, and the former USA becomes known as the "United States of Germarica," its capital (so help me) "Hitlerington."

Ratnu convincingly describes a world dominated by the Axis in every aspect of life, along with certain biographic sketches: Too old to take part personally in the Resistance, Churchill picks up recruits over the years. Gandhi, Churchill considers, will remain "a moral beacon" but cannot be counted upon to lead a guerrilla force. A fiery young revolutionary, Nelson Mandela, joins the African Resistance on the grounds that the Nazis intend the same fate for black men as they have meted out to the Jews. Margaret Thatcher, "The Tigress," is a Resistance fighter caught and shot by the Gestapo. Richard Nixon, "a clever trickster," tells Churchill the Germans should be bombed to death, but Churchill considers him untrustworthy. WSC appoints John F. Kennedy to head covert operations, and a Texas oil man, George Bush, to coax Arabs to disrupt German oil supplies. Young Boris Yeltsin holds some promise as a freedom fighter, but is easily caught and disposed of. Although the British Royal Family is exiled on what I suspect is Madagascar, Prince Charles marries an Indian beauty and recreates the royal union of Britain and India. (There's hope for him yet.) Churchill dies in 1965 in his Falklands stronghold, buried under a boulder in...
If Chamberlain Had Not Lost...

written, "Founder of the movement to uproot Nazidom from the world," his mission unfulfilled.

Mr. Ratnu has as you see quite an imagination. His "Alternative" even has Churchill speculating on what might have happened "if Chamberlain had not lost the Battle for Britain"—similar to what Churchill himself speculated in his own what-if story, "If Lee Had Not Won the Battle of Gettysburg."

Incidentally, Ratnu has Churchill issuing "immortal words" even under "Alternative" conditions. His speeches, the author states, "have been worked out on the basis of his actual speeches and emotions under the 'Real' conditions, though of course the emphasis is more on the philosophical (freedom and democracy) than it is on fighting a war."

This is clearly not something you run into every day. Though laden with typos, particularly of people's names (how would you do if you had to write a book in Hindi?), it is a diverting and chilling reminder that history often turns on very small events...and is written by the winners.


Comparative studies of Churchill and Hitler are surprisingly scarce. In 1942, journalists Stephen Laird and Walter Graebner (the latter was Churchill's Life editor for his serialized war memoirs) published their conversations, Hitler's Reich, Churchill's Britain (Batsford, 1942); and John Lukacs has written in The Duel and in Five Days in London about the Hitler-Churchill stand-off which he believes settled the war. Now military historian Gen. John Strawson expands the Hitler-Churchill juxtaposition by comparing their lives from childhood through World War II, with big chapters on each year of the war, ending with a "Verdict" that summarizes the views of their admirers, critics and colleagues. No revisionist, Strawson records Churchill's faults, but emphasizes his indispensability, even in the eyes of his chief military critics. He concludes that Churchill "did not want war but the war he got changed history."

The book is thick and comprehensive in its coverage, better than half of it devoted to the campaigns of 1939-45 and Hitler's and Churchill's reactions to them. But there is not much that is original or new, and the absence of source references constantly frustrates. "Where have I read that before?" one asks: "where did he get that?" The bibliography, while commendably full of German sources—which recent English revisionists rarely consult—is neither lengthy nor revealing, except of Strawson's intent to portray the German view of things. Not surprisingly (since much of it was written after 1945) this tends to corroborate the popular view that Hitler was an evil genius whose total control over the German military machine eventually lost the war—yet equally led to stunning victories that would probably not have occurred without him.

Part of Strawson's book is a reply to John Charmley, who wrote in his Churchill: The End of Glory (reviewed, FH 81) that the proper course for Britain was to have backed away from the war in 1941. Strawson refutes Charmley's assertions that by fighting on, Britain lost her empire, independence and "anti-Socialist vision":

It is not only the premise itself that may be challenged, for although the Empire diminished after 1945, as was inevitable on India's independence two years later, it lingered on for a good many years and the Commonwealth survives still; British independence—in the sense of the country earning most of its living, indulging in military action in the interests of moderation and justice, taking its own line in Euro-

Hero and Anti-Hero...
**Hero and Anti-Hero...**

Strawson's defense of Churchill as war strategist is more convincing. He notes for example how, in 1945, Churchill's realization of the political and strategic importance of Berlin was lost on Eisenhower as the Anglo-Americans drove east. After Normandy, Eisenhower told his two principal subordinates, Bradley and Montgomery, "Clearly, Berlin is the main prize... There is no doubt whatsoever, in my mind, that we should concentrate all our energies and resources on a rapid thrust to Berlin." But in March 1945 Eisenhower changed his mind and, with Stalin's approval, signaled Montgomery to halt east of the Ruhr and thereafter concentrate on Leipzig and Dresden. (481) Churchill's note to his Chiefs of Staff, stressing the continued paramountcy of Berlin in military and strategic importance, is quoted in full—but as usual without source notes. (482)

There are a few stray typos and a couple of howlers—Strawson says the code breaking center at Bletchley Park was in Oxfordshire not Buckinghamshire (278). But there is also a very useful, 16-page "Dramatis Personae," with brief biographies of virtually everyone who mattered in the military-political history of World War II—not a new idea, but something you may constantly refer to in future. The photographs are old chestnuts, the binding modern-cheap, the dust jacket well designed and attractive, and the price reasonable. This is not as good a study of Churchill, Hitler and the war as we'll ever get; but it will do until a better one comes along.

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**A French View: Par for the Curse**


No one is better qualified to write a French biography of Churchill than François Bédarida, a specialist in both British history and the Second World War. The risk is large, as so much has been said, but the merit of Bédarida is in presenting a more synthetic work, which delves into interesting facets of historical interpretation.

