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Founded in 1968 to foster leadership, statesmanship, vision and boldness among democratic and freedom-loving peoples worldwide, through the thoughts, words, works and deeds of Winston Spencer Churchill.
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Cover: Bronze bust by Colombian sculptress Margarita Hernandez, reproduced by kind permission of the Royal College of Defence Studies. See page 6.
WHY WAS LESLIE SHOT DOWN?

Finest Hour 131 (page 6) mentions the long-standing myth, raised now by the UKTV History production "Churchill's Bodyguard," that actor Leslie Howard was shot down into the Bay of Biscay in June 1943 "because the Germans thought they were shooting at Winston Churchill." May I suggest a more banal but more plausible reason for the attack on that aircraft?

Another of the passengers in Howard’s plane, also killed, was Wilfred Israel, the Jewish owner of a large department store in prewar Berlin, who happened to have a British as well as a German passport, and had so escaped from Germany. He had been in Lisbon, pursuing work to rescue Jewish children from the Nazis' clutches. He had long been on the Gestapo's blacklist. German secret service officers watched all departures from Lisbon airport from the airport cafe, which over looks the boarding point. It is not hard to assume that one of them recognised Israel and rang up a friend in the Luftwaffe.

M.R.D. Foot, Royston, England

• Professor Foot is an Oxford academic who wrote the official history of the Special Operations Executive in France, and has also written SOE: An Outline History. He was closely connected with SOE during the war and has well-placed sources. — PHC

TROUBLE ON THE WEEKEND

Checking some dates has illustrated something which I have long suspected—dictators like to cause mischief on the weekend. When we mention a date, we do not normally think of the day of the week—but aren't these dates interesting?

Sunday, 7 April 1940: Germany attacks Norway.

Friday, 10 May 1940: Germany attacks Belgium and Holland.

Sunday, 12 May 1940: Germany invades France.

Sunday, 9 June 1940: Mussolini declares war on Britain and France.

Sunday, 22 June 1941: Germany invades Russia.

Sunday, 7 December 1941: Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, Malaya, Siam and the Philippines.

Saturday, 28 February 1942: Japanese forces invade Java.

Coincidental? I think not.

IM LANCASTER, NORMANDY, FRANCE

POLITICALLY AGITATED


R.E.B., RACINE WISCONSIN

• That does it. We hereby advise our readers that our patience is exhausted with political protesters. (The previous Chartwell Bulletin/Annual Report drew fire from another of same because it depicted Tom DeLay and George W Bush. We thought Senator McCain was one of them, but apparently he can't win!) We withhold names to spare them the embarrassment.

Let's get something straight: we don't care if a leading figure in public life is a Democrat, Republican, Laborite, Tory, Lib-Dem, Sosh-Dem or Dem-Bums. If they communicate cogently an appreciation for the life and legacy of Winston Churchill that inspires others, they're welcome regardless of their politics, although our connection to the more strident of them may be indicated by a dotted not a solid line.

If our roll of Churchillians is more important to you than Winston Churchill, by all means resign. Incidentally, we have observed after personal meetings that some of the figures reputed to be "extreme" are perfectly rational when you meet them in person. Daggers-drawn politics, which is presently, and sadly, the norm in the Great Democracies he loved, has replaced the cool legiality of Churchill's time: largely because, I suspect, of a 24/7, flame-fanning media, which rushes up with microphones to blow up differences and put the most extreme gloss on every out-of-context quotation—then they have the nerve to whine about dirty politics and below-the-belt political campaigning. Holy cow! — RML
hose of us who feel we carry the burdens of The Churchill Centre on our shoulders understand clearly that we don't do it alone. Our spouses share those burdens (and our joys) as well. Each spouse is an integral part of a team and collectively these teams are the organizational backbone of the Centre. Unfortunately, however, our spouses are rarely mentioned in our communications and publications and even more rarely are their contributions acknowledged. Yet our husbands and wives have played a vital role in whatever progress The Centre may have made and in whatever successes it may have achieved.

A few specific examples come to mind. While I am sure many more exist, I regret that I have not had the privilege of observing them. Yet, I hereby gratefully acknowledge the spouses of other Governors, past and present, and their significant contributions to The Churchill Centre.

Whose registration at the Centre's annual international conferences has not been graciously and efficiently handled by Ruth Plumpton or Molly Frost or Barbara Langworth or Lorraine Horn or Dorothy Hebb or Susan Larson or Virginia Ives and others? Their warmly welcoming demeanor and accommodating attitude has greeted many registrants over the years.