The book seeks to scrutinize the resiliency of a fantastic personality, both flamboyant and contradictory. Bédarida believes young Winston's lack of affection from his parents left "an indelible mark on his innermost being," resulting in an incessant need to attract attention and to seek recognition. Throughout his life he had to fight against his cyclothymic nature.

After mostly mediocre studies, he is admitted to the military academy at Sandhurst. But the prospect of a life in a garrison bores him and his thirst for action propels him, at the age of 21, into becoming a volunteer soldier and journalist in Cuba (1895), India (1897), the Sudan (1898) and South Africa (1899). Captured by the Boers, he escapes and writes a best-seller. Fame opens Parliament to him, where he sits among the Conservatives from 1900 on.

Bédarida provides the political portrait of both an opportunist and idealist. His flair for action drives Churchill to join the Liberal Party in 1904, but in 1924 he comes back to the Conservative fold in what the author says is a typical course for a "Tory Democrat." Patrician, nationalist, colonialist, racist in many respects, Churchill is at the same time convinced of the need for social reform, as much for the guarantee of order as for the stability of the Empire. This fundamental ambivalence makes him ill at ease within the party system.

Bédarida refuses a teleological dodge: all of Churchill's roads do not lead to the glorification of 1940, and there is, in his life, more luck than necessity. On the question of India, the statesman obstinately refuses the solution of self-government, appearing like a politician of the past. As a dramatic consequence of this typically Churchillian error, he loses credibility in his warnings about Hitler. His clairvoyance is total from 1933, but his argument against appeasement lacks the consistency which he wanted to attribute to it after the war. During the middle Thirties, he displays indulgence towards fascist Italy when she invades Ethiopia, then chooses Franco when war breaks out in Spain. These errors in judgment can be explained through his fear of communism founded on a very shrewd analysis of the Soviet regime whose criminal and totalitarian dimensions he calculates very early on. At the hour of greatest danger, the protagonist becomes "Churchill of England."

Bédarida devotes only one-fourth of his work to the war years. In order to breathe life into the "epic," he cites the formulas by which Churchill "mobilized the English language and sent it into battle." In studied terms, the author puts in perspective the role of Churchill in the war, notably in intelligence as well as in his strategic debates with Roosevelt and his Realpolitik with regard to Stalin.

Too fleeting, no doubt, are the pages devoted to the decline of the "Old Lion" after his electoral defeat of July 1945, his return to the Opposition, and then again heading the Government (1951-1955). His effort on behalf of European unity has been sufficiently treated. In return Bédarida adds an interesting touch to the portrait as he describes the evolution of Churchill from champion of the cold war, to a peace-striver who proposes a forerunner of détente after the death of Stalin.

To sum up, François Bédarida knows how to utilize all the colors of his palette: this biography is not only a vivid and elegant account, it is also a lesson in the historical process, a reflection in depth of the British identity, and of the European democracies of the 20th century.


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**Par for the Curse...**

Continued overleaf...
Undersecretary...
Overachiever
Steve Walker

Elgin and Churchill at the Colonial Office 1905-1908, by Ronald Hyam.
Typical price for fine jacketed copies $75+. Frequency: very scarce.

Read Sir Martin Gilbert's single-volume Churchill: A Life and you'll find only twenty pages covering the period 1905-1908. In the official biography, 130 pages give us a more in-depth discussion of this period encompassing Churchill's first government office. But for anyone tantalized by this period, the standard work by Cambridge lecturer Ronald Hyam provides nearly 600 pages detailing life at the Colonial Office during the tenure of Churchill, the undersecretary, and his senior, Lord Elgin (pronounced "El'-gan"). The author charmingly dedicates the work to "those of my friends who, though they will not read this book, encouraged me to persevere."

The work is divided into five parts. The Introduction comprises a fascinating presentation on Lord Elgin, a man we barely glimpse in passing as we study the life of Winston Churchill. Next come two chapters covering the formation of the great Liberal government which some historians hold the most brilliant in modern British history, which brought Elgin and Churchill together.

The bulk of the book consists of three central parts which Hyam defines in his Preface as "attitudes and policies with respect to three things": the principle of continuity of policy (1905-06); the principle of self-government (1906-07); and "the so-called native question" (1907-08). These are followed by a Conclusion, with chapters on the conduct of business at the Colonial Office, and the departure of Lord Elgin from the ministry. Also in this part is a summarizing chapter entitled "The watershed of the Empire-Commonwealth: the imperial policy of the Liberal government, 1905-1908." This last chapter Mr. Walker is a longtime member and a collector of books about Churchill who resides in Norman, Oklahoma.

A fortiori alone is almost worth the cost of buying the book.

While the core of the book is chronological, each part contains geographical or thematic chapters which address, for example, South Africa, West and East Africa and Ceylon; the Colonial Conference of 1907; the definition of a native policy for British Africa; the development of dependencies; and Churchill's 1907 tour which resulted in his book, My African Journey.

Readers of Churchill's only travelogue will enjoy the chapter on his tour—and its consequences: "Unfortunately, the African tour did not turn out quite as Elgin had expected when he blessed it." The Colonial Secretary hadn't realized what would happen when he released his young dynamo on the world. The number of on-the-spot decisions made by his young under-secretary, as well as the volume of memoranda and telegrams sent home for action, were utterly unanticipated.

In his Conclusion, Hyam provides a remarkably perceptive examination of the conduct of business at the Colonial Offices under Elgin and Churchill; their differing styles, and how they got along. An interesting paradox is the team itself, a study in contrasts: Elgin "never opened his lips in Council [and was] no use in general debate." Even when Elgin was appointed to his first public office (in 1886, as treasurer in the Queen's household), the Queen had "objected to him because he was not talkative." Can we imagine this reticent man dealing almost daily with that most garrulous of men, Winston Churchill? And Elgin, Dr. Hyam says, was a dour Scot, while "nobody ever contrived to get so much fun out of official business as Churchill," quoting WSC's Liberal colleague Lord Morley as saying that Winston "now and then misses a frothy bubble for a great wave."

(That was just as valid a criticism 40 years later.)

When I first took up this book I was certain it would prove to be a plodding, boring work, one I would have to slog through. But the author's style is enlightening, interesting, and brings life to a short but critical period of Churchill's public career. I was grateful also for the opportunity to learn about Winston's boss, the 9th Earl of Elgin, presented as an intelligent, conscientious, and distinguished public servant who was dismissed in a shabby fashion by Asquith. Unfortunately, the book is difficult to find, so if you see a copy in a used book store, snap it, because you may never see it again.
Friendly Enemies: David Low, Winston Churchill

Abstract by Chris Hanger


Sir David Low was the supreme British political cartoonist of his age. Churchill's beliefs regarding the Empire, working classes, and the Labour Party made him an excellent subject for the socialist Low and newspapers that supported Labour. During Churchill's unsuccessful campaign against Russian Bolshevism, Low depicted him as a "war mongering arch-reactionary" wearing a worn-out Napoleonic uniform sitting astride an equally worn-out donkey.

During the Twenties, Winston Churchill's position with both his party and the public rendered him a misguided and solitary figure, distrusted by friend and foe alike, in the eyes of the Press. One Low cartoon depicted Churchill walking away from two stodgy men who appear quite puzzled. With a couple in the foreground, the man whispers to the female character: "That's Mr. Churchill. His party don't know whether to regard him as a Pitt or a pity."

Little evidence exists that Churchill disliked Low. Instead, he found an appreciation of Low's ability to capture the essence of political figures and issues of the day without the benefit of hindsight. In January 1924 Churchill paid tribute: "It was the turn of the Press to satirize the politician at the present moment if they were not satisfied already by the very full indulgence which we daily see in the brilliant cartoons of Low."

During the "wilderness years," Churchill and Low became colleagues on the Evening Standard. Churchill wrote fortnightly articles, primarily on foreign affairs. At first the two men had strikingly opposite views on Europe's emerg-

ing dictators. While Churchill was initially impressed with Mussolini and Hitler as saviors of their countries, Low detected their true spirit, particularly in Hitler's case, as early as 1931. Later in the decade, Churchill's opinion changed and by 1938 both were in agreement, rallying support for Czechoslovakia. Low's wartime support for Churchill was total, although Low was quick to point out the government's lack of aggressiveness in pursuing the enemy.

Churchill was very much aware of the power of political cartoonists. Low once even claimed that Churchill's image as a wartime leader was the creation of cartoonists. Indeed, politicians in general have a love-hate relationship with the artists who draw them. Often, cartoonists accentuate stage props and physical peculiarities, which advance the politician's image. Churchill's "props" were of course his V-sign and cigar. Regardless of how outlandish and derisive cartoons might seem, politicians appear universally to delight in such publicity, and worry when they are not targets of leading cartoonists.

One of Low's later cartoons depicted a much-revered Churchill being toasted on his eightieth birthday by a room full of Winston Churchills in earlier guises, portraying the different periods and accomplishments of the statesman's life. Low presented the original drawing of this moving tribute to Churchill with the inscription "from your old castigator." Churchill accepted it with delight. (A very good reproduction occupied the centerspread of Finest Hour 80, and is available unfolded for framing from Churchill Stores. -Ed.)

Low died in 1963, Churchill in 1965. By the time of their deaths, each left an indelible mark on twentieth century British politics.
RECENT revelations from the Public Record Office about British plots to assassinate Hitler in 1944 raise intriguing questions about the possibility of German plots to assassinate Winston Churchill. Some interesting correspondence relating to the testing of Churchill's cigars survives among his papers at the Churchill Archives Centre.

Churchill's penchant for cigars and fine drink was known throughout the world. His Private Office was regularly offered gifts of alcohol and tobacco. Clearly there was a risk of poisoning that had to be taken seriously. In the early part of the war such gifts appear to have been intercepted and passed to Scotland Yard for testing and safekeeping.

In January 1941 the Maceo Society of Camaguey, Cuba presented the British Legation in Havana with two boxes of cigars for the Prime Minister. These were sent by the Foreign Office to Scotland Yard, who in turn passed them to the senior official analyst at the Home Office, one Roche Lynch, an expert in poisons working at the Department of Chemical Pathology at St Mary's Hospital in London. Lynch offered to perform his routine tests but observed that, "...it is impossible for me to test the cigars for every known poison especially when it is possible that they could have been treated with some tropical poison not seen in this country."

Lynch added: "If an attempt on the life of anyone is to be made with cigars, I would suggest that the poison is not likely to be inhaled in the smoke as the heat of combustion would destroy nearly all the poison. However, a poisoner could achieve his goal by incorporating poison into the mouth end of the cigar, which would come directly into contact with the intended victim. He pointed out that a number of poisons have a fatal dose of less than one grain, and that "From photographs of the P.M., I should say that he probably chews the end of the cigar which would make this possibility more easy." Lynch confirmed that he could detect no signs of tampering and had found nothing of a "noxious nature." The brave analyst had also smoked a single cigar from each box "with no untoward effects."

Scotland Yard's advice was that while the risk was "infinitesimal," the Prime Minister ought not to take it and the cigars should remain with them. This appears to have been the end of this particular matter, but keeping such gifts from the Prime Minister was not always so easy.