Governor and trustee Marcus Frost, deeply involved in a very successful construction business, relies heavily on Molly for support in his increasingly active Churchill Centre involvement. The best evidence of this is Marcus' email address, MollyFrost@nctv.com. To talk to Marcus about Churchill, contact Molly.

It is unusual to find the chairman of the Centre's academic advisers, Jim Muller, at meetings without Judith at his side rendering assistance to one and all, along with daughter, Helen, who, while not yet a spouse, promises to favor a Churchillian when that inevitable selection is made.

Barbara Langworth's years of contributions to the Centre are many and varied. She is not executive editor of *Finest Hour* for nothing. A Blenheim Award recipient, Barbara has been at the center of planning and conducting Churchill Centre tours and three international conferences. She transcribes much of what appears in our biennial compilation of papers and speeches, *Churchill Proceedings*; and on top of all this, she does the many things necessary to keep Richard on his toes.

The late Chuck Platt quietly paid tribute to Linda and her organizational skills when they recently founded the Centre's new chapter in Denver. Chuck said he made a couple of telephone calls, turned the rest over to Linda and quickly got out of the way, thus insuring (he said) that the "Rocky Mountain Churchillians" would get off to a promising start. And it did.

Jerry Kambestad has been a staunch supporter of the Centre, and Judy's intense involvement in it, from the very beginning. He was a founder of and headed our Southern California Chapter, provided timely and useful suggestions to the Centre's staff, attended and supported many functions, spotted the omission of a commemorative plaque on the villa Churchill occupied at Potsdam (since rectified through his generosity), contributed to Centre publications and provided your president with insightful advice on more than one delicate issue.

Solveig Barber graciously sang appropriate national anthems at many of the Centre's recent conferences. Her beautiful renditions have been enthusiastically received and deservedly so. And at the Centre's 2005 conference, she read, in full World War II uniform, on-the-spot observations of the first Quebec Conference in 1943.

Susan Larson has worked hand in glove with Phil in reorganizing and reenergizing the Centre's Chicago Chapter. Together they have toured the Chicago area giving popular programs on Churchill. Further, they organized and energetically served as cochairmen of the wonderful international conference in Chicago, and made presentations to the attendees.

Dorothy Hebb, while relatively new to the Centre, has been of great assistance to Christopher in his duties as a Centre governor and treasurer, and as chairman of the Centre's 2007 International Churchill Conference in Vancouver. As President of the Rt. Hon. Sir Winston S. Churchill Society of Vancouver, Christopher relies heavily on Dorothy's organizational skills, and will do so for the 2007 Conference.

Virginia Ives: for me, indispensable.

Additionally, I am certain that the valuable and quietly consistent support of their governor and trustee spouses by Dan Sigman, Angela Knocker, Sara Courtenay, Lucille Thomas, Ruth Geller, Jane Banta and Barbara Garrison has helped immeasurably to keep their spouses in balance and on course. Although difficult to quantify, their contributions are many, are significant, and are sincerely appreciated.
DATELINES

COVER: THE HERNANDEZ BUST
LONDON, NOVEMBER 29TH, 2005— A remarkably fine bronze bust was unveiled by the present Winston Churchill at the Royal College of Defence Studies in London. The sculptress is Margarita Hernandez, a Colombian who spends half of each year in London. It measures 17x60x70 cm, weighs 85 kilos and stands prominently in the College’s entrance hall. Colombian Ambassador Alfonso Lopez attended the ceremonies.

The bust was specially commissioned by the Royal College, which owes its origins to the recommendation of a Cabinet committee in 1922, presided over by Churchill, who was then Secretary of State for the Colonies. It was established in 1927 as the Imperial Defence College, adopting its current title in 1970. The College runs year-long courses for senior service officers, diplomatists and other government officials. Members of the 2005 course came from forty-one different countries.

Readers note: A second, identical bust has been produced by Ms. Hernandez and is available. Interested parties may contact her directly in England at (+44) 7771636901, or by email to artmargfon@hotmail.com.

PRIX TOCQUEVILLE TO COLIN POWELL ON SIR WINSTON’S BIRTHDAY
CHATEAU TOCQUEVILLE, FRANCE, NOVEMBER 30TH— James Lancaster, Finest Hours French-based senior editor and a prolific contributor to our new educational website, DiscoverChurchill, attended the Prix Tocqueville ceremonies for Churchill Centre honorary member, Secretary Colin Powell, on Sir Winston Churchill’s birthday today. Mr. Lancaster, a translator and interpreter for the Association Alexis de Tocqueville, was invited by Mme. Heinis, a nine-year member of the French Senate, to the prize giving here just four miles from where he lives.

James told Mme. Heinis about Secretary Powell’s long-standing admiration for Winston Churchill, and that the choice of date could not be more propitious. She was excited to learn this, and mentioned it in her opening speech, which James translated. Many distinguished figures attended from Paris, including the former French President Giscard d’Estaing, along with quite a few English Tocqueville scholars. The strong American contingent sprang from the American winner and the fact that Tocqueville has for long been part of the American educational curriculum. There were quite a few Tocqueville scholars from England, and our old friend, Christian Pol Roger, of Champagne Pol Roger in Epernay, generously donated many magnums to the reception.

Favorite Quotation
In 1992, then-General Powell asked The Churchill Centre to track his favorite Churchillian statement. In one of the finest pieces of writing about war, Churchill is describing the Agadir Crisis of 1911, when Germany and France almost went into battle. The Admiralty had sent a warning message to the fleet following Lloyd George’s belligerent Mansion House speech, assuring the Germans that Britain would fight with France:

"So now the Admiralty wireless whispers through the ether to the tall masts of ships, and captains pace their decks absorbed in thought. It is nothing. It is less than nothing. It is too foolish, too fantastic to be thought of in the twentieth century. Or is it fire and murder leaping out of the darkness at our throats, torpedoes ripping the bellies of half-awakened ships, a sunrise on a vanished naval supremacy, and an island well-guarded hitherto, at last defenceless? No, it is nothing. No one would do
such things. Civilization has climbed above such perils. The interdependence of nations in trade and traffic, the sense of public law, the Hague Convention, Liberal principles, the Labour Party, high finance, Christian charity, common sense have rendered such nightmares impossible. Are you quite sure? It would be a pity to be wrong. Such a mistake could only be made once—once for all.”

—THE WORLD CRISIS I, 48-49

WHO REALLY WON THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN?

LONDON, AUGUST 25TH—If a prime aim of historical revisionism is to create a rumpus, then three academics at the Joint Service Command & Staff College have succeeded in spades with their claim in History Today that it was the Royal Navy which prevented Hitler invading Britain in 1940, not the pilots of the Royal Air Force.

The revisionists argue that such was the might of the Home Fleet that a German seaborne invasion would never have reached British shores, and that the aerial battle that blazing summer was little short of irrelevant.

This particular piece of reinterpretation is hardly new. It has been knocking around since the 1950s. But its ability to stir deep passions remains undimmed. In reality, the Battle of Britain saw the first defeat for Hitler’s war machine and in the process gave Britain a priceless morale boost after the humiliation of Dunkirk.

It also helped swing American opinion behind the British cause, thanks in no small part to the inestimable war reporting from London of Edward R. Murrow. This was a heroic defensive victory and was to be Britain’s last taste of glory until the offensive victory at El Alamein in 1942, which finally started to turn the tide of the war. It is also worth noting that the revisionist claim of naval impregnability hardly sits comfortably with what happened at the Battle of Crete in 1941, when the Royal Navy was cut to pieces by the Luftwaffe.

There are usually sound historical reasons why the great events in the national story are remembered, and that is as true of the Battle of Britain as it is of the defeat of the Armada and the victories at Trafalgar and Waterloo. It is on such battles that history pivots. Winston Churchill understood this well enough—and also knew the vital importance of demonstrating to the world that a country could not be bombed into submission.

That is why his tribute to “The Few” when the battle was won remains so poignant. The Royal Navy might have defeated a German invasion. That is conjecture. The Royal Air Force did defeat a German invasion. That is fact.

—Daily Telegraph

HAIG RESCUES HAIG

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 10TH—George, the second Earl Haig, is waging an admirable filial battle to defend the reputation of his father, the Field Marshal who sentenced 306 British soldiers to be “shot at dawn” for cowardice in World War I—an act now disavowed by the British government, which is granting posthumous pardons to the executed. Haig has also been condemned by many historians for squandering lives in futile “over the top” campaigns to take a few yards of trenches in Flanders. Aged 88, the son remembers and reveres his father as a “compassionate man,” for whom every death warrant caused “agonies of doubt.” He particularly disapproves of Winston Churchill’s reports in The World Crisis 1916-1918 (1927) of Haig’s role in the battle of Passchendaele, during which 448,000 allied soldiers were killed or wounded.