In the spring of 1941 Churchill was offered two large consignments of cigars from Cuba, one set from the pro-British paper Bohemia and the other, complete with a decorative cabinet (which now adorns the painting studio at Chartwell), from the Cuban National Tobacco Commission. This clearly caused some consternation among his own staff, and led to the following minute of 22 April from John Colville to Private Secretary Eric Seal: "When these arrive, I think it will be very difficult to do as Mr. Bracken suggested and suppress them! The Prime Minister is quite likely to ask what has become of them and in any case they represent a gift of considerable value. Would it not be best for you to ask Mr. Bracken and Mrs. Churchill to represent strongly to the Prime Minister that they should not be smoked?"

Eric Seal was worried enough to raise the matter the following day with Professor Lindemann, Churchill's close friend and adviser in all things scientific. In a hand-written note to the professor he concludes: "In short, is there any watertight examination by means of which we could make sure the cigars are OK?"

Professor Lindemann contacted Lord Rothschild at M.I.5, who agreed that "some security measures ought to be laid on" and offered to make the necessary enquiries without anyone knowing as he imagined that "this is the sort of thing which the Prime Minister would not like very much if he knew about it." We know from Jock Colville's diary that a conference to discuss this matter then took place in Desmond Morton's room at Downing Street on 29 May, with both Lindemann and Rothschild in attendance.

First contact with the security services had been established, and on 2 June Colville wrote to Rothschild asking whether in future, it would be desirable for small boxes of cigars and chocolates, "and other things of the same kind,"
to be sent to M.I.5 instead of Scotland Yard. Colville wryly observed that "we might stand a better chance of getting them back if they were innocuous!"

In his reply two days later Lord Rothschild argued that it was unfair to deprive Scotland Yard of the chocolates as he imagined that they ate them or fed them to dogs, but that cigars were a trickier problem and M.I.5 had a bacteriological expert on the spot.

The cabinet of cigars from the Cuban National Tobacco Commission did not arrive until late September. In the meantime, Colville had sent three minutes to the Prime Minister, on 22 April, 18 June and 23 September, all warning him about the potential risk of poisoning from such gifts and advising him not to smoke anything. M.I.5 finally took possession of one cigar from each box on 24 September, and proceeded to examine them for bacteriological and toxicological contamination. This appears to have been accomplished by either injecting mice with a broth derived from the cigars or exposing the poor creatures to their fumes. In the words of the technical report, "To clinch the innocence of the exhibits small fragments of the material were placed on the observer's tongue for 30 seconds and when, in two days no evil had befallen, much larger samples. Four days elapsed without mishap."

The conclusion was that the sample was innocuous. Although, as Lord Rothschild observed in a letter of 9 October to Churchill's office, nicotine was itself "very poisonous indeed and there are few things which the smoking end of a cigar could be treated with which might be more harmful."

The report may have been reassuring, but it was not conclusive. Only a small percentage of the Cuban cigars had been tested and M.I.5 now recommended that all those remaining should be visually examined for puncture marks and stains. Churchill's trusty bodyguard, Inspector Thomson, agreed to perform this time-consuming task. Lord Rothschild returned the tested cigars to Downing Street with the technical report as an exhibit to prove that he had not just smoked them, "after the number of jokes that Colville and I had about Special Branch eating No.10's chocolates."

The supreme irony in all of this is that there is evidence that Churchill, ignoring Colville's anxious minutes, had already smoked some of the cigars before they had even been received by M.I.5! Lord Balfour of Inchery wrote an article for The Times in September 1965, quoted by Martin Gilbert in the official biography, describing a meeting of the Defence Committee on 19 September 1941. According to Balfour, who was then an Under-Secretary of State at the Air Ministry, Churchill took all the committee members to see his new Cuban cigar cabinet:

"Turning to the waiting Ministers, he addressed us thus: Gentlemen, I am now going to try an experiment. Maybe it will result in joy. Maybe it will end in grief. I am about to give you each one of these magnificent cigars.' He paused. He continued with Churchillian rolling of sound and digestive enjoyment of the spoken word. 'It may well be that these each contain some deadly poison..."

The problem facing those trying to protect the premier was immense. The only way they could be absolutely certain that a cigar was safe to smoke was by exposing it to a testing process that would destroy it—a situation that was clearly unacceptable to the Prime Minister.

The answer was damage limitation. It became the policy of Churchill's Private Office not to accept small gifts, while larger consignments of cigars were individually assessed for the risk they posed. If the source was considered respectable the consignment could be referred to M.I.5 for random testing. But when the source was considered unreliable the cigars clearly had to be disposed of.

On 7 November 1941, John Martin, Churchill's Principal Private Secretary, sent the Prime Minister a minute relating to two recent gifts of cigars from Brazil. He noted that, "In view of the German record in matters of this kind, there is undoubtedly an element of risk...and it does not seem to be a risk which you should take." He suggested three alternatives: the cigars could be exchanged at a reputable dealer's for reliable stock and sold to unsuspecting customers; they could be exchanged with cigars owned by Lord Rothschild and smoked by him; or they could be destroyed or smoked by any of Churchill's staff who were prepared to take the risk.

From his marginal annotations, it is clear that Churchill considered the first option to be "lousy" and the second to be unacceptable. He minuted back, "If these cigars are not thought safe for me, they are not safe for anyone, and had better be destroyed."
Churchill in Stamps: Sanda to Thomond

Page 90: Appendix of Locals and Fauxs

Churchill in Stamps: Sanda to Thomond

Sanda to Thomond

First, we decide Rosen's Catalogue of British Locals, published in 1957.

APPENDIX

4.12 Sanda

An island off the coast of Argyllshire, Scotland, with a small permanent population, Sandan plays host to holiday visitors in the summer months and mail is covered to the mainland by a bowman hired, and paid for, via local postmark labels. The vast number of issues, and the scarcity of many postmarks with names that were blessed with any postal genuineness.