After Churchill’s book appeared, WSC was invited by Haig to tea. His son reports: “I was perched between my father and Sir Noel Birch and the atmosphere positively crackled with fury. I thought the car was going to explode. I distinctly remember my father saying that Winston did not understand what had happened or why the battle had to be fought. [But] my father welcomed Churchill as a friend and behaved as a warm host should.”

Perhaps Earl Haig is unfamiliar with what WSC wrote of his father in Nash’s Pall Mall 1928 (reprinted in Great Contemporaries, 1937): “If there are some who would question Haig’s right to rank with Wellington in British military annals, there are none who will deny that his character and conduct as soldier and subject will long serve as an example to all.”

YALE’S QUOTATIONS

CAMBRIDGE, OCTOBER 1ST—The newly published Yale Book of Quotations is the first major quotation book to emphasize modern sources, to use state-of-the-art computer-assisted research methods, and to trace quotations to their accurate origins. There is a good section of Churchill quotations, including new discoveries as to the earliest evidence for quotations by Churchill or attributed to Churchill. More information about the book is at www.quotatiodictionary.com or at www.amazon.com.

SIR MARTIN HEADS WEST

LONDON, ONTARIO, SEPTEMBER 1ST—The University of Western Ontario has scored a coup in attracting Churchill’s official biographer Sir Martin Gilbert to join its faculty for a five-year term.

Sir Martin regularly commutes from his home in big London (England) to his wife’s home in little London (Ontario). Perhaps his stays here will last a bit longer now that he has been lured to one of Canada’s top universities as an adjunct research professor. Gilbert wanted to return to lecturing after being absent from the classroom for almost four decades. »
SIR MARTIN HEADS WEST...
Word of Sir Martin's regular trips to visit his wife, Esther, a writer, had reached Western officials. They acted on the opportunity. "It was fortuitous. But fortuitous in the best possible way," said Ben Forster, chairman of the university's history department.

Sir Martin's appointment comes at a time when Canadian universities are looking to bolster their reputation on the world stage, and reflects their success in attracting high-profile scholars. Gilbert will be hosting lectures, continuing his research on Jewish and Arab history, and will keep his office door open to students who want advice or are interested in Churchill and 20th century history. "It was thought that as I'm around it would be good to have a relationship with the students," he said from his London (Ontario) home. "It seems silly for somebody who likes to teach not to be able to teach. Teaching is something I used to do and I miss it," he said. "It will be very good to be in teaching again. The time has come, I think, to repay Canada for having been such a wonderful host to me all those years ago when I was a little boy of 3 1/2 years old," he said. (Gilbert was evacuated to Canada as a child, and wrote a book about it.)

The Churchill Centre warmly congratulates Sir Martin and Lady Gilbert on this appointment and welcomes their more regular presence in North America.

GELLER TO PRESIDENT'S UNICEF COUNCIL
CHICAGO, OCTOBER 23RD—Churchill Centre co-chairman of Trustees, business leader and philanthropist Laurence S. Geller has joined the President's Council of the Midwest Region of the U.S. Fund for the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. (Mr. Geller was keynote speaker at the recent Chicago Churchill conference; see page 22.)

"We are thrilled to welcome Laurence Geller to the President's Council," said Vince Hemmer, President of the Midwest Board of Directors. "His leadership skills and his commitment to children are tremendous assets to us as we implement UNICEF's Child Survival initiative." As a member of the President's Council, Mr. Geller will support strategies to raise awareness in Chicago of UNICEF's mission to promote the survival, protection, and development of children throughout the world. In addition, he will serve as Honorary Chair of the Designs of Hope Gala, scheduled for 20 May 2007 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Chicago.

SIR WINSTON '96
BROOMHALL, FIFE, SCOTLAND, SEPTEMBER 5TH—Wine writer William Lyons pronounced Pol Roger Champagne's Cuvée Sir Winston Churchill 1996 (r), tenth in the series, as possessing "the full-flavoured style Churchill preferred," and reviewed the previous Churchill cuvées at a tasting here. "The '88 was undoubtedly the star of the show, possessing a wonderful intense, Mersault-style flavour. The '90 had lost its primary fruits and matured into a complex, nutty, honeyed wine with a gentle, sloping finish. Pol Roger has some of the deepest cellars in Epernay, which slows down the secondary fermentation, giving the champagne smaller bubbles. This, coupled with the robust style, means that PR wines will outlive many of their counterparts.... the '93, '95 and '96 are all remarkably young and will go on drinking for another fifty years at least."