Churchill Overprints on 1962 Europa Issues, 1962 (Rosen 520-57)

APPENDIX

4.13 Sark

Third largest of the Channel Islands after Jersey and Guernsey, Sark was served by the Cowesmore Shipping (CS) Company, which carried parcels and O.P.O. mail to Alderney and Guernsey. In 1962, Sark was served by the new Guernsey postal service, and the CS Sark locals were suppressed.

Churchill Definitives (overprints), 7 May 1965 (Rosen 565-68)


Churchill Definitives (overprints), 8 May 1965 (Rosen 568-72)

3.14 SOAY
A three-square-mile island off Loch Scavaig on the southern coast of Skye, Soay's name means "Isle of Sheep." It had its own post office until 1953, when it was largely evacuated. All Soay stamps have been labeled bogus by philatelic sources.

Jhurr-Hill Overprint on 1965 Europa Issue, 1965 (Rosen SY17-22)
Also extant imperforate.

Churchill Overprinted Miniature Sheet, 1965 (SY23)
Also extant imperforate and In other sheetlet forms.

4.16 STROMA
Off John o'Groats in the Pentland Firth, Its Norse name stands for "Island in the current." Much the same practices in labeling as its sister offshore islet; Stroma is therefore among the interesting frauds of the Churchill label field.

Churchill Commemoratives, 1968 (Rosen ST47-50)
Rouletted. Also extant imperforate.

304. 1.10 STAFFA
Situated off the west coast of Mull north of Iona, in the Scottish Hebrides, Staffa is often visited for its numerous jetties, particularly Fingal's Cave, used in Jules Verne's "The Gruca Faa." Some stamps were issued to cover the local post.

Jov-10 Anniversary of Churchill's Death, 1972 (Rosen SF20-23)
"Liver overprint on S.900: ionama, S917-14.

305. 4.17 THOMOND
If you have visited Shannon Airport in Ireland, you have paid a call to the Principality of Thomond, an ancient term for the locale, and utterly meaningless as an issuer of stamps. These attractive labels appear to have been issued at the time of Churchill's death, but little more is known about them.

Jov-nth Anniversary of Churchill's Death, 1972 (Rosen SF24-27)
"Liver overprint on 1969 issues, SF 1-4.
REFLECTIONS ON CHURCHILL'S

THOUGHTS AND ADVENTURES

The English and American First Editions.

GUNNARKNAPP

IT WAS with some trepidation that I accepted Jim Muller's invitation to speak to you tonight. What, I wondered, could I say about Winston Churchill that most of you would not already know, and know better than I? But then I realized that my task was easy. I needed only to open any book by Churchill at random and start reading, and my listeners were likely to hear something said well and well worth saying.

So I thought I would take advantage of the opportunity to share some selections from a work of Churchill's which I read and enjoyed recently, at Jim's recommendation. The book is Thoughts and Adventures (whose America title is Amid These Storms), which was published in 1932 when Churchill was 58 years old.

Thoughts and Adventures consists of twenty-three essays, most of which had been previously published, on a wide range of topics. Here are some of the titles:
- Cartoons and Cartoonists
- Election Memories
- The U-Boat War
- The Irish Treaty
- Mass Effects in Modern Life
- Moses
- Parliamentary Government and the Economic Problem
- Painting as a Pastime

There is no unifying theme in these essays. They are of varied importance to an understanding of Churchill and his times. I found some more interesting than others.

So why read this book? I want to suggest four reasons.

First, Thoughts and Adventures is full of marvelous writing. Churchill not only had a lot to say: he also knew how to say it well. Churchill didn't just give great speeches, or write great histories: he told good stories, too.

Second, Thoughts and Adventures introduces you to Churchill's writing on a variety of topics. It is, if you wish, a Churchill sampler. You meet Churchill the historian, Churchill the politician, Churchill the storyteller. You begin to get a sense of the breadth of Churchill's interests and thinking.

Let me offer a few examples. Here is Churchill writing on the Germans' fatal decision to launch an all-out attack on the western front in March 1917—unchecked by civilian authorities, who with a broader vision might instead have sought peace:

It was the fatal weakness of the German Empire...that its military leaders, who knew every detail of their profession and nothing outside it, considered themselves, and became, arbiters of the whole policy of the State... We may imagine a great ship of war steaming forward into battle. On the bridge there are only lay figures in splendid uniforms making gestures by clockwork and uttering gramophone speeches. The Engineer has taken charge of the vessel, and, through the vessel, of the Fleet. He does not see a tithe of what is going on....How can he, locked in his engine-room far beneath the water line and the armoured deck? He has stoked up all his boilers, he has screwed down all the safety-valves; he has jammed the rudder amid-ships. He utters nothing but the wild command, Full speed ahead.

Here is a prophecy from the essay "Fifty Years Hence"—written in 1924:

High authorities tell us that new sources of power, vastly more important than any we yet know, will surely be discovered. Nuclear energy is incomparably greater than the molecular energy which we use to-day....There is no question among scientists that this gigantic source of energy exists. What is lacking is the match to set the bonfire alight, or it may be the detonator to cause the dynamite to explode. The Scientists are looking for this.

Here is Churchill writing on whether he should have quit smoking...

I suppose if I had to relive my life I ought to eschew the habit of smoking. Look at all the money I have wasted on tobacco. Think of it all invested and mounting up at compound interest year after year....But consider! How can I tell that the soothing influence of tobacco upon my nervous system may not have enabled me to comport myself with calm and with courtesy in some awkward personal encounter or negotiation, or carried me serenely through some critical hours of anxious waiting? How can I tell that my
...And, on what young people should read:

It is a mistake to read too many good books when quite young. A man once told me that he had read all the books that mattered. Cross-questioned, he appeared to have read a great many, but they seemed to have made only a slight impression. How many had he understood? How many had entered into his mental composition? How many had been hammered on the anvils of his mind and afterwards ranged in an armoury of bright weapons ready to hand? It is a great pity to read a book too soon in life. The first impression is the one that counts...Young people should be careful in their reading, as old people in eating their food. They should not eat too much. They should chew it well.

A third reason for reading *Thoughts and Adventures* is that it offers some very exciting reading. Churchill looms so large in history that I'm always surprised to learn how many close calls he had as a young man—although I'm sure that his qualities as a leader reflected the breadth and intensity of his experience. Here are a few paragraphs from his essay "In the Air":

...in 1911 the Royal Navy possessed half a dozen aeroplanes and perhaps as many pilots. The art of flying was in its childhood, and flying for war purposes was a sphere about which only the vaguest ideas existed. The skill of the pilots, the quality of engines and machines, were alike rudimentary.

The air is an extremely dangerous, jealous and exacting mistress. Once under the spell most lovers are faithful to the end, which is not always old age. Even those masters and princes of aerial fighting, the survivors of fifty mortal duels in the high air who have come scatheless through the War and all its perils, have returned again and again to their love and perished too often in some ordinary flight undertaken for pure amusement.

It was not, and still is not, common for men over forty to become good and trustworthy pilots...I persevered, however, in my endeavours and continued, as I thought, to make steady progress. I was thus fated to have a melancholy adventure before I decided to relinquish, at any rate, for the time being, the fascinating study of the art of flight. This event occurred in the summer of 1919.

I took the machine off the ground myself. The engine was pulling well, and we rose to 70 or 80 feet smoothly and swiftly...I now turned her to the left, as I had so often done before, and having put her on her bank, I began to centre the guiding-stick slowly and gently in order to resume an even keel....To my surprise the stick came home at last a foot without producing the slightest effect. The aeroplane remained inclined at about 45 degrees and began gradually to increase its list. "She is out of control," I said through the microphone to my pilot. Instandy I felt the override of his hand and feet on stick and rudders, as by a violent effort he sought to plunge the machine head-downwards in the hope of regaining our lost flying speed. But it was too late. We were scarcely 90 feet above the ground, just the normal height for the usual side-slip fatal accident, the commonest of all. The machine rushed earthwards helplessly....I saw the sunlit aerodrome close beneath me....Then in another flash a definite thought formed in my brain, 'This is very likely Death.' And swift upon that I felt again in imagination the exact sensations of my smash on the Buc Aerodrome a month before. Something like that was going to happen NOW! I record these impressions exactly as they occurred, and they probably occupied in reality about the same time as they take to read.

The aeroplane...struck the ground at perhaps 50 mph with terrific force. Its left wing crumpled, and its propeller and nose plunged into the earth. Again I felt myself driven forward as if in some new dimension by a frightful and overwhelming force, through a space I could not measure. There was a sense of unendurable oppression across my chest as die belt took the strain. Streams of petrol vapour rushed past in the opposite direction. I felt the whole absorption of the shock. Suddenly the pressure ceased, the belt parted, and I fell forward quite gendy on to the dial board in front of me. Safe! was the instantaneous realization.

I had two hours later to preside and speak at a House of Commons dinner to General Pershing. I managed to do this; but next day I found myself black and blue all over...From that day to this I have rarely been in the air....Yet they tell me it is quite safe now.

A fourth reason for reading *Thoughts and Adventures* is the marvelous final essay "Painting as a Pastime." If you don't read the whole work, try at least to read this essay. Here are just a few selections from it:

Just to paint is great fun. The colours are lovely to look at and delicious to squeeze out. Matching them, however crudely, with what you see is fascinating and absolutely absorbing. Try it if you have not done so—before you die....Try it while there is time to overcome the preliminary difficulties. Learn enough of the language in your prime to open this new literature to your age. Plant a garden in which you can sit when digging days are done. It may be only a small garden, but you will see it grow. Year by year it will bloom and ripen. Year by year it will be better cultivated.

Painting is complete as a distraction....Time stands respectfully aside, and it is only after many hesitations, that luncheon knocks gruffly at the door.

To me, this essay shows Churchill at his most sincere. This is no bravado of youth, no political rhetoric, no historical self-justification. This is a man who, beyond all his other remarkable achievements, has discovered a great secret—a door to beauty, and relaxation, and simple enjoyment of life—and wishes to share it.

One of these days I will get those paint brushes, and give it a try—and I hope you will too. And perhaps we will owe a new debt to Winston Churchill.
Gold Standard and Stalin-Roosevelt

CHURCHILL AND THE GOLD STANDARD

From: Michael Tombs
(michael.tombs@tesco.net):

I am wondering if anyone might know where I can find some material on Churchill's views on the gold standard after World War I.

From: Simon Riordan, UK:


From: Ronald I. Cohen
(roncohen@cyberus.ca):

A good place to start would be John Maynard Keynes's 32-page pamphlet, The Economic Consequences of Mr. Churchill (London, Woold, 1925); Churchill's first Budget Speech (28 April 1925) and the follow-up speeches of 30 April and 1 May; the speeches of 4 and 5 May 1925 on the Gold Standards Bill. All are collected in Robert Rhodes James's Complete Speeches, Vol. IV, at pp. 3556 and following. Sir Hubert Douglas Henderson was another very vocal critic of the day. I am not sure which of his works may provide the best perspective on Churchill's term as Chancellor of the Exchequer but perhaps his revised edition of Supply and Demand (London, Nisbet, c.1932) may be apposite. He would surely have written in the periodical press of the day on the subject. Churchill's other Budget Speeches as Chancellor of the Exchequer were delivered in 1926, 1927, 1928 and 1929, and all are in the Complete Speeches.