Lyons also offers encouragement for those of more modest means: "For all the strong character and robustness Pol Roger achieve in their vintage blends it is the lightness and elegance they achieve in their non-vintage "White Foil" (above) that really excites. The Brut Reserve possesses a wonderful creamy mousse, has small compact bubbles and a light, crisp finish. It is the sort of champagne you..."
can serve before dinner without overwhelming your palate; we drank it with scallops and it married well."

Pol Roger is still in family hands—devoted Churchillians all—a relevant factor in its consistent quality. Because the family makes the final choice every year, the style is passed on continually.

RIGHT ON THEIR DOOR
LONG SUTTON, HAMPSHIRE—Walter Kahn wrote The Times that in 1954 he moved into the second-floor flat at 33 Eccleston Square, Churchill’s home from 1909 to 1919 and the birthplace of Randolph Churchill. (His landlady was none other than the widow of Charles Lightoller, the only surviving officer of RMS Titanic) "The Trades Union Congress moved into number 32 next door in 1918," Kahn writes. "A London cabbie, who often took WSC home 'after a good night out with friends,' told me that Churchill took his dog for a walk on most nights and trained him to relieve himself on the TUC front door. If only buildings could talk."

A WORTHY PANEGYRIC
TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES, 27 FEBRUARY 1922: One could not read the last paragraphs of Mr. Winston Churchill’s accounts of the Somme Battles, as given in your serialization, Mr. Churchill’s Book] without rejoicing that Kitchener’s Army has at last received a worthy panegyric. Personally I have long recognized that Winston Churchill had the finest prose style of any contemporary, and it is indeed a splendid thing that he should use it to do that which seemed impossible—namely, to give an adequate appreciation of that glorious Army of patriotic volunteers who gave themselves so ungrudgingly to their country’s service.

SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

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FINEST HOUR 133/9
DATELINES

CHURCHILLIANA
FUTURES RISING

LONDON, MARCH 28TH—Churchill memorabilia is a collector's paradise. Even insignificant items, such as a letter apologizing for not making a supper appointment and signed "W," can fetch £4000. A pair of his monogrammed blue velvet slippers was bid to £6325 eight years ago. Auction houses have seen a doubling in value for Churchilliana in the past decade: In 1998, Sotheby's sold one of his side arms for more than £17,000. Four years later another of his revolvers fetched £32,000.

An engraved silver snuff box given by Sir Winston to William Brimson, head doorkeeper of the House of Commons, in 1941 to replace the one he lost when the chamber was bombed in May 1941, was sold at Sotheby's for £14,400. Mr. Brimson retired in 1943 and died aged 80 in 1958.

A complete set of Churchill books could, at a pinch, be bought for about £1000 in 1990. Now you would be hard pushed to see change from £3000, and that's not even for first editions. On eBay, a rare four-volume edition of The Collected Essays attracted sixteen bids and went for £746.

The normal precautions apply: mint copies are far more valuable than dog-eared examples. It is worth avoiding copies that have been leatherbound by the owner—original bindings are always far more attractive to collectors. The most valuable are first editions of the vanity-published Mr Brodrick's Army and For Free Trade: a 1903 copy of Brodrick's was sold for £50,000.

And then there are the paintings. In 1998, Lord Harris of Peckham paid a record £150,000 at Christie's for Churchill's painting of the Duke of Westminster's house in the south of France. It had been bought in 1965 by an American collector for £9500.

—ELIZABETH DAY, SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

CHARLES GOES RETRO

LONDON, JUNE 11TH—HRH Prince Charles, who has usually reached out to futuristic solutions, has set up the Prince's Cambridge Programme For Teaching, to promote traditional methods of teaching English and history in state schools. "For all sorts of well meaning reasons," he says, "teaching has omitted to pass on to the next generation not only our deep knowledge of literature and history, but also the value of education." Charles is right, says William Rees-Mogg in The Mail on Sunday: "A nation that loses its culture suffers an irreparable loss. British culture reflects the development of our independent, tolerant and liberal society. History and literature need to be well taught; they deserve to be enjoyed."

DODONA MANOR

LEESBURG, VIRGINIA, OCTOBER 23RD—General George C. Marshall, U.S. Army Chief of Staff during World War II, made Dodona, 35 miles west of Washington, his home from 1941 until his death in 1959. Lived in by his step-daughter after his death, the Leesburg house had declined to wrack and ruin by the 1980s. Several years ago, a local group took the place up and began a painstaking renovation of home and grounds. Saved from destruction and likely redevelopment in fast-growing Leesburg, it is open on weekends for informative guided tours—and briefly, a Churchill treat.