From: John Cutcher
(johncutcher@sun-spot.com):

This may be slightly specialized but I highly recommend A Monetary History of the United States by Milton Friedman and Anna Schwartz. It touches on Britain's return to the gold standard somewhat peripherally, but it does contain a fascinating comparison of America's return to the gold standard in 1879 with the British experience in the 1920s. Friedman and Schwartz comment that the usual view of the British experience is that the British erred in maintaining the pre-WW1 value of the pound, which was too high and thus deflationary, producing a slump in the British economy. They point out that the USA had essentially the same monetary deflation in die 1870s, yet underwent a boom.

The relevance of all this is that historians should not be so quick to label Churchill's policy as an obvious failure.

CHURCHILL AND ROOSEVELT VS. STALIN

From: Prof. Brian Villa, University of Ottawa (blella@uottawa.ca):

Is there really any good evidence that Churchill had a significantly different policy than Roosevelt towards Stalin? Where is the evidence that Churchill before 1946 ever contemplated a serious confrontation with Stalin? Over what? I suggest we start a new thread: What is the evidence that Churchill was prepared to be more confrontational with the Soviets at Yalta than were FDR and the American diplomatic establishment? Let me now lay out a few elements that might stimulate discussion.

The view that Churchill differed from Roosevelt and was blocked by the Americans was first advanced by Chester Wilmot, based on no particular evidence, and by Elliot Roosevelt, who said his father was upset at Churchill's inclination to be confrontational and confessed to working to block Churchill. What sort of sources were Wilmot and Roosevelt's son?

The other major evidence was provided by Churchill's physician, Lord Moran, in his published diaries, particularly in his recollections of remarks Churchill made in the British Legation in Teheran in 1943. The view that Churchill was not very anti-Soviet and easily caved in to Roosevelt is made by John Charmley in his more recent works, Churchill: The End of Glory and Churchill's Grand Alliance. Where is the good evidence and the good argument?
Recipes from No. 10: Mousse de JamLon Froia (Cold Ham Mousse)

by Georgina Landemare (Churchill Family Cook, c. 1940s-50s)

Updated & annotated for the modern kitchen by Barbara Langworth (b_langworth@conknet.com)

Serves 6:

This is a favorite family recipe. I have totally modernized the preparation, and it is easily made using a food processor.

The mousse and aspic need to be refrigerated at least an hour before presentation.

2 lbs cooked lean ham
4 oz [1/2 cup] tomato purée
1/2 tsp of paprika [or to taste]
1/2 pint [10 oz] cream, whipped
1/2 oz unflavored gelatine [2 envelopes], softened in about 1/4 cup water
Chopped aspic jelly*

Cut the ham into one-inch pieces and put a few at a time into the container of a food processor. Turn the machine on and off for about thirty seconds each time.

Add the tomato purée and paprika and process until the ham is finely chopped.

Put the mixture in a medium bowl. Stir in the whipped cream and the gelatine. Transfer to a shallow bowl which will serve as a mold when the mixture is inverted.

*Easy aspic
2 cups clear beef consomme
1 envelope [1/4 oz] unflavored gelatine
2 TB Madeira

Put the consomme in a small pot over low heat and sprinkle the gelatine on top. Allow to soften for several minutes and stir until the gelatine has completely dissolved. Remove from heat and stir in Madeira. Pour about 1/2" deep in a pan [9" x 9" works well] and chill until set. Using a sharp knife score the gelatine into small pieces. Remove with a spatula.

Mrs. Landemare's presentation:

Turn out the mousse, cut into slices and place on a bed of chopped aspic jelly.

Serve with a salad of cooked peas or points of asparagus or celery mixed with cream.

Churchill Online...

From: Dr. John Mather
(johnmather@aol.com):

This tends to bear in my view on the health, both physical and mental, of the principals participating at Yalta and its aftermath. If there was a sharp policy difference between Churchill and Roosevelt, then certainly it would have placed a serious strain, both in the process of the meetings and for the individual principals who were the prime spokesmen.

From: Prof. "Warren Kimball, Rutgers University (wkimball@andromeda.rutg):

Another thread to weave: was Churchill's soft-underbelly strategy (which his military advisers simply laughed at—though not in front of Churchill) aimed at keeping the Soviets out of eastern Europe, or at keeping British interests in Greece and the eastern Mediterranean protected by limited Russian influence in the southern Balkans? And didn't Churchill (as much as FDR) grossly underestimate Stalin's brutality and crudeness in dealing with eastern Europe? (Hint—what was WSC telling Anthony Eden after Yalta with regard to Rumania?)

From: Editor (malakand@conknet.com):

After Yalta, Churchill told Anthony Eden not to criticize the Russians over their actions in Rumania because he had a deal with Stalin on Greece (where WSC had gone the previous Christmas to negotiate an end to the Communist rebellion) and he didn't want this "mess[ed] up." This seems fairly curious, since Churchill had pretty much wrapped up the Greek situation by Yalta time. Perhaps he thought Stalin would restoke the rebellion, possibly overestimating Stalin's influence in Greece. Prof. Kimball believes this instruction shows Churchill no different from Stalin in pursuing his own "interests." We have had this argument before! Professor Kimball suggests in his excellent book, Forged in War, that Churchill's "soft underbelly" proposals were apparently not so silly after all: "the threat of a second front in Italy achieved what Stalin had been asking for since 1941: die diverting of significant German forces away from the Russian front." (p. 218)
YESTERDAY's most important questions can be answered in back issues of Churchill Center publications but it's not really cricket to check. Twenty-four questions appear each issue, and answers in the following issue. You can win a case of something vying with friends to get these right! Categories are Contemporaries (C), Literary (L), Miscellaneous (M), Personal (P), Statesmanship (S) and War (W).

1033. What was Ernest Bevin's official position in the War Cabinet? (C)
1034. When did Churchill declare, "This was their finest hour"? (L)
1035. What was the "Limpet," developed in Churchill's "Toyshop"? (M)
1036. When Churchill replaced Chamberlain as Prime Minister, what office did he give the former Prime Minister? (P)
1037. In August 1919 Churchill as Secretary for War urged the Government to accept the "Ten-year Rule" as Britain's principal defense policy. What was the Rule? (S)
1038. What U.S. Secretary of the Navy made the 1995 decision to name a guided-missile destroyer after Churchill? (W)
1039. Who was the originator of Winston Churchill's "Toyshop"? (C)
1040. What was the name of the magazine published by Churchill's mother? (L)
1041. What office did Churchill, the new Prime Minister, offer Robert Boothby? (M)
1042. Who was the first to tell Churchill of the German attack on Poland on 1 September 1939? (P)
1043. Who urged Churchill in 1945 to give France details of the atomic bomb? (S)
1044. How many Royal Navy ships were named Winston Churchill? (W)
1045. In October 1926 Churchill, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, replaced his Parliamentary Private Secretary, Sir Clive Morrison-Bell. Whom did he select? (C)
1046. What is the title of Sir Winston Churchill's latest book? (L)
1047. When is Battle of Britain Day? (M)
1048. Where was Churchill's mother, Jennie Jerome, born? (P)
1049. What was the "Percentage Agreement" of October 1944? (S)
1050. What did Churchill say when notified of Italy's declaration of war? (W)
1051. Sir Murland Evans, a fellow schoolmate of Churchill, recalled a conversation they had as young boys in which Churchill predicted that London will be attacked and I shall be very prominent in the defence of London." Where did this discussion take place? (C)
1052. What was the title of the article Churchill wrote for the famous literary magazine, The Anglo-Saxon Review? (L)
1053. On what occasion did Churchill tell his daughter Sarah: "Do what you like, but remember, like what you do"? (M)
1054. What key position on Churchill's staff did Sir John Martin hold from 1941 to 1945? (P)
1055. When did Churchill form the Caretaker Government? (S)
1056. How did Churchill define the Royal Air Force? (W)

ANSWERS TO FH 105 TRIVIA:

(1009) Churchill served with Prime Ministers Salisbury, Balfour, Campbell-Bannerman, Asquith, Lloyd George, Bonar Law, Baldwin, MacDonald, Chamberlain, Atlee, Eden, Macmillan and Douglas-Home. (1010) Churchill as a fictional character appears as Rupert Catskill in Men Like Gods by H.G. Wells; Walter Chancel in Storm in the West by Sinclair Lewis; Tom Hogarth in Lord RAingo by Arnold Bennett; Algermon Woodstock in Eleven Were Brave by Francis Boodle. (1011) Churchill as a scientific adviser to Churchill. (1012) Churchill's favorite Champagne was Pol Roger. (1013) Churchill represented Oldham, Northwest Manchester, Dundee and Epping; the latter was subdivided and he represented the Woodford constituency. (1014) The Germans occupied the Channel Islands (Jersey, Guernsey, Herm, Sark and Alderney) during WW2.

(1015) During WW2 Professor Frederick Lindemann was Postmaster-General and scientific adviser to Churchill. (1016) The "best critical work" named by ICS is Churchill: A Study in Failure by Sir Robert Rhodes James. (1017) Sir Winston called Polo the "Emperor of Games." (1018) The Americans defined the “Empire” as "Germany's idiot ally." (1020) Churchill warned of the "wars of peoples" in his speech on Army Reform on 13 May 1901 in the House of Commons.

(1021) "He mobilized the English language and sent it into battle" was coined by Edward R. Murrow in his broadcast on WSC's 80th birthday, 30Nov54. (1022) Churchill called the 20th century, "the century of the common man, because in it the common man has suffered most." (1023) The American sponsor for the destroyer Winston S. Churchill was the wife of the U.S. Secretary of Defense, Janet Langhart Cohen. (1024) Churchill mentioned "giving the roar" at his 80th birthday celebration in Westminster Hall on 30 Nov 54. (1025) The British Chiefs of Staff considered "the integrity of Singapore" to be the key to the strategic situation in the Far East. (1026) During the Blitz, Churchill slept four times at London Transport Executive Underground Headquarters, at the now discontinued Down Street subway station on the Piccadilly Line.

(1027) The Portuguese novelist who wrote about Churchill was Joaquim Pais D'Arcos. (1028) The two books Churchill recommended for the history of WW1 were Liaison 1914 and Prelude to Victory, by Maj. Gen. Sir Edward Spears. (1029) The USS Winston S. Churchill is homeported in Norfolk, Virginia. (1030) Stalin gave Churchill the Russian film "Kutuzov." (1031) Sir Winston wrote about Abraham Lincoln in his History of the English-Speaking Peoples. (1032) The code name for the attack of the French navy at Oran was CATAPULT.
Moments in Time: London, 30 November 1964

Photograph Ly William Kidd

"I went home for my father’s ninetieth birthday. I remember when I arrived there were big crowds gathered outside the house hoping for a glimpse of my father. There were photographers and movie cameramen, and even a little group of musicians serenading under the window. When he stood, unaided but obviously with help close by in case of need, to wave from a window, there was a roar of applause from outside." -Sarah Churchill, *Keep on Dancing*, 1981

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"Double Three":
A Game of Dominoes

This delightful cartoon was found amongst a pile of ephemera. It is unsigned but I would guess that it dates from about 1942. From their expressions it is clear that Roosevelt and Churchill, cheered on by Stalin, are confident that they are on a winning streak in their game of dominoes. In contrast Messrs. Hirohito, Hitler and Mussolini are already contemplating defeat. Perhaps it is because Churchill, owing to artistic licence or otherwise, is about to play an unbeatable double-nine?

In pencil on the reverse of the original is the endorsement FDR LIB NY. (Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, New York?) Can any reader confirm the source of the original and identify the artist? -Douglas J. Hall