From October to December, an upstairs room housed an exhibition, DODONA MANOR is now the George C. Marshall International Center. Though open to the public and externally restored, interior renovations are still going on. When complete it will be a living memorial to the house and grounds General Marshall loved.

"With Affection and Admiration: The Letters of George C. Marshall and Winston S. Churchill." With the cooperation of the Churchill Archives Centre at Cambridge University, full-size color reproductions of some two-dozen (often hand-written) letters were displayed along with photos of the two men, and often other leaders (especially Sir John Dill, and General Eisenhower). Several relevant books were also displayed, including volumes of The Second World War with pages open to show Churchill's references to Marshall. The letters and photos on display dated from the war years and into the 1950s when Churchill was again in power and Marshall was in >>

WANTED;
ASSISTANT EDITOR

No one lives forever, and it is time to begin thinking about the future of Finest Hour, the Chartwell Bulletin, and the other publications we love so well. We seek someone with a driving interest (encyclopedic knowledge is not required) in the entire Churchill saga (not just WW2), the wisdom he offers, balanced understanding that he was not infallible, and the joy of communicating his words and deeds to future generations. An assistant editor should be a good wordsmith (though we have wonderful proofreaders who often save us from ourselves), familiar with desktop publishing applications. (Ours is Quark Express.) We seek a proven ability to meet deadlines (often one a month), and a long-term commitment. These are the essentials. This is a paid position, and the pay will increase as the assistant does more. We do not anticipate any sudden changes, rather a gradual drift toward new hands who will carry on for a long time. Thus, applicants should be in their fifties or younger! Contact the editor, (richard@langworth.name) or toll-free at (888) 454-2275. References and resumes are requested.

"With Affection and Admiration: The Letters of George C. Marshall and Winston S. Churchill." With the cooperation of the Churchill Archives Centre at Cambridge University, full-size color reproductions of some two-dozen (often hand-written) letters were displayed along with photos of the two men, and often other leaders (especially Sir John Dill, and General Eisenhower). Several relevant books were also displayed, including volumes of The Second World War with pages open to show Churchill's references to Marshall. The letters and photos on display dated from the war years and into the 1950s when Churchill was again in power and Marshall was in >>

FINEST HOUR 133/10
WINSTON S

CHURCHILL

retirement. Hanging over the fireplace for part of the exhibit period was Churchill's 1951 "View of Tinerhir," painted while on a visit to Morocco. Given by Churchill to the Marshalls in 1953, it was owned by Mrs. Marshall's granddaughter, but was recently sold at auction for about £350,000.

HILLSDALE TO REPRINT OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHY!

HILLSDALE, MICHIGAN, NOVEMBER 1ST—Hillsdale College Press announces the complete reprint of Winston S. Churchill by Randolph Churchill and Sir Martin Gilbert: all eight biographic volumes, hardbound with paperbacks to follow; all document volumes, including the as-yet unpublished ones to complete the set. Each biographic volume will have a new introduction by Sir Martin.

The schedule for biographic (BV) and document (DV) volumes:

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Paperback editions of each main volume will be published six months after the hardback. Readers may order the volumes individually, get reduced prices by subscribing to the eight biographic volumes alone, or even greater reductions by subscribing to the full set. Volume I was published in November at $45 (biography subscribers $36, full subscribers $31.50), along with the first two document volumes ($70, full subscribers $49). For an order blank or information please contact Hillsdale College Press (fax 517-607-2658), www.hillsdale.edu.

AROUND & ABOUT

Congratulations to Churchill Centre academic adviser and frequent speaker Dr. David Jablonsky on his forthcoming book, War by Land, Sea and Air: Dwight Eisenhower and the Concept of Unified Commands (Free Press), which undoubtedly will have many wise observations on Winston Churchill.

Danielle Lloyd, the reigning Miss Great Britain and girlfriend of soccer player Teddy Sheringham, was prepped by her boyfriend for an appearance on the BBC television show, "Test the Nation." Sheringham asked her, "Who was Winston Churchill: a rapper, U.S. President, Prime Minister, or King?" Replied Lloyd, "Wasn't he the first black president of America? There's a statue of him near me that's black."

Objecting to opposition reaction to George Bush's speech on the fifth anniversary of 9/11, columnist Tony Blankly created a fictional response to Churchill's "Finest Hour" speech in June 1940, which may amuse cynics who wonder if the Western Allies today could win World War II. (Churchill said, "...if we fail, then the whole world, including the United States, including all that we have known and cared for, will sink into the abyss of a new Dark Age...Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth last for a thousand years, men will still say, "This was their finest hour.""

Blankly's fictional responder says: "Now that's just fear-mongering, plain and simple. He's trying to scare the public into supporting his failed policies. Oh, there may be a few men around Hitler who are a little rough. But sinking into the abyss of a new Dark Age? Winston needs a new speechwriter. And while he's about it, he can just drop that Christian civilization business. There is no excuse to insult the several non-Christians in England. That's just Churchill politically playing to his rural, religious base. And, by the way, the last time I saw Winston on his knees, he wasn't praying. He was looking for a dropped cork screw. At this solemn hour, I just felt that Churchill's brazen political stunt of a speech needed a dignified response."

Yes, that sounds very much like the politics of the present.

Churchill can be quoted to prove any side of any argument, as one John Elliott of Bishopton, England proved in the letters column of Britain's The Herald. Bush, he writes, who proclaims himself a Churchillian, "has even gone as far as borrowing a bronze bust of the great man to adorn the Oval Office...In 1939, Churchill described Magna Carta, Habeas Corpus and the Petition of Right as being 'the indispensable foundations of freedom and civilisation.' Without them, he went on to state, the individual would be 'at the mercy of officials and liable to be spied upon even in his own home.' On another occasion, Churchill stated that the manner in which a society treats its prisoners is the measure of how civilised it really is. Perhaps the time has come for our ambassador in Washington to go to the Oval Office and ask for our bust back." We report, you decide!
Study Pack for British Schools; ICS Canada Posts New Website

ICS (UK) is planning a comprehensive study pack for British schools addressing a wide variety of Churchill subjects; ICS Canada has a new website: www.winstonchurchillcanada.com.

ICS (United Kingdom)

Sir Winston Churchill's birthday reception will have passed by the time this issue of Finest Hour is published; in the next issue we shall be able to report on Sir Martin Gilbert's talk on "Churchill's Birthdays" and Professor M.R.D. Foot's remarks on the Special Operations Executive.

Annual General Meeting in 2007 will take place on Saturday 21st April; the venue is the Imperial War Museum at Duxford (near Cambridge). This spectacular outstation of the main London museum contains the American Air Museum, among many other attractions.

STUDY PACK FOR SCHOOLS

Finest Hour Deputy Editor

Robert Courts is devoting much time and effort to devising a learning package for schools. This ambitious project aims to assemble a large number of writings by and about Winston Churchill, which will be collated in a pack and made available to schools; teachers will be able to draw on the document for sources.

The subjects include Why Churchill?, Churchill's Oratory, Churchill the Man, Churchill and War, Churchill at Home, Churchill Alone (1930s) and Churchill Today. Each of these headings denotes up to a dozen extracts from books, articles, speeches, etc., so that, taken together, a comprehensive coverage of many facets of WSC's life will be conveniently available to teachers and students.

26TH INTERNATIONAL CHURCHILL CONFERENCE

Preliminary work has begun on the 2009 International Churchill Conference, which is scheduled for the UK, Ireland having been considered but found unsuitable as a venue. There are less than three years to go—no time at all if past experience is a reliable guide. Firm dates and venue have not yet been decided. If you have thoughts to contribute, please contact our chairman, Nigel Knocker or Paul Courtenay (contacts on page 2).

ICS, Canada

Thirty-five members and guests of the International Churchill Society of Canada attended "An Evening With Sir Winston" at the historic Albany Club, Toronto on October 30th.

President Randy Barber opened the event with a report on the recent Churchill Centre Conference in Chicago, with positive comments on the programme and the speakers; and he gave a "plug" for next year's conference in Vancouver.

Randy also formally advised that the ICS Canada web site, www.winstonchurchillcanada.com, was now in place, although there was some "tweaking" to be done.

ICS Canada Director Peter Allen spoke on "Churchill as Peacemaker," focusing on Churchill's role in the granting of self government to the Transvaal; his efforts before 1914 to dissuade the Kaiser and the German government from aggressive armaments increases which would inevitably lead to war; his major role in the formation of the Irish Free State (and Michael Collins' famous remark, "Tell Winston we could have done nothing without him"); his attempts in the 1930s to convince the British government that the only way to avert war was to stand up to Hitler; and his 1946 "Iron Curtain" speech warning of the threat of Soviet expansionism in Europe.

Director Barry Montague handed out a twenty five-question quiz which he had taken from past issues of Finest Hour, which proved highly challenging even to the experts in the audience. The final part of the event was the presentation of Part 3, "The Beginning of the End," of Sir Martin Gilbert's Churchill documentary as broadcast by the BBC.

CHURCHILL ON ENGLAND

"There are a few things I will venture to mention about England. They are spoken in no invidious sense. Here it would hardly occur to anyone that the banks would close their doors against their depositors. Here no one questions the fairness of the courts of law and justice. Here no one thinks of persecuting a man on account of his religion or his race. Here everyone, except the criminals, looks on the policeman as a friend and servant of the public. Here we provide for poverty and misfortune with more compassion, in spite of all our burdens, than any other country. Here we can assert the rights of the citizen against the State, or criticize the Government of the day, without failing in our duty to the Crown or in our loyalty to the King."

—24 April 1933
"The Magic of Averages"

WE HAD NO IDEA how frequently and consistently Churchill used this phrase...

I am preparing a talk in which I will quote from Churchill's famous speech of 21 March 1943 proposing a 'Four Years' Plan' (Onwards to Victory, 39): 'Here is a real opportunity for what I once called "bringing the magic of averages to the rescue of the millions." Do you know when he first spoke of 'the magic of averages'?

—ANTOINE CAPET FRHistS
HEAD OF BRITISH STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF ROUEN, FRANCE

As you suspected, this was a reiteration. The Boston Evening Globe of 10 March 1932 (p8) contains an interview: WINSTON CHURCHILL HERE TO LECTURE. In the body of the article is a subheadline, "Principle of Magic of Averages." The paper reports his remarks:

"In the main, these relief measures are supported by insurance contributions of the unemployed, of the employers, and of the State. I have before described them as, in principle, the application of the magic of averages to the rescue of millions."

This was corroborated in the Boston Evening Transcript the same day.

—JOE HERN, BOSTON

Churchill's retreading of favorite phrases or quotations, the product of a photographic memory, occurs over and over again. A prime example is his 1930 autobiography subtitle (and U.S. title), A Roving Commission: the title of his first chapter in Ian Hamilton's March, published thirty years earlier—and the phrase itself originated as title of a Henty novel, which Churchill undoubtedly read in his youth.

"The magic of averages" has at least eight appearances, the first dating back to 1911. Here are the other six published references. (Mr. Hern's revelation of his use in 1932 probably means there are several more to be found.)

- Speech on National Insurance, 25 May 1911 (Rhodes James, ed., Winston S. Churchill: His Complete Speeches 1897-1963, 8 vols., New York: Bowker, 1974, 11:1819): "It is not only a question of collective strength of the nation to render effective the thrift and the exertions of the individual, but we bring in the magic of averages to the aid of the millions."

- "The Abuse of the Dole" (Daily Telegraph, 26-27 March 1930, rpt. The Saturday Evening Post, 29 March 1930; also in The Collected Essays of Sir Winston Churchill, 4 vols., London: Library of Imperial History 1975, 11:200): "There is contributory insurance on a compulsory and nation-wide basis against sickness, invalidity, accident, old age, widowhood and unemployment. We have brought the magic of averages to the rescue of the millions."

- "The Abuse of the Dole" (Daily Telegraph, 26-27 March 1930, rpt. The Saturday Evening Post, 29 March 1930; also in The Collected Essays of Sir Winston Churchill, 4 vols., London: Library of Imperial History 1975, 11:200): "There is contributory insurance on a compulsory and nation-wide basis against sickness, invalidity, accident, old age, widowhood and unemployment. We have brought the magic of averages to the rescue of the millions."

- Discussing unemployment with the Americans ("Who'll Pay the Jobless?", Colliers, 25 February 1933, rpt. The Sunday Chronicle, 19 March-3 April 1933 and in Pictorial Magazine 17 February 1934, Collected Essays, op. cit., 11:279): "During the whole of the twentieth century the British people have been building up these great insurance systems. They are unexamined in the world. There is contributory insurance on a compulsory and nation-wide basis against sickness, invalidity, accident, old age, widowhood and unemployment. We have brought the magic of averages to the rescue of the millions."

- Cabinet Minute, 14 February 1943 (The Second World War, vol. II, London: Cassell, 1949, 862, also quoted by Sir Martin Gilbert in the official biography, vol. 7, Road to Victory, 292): "This approach to social security, bringing the magic of averages nearer to the rescue of the millions, constitutes an essential part of any post-war scheme of national betterment."

- Election Broadcast, 13 June 1945 (Victory, London: Cassell, 1946, 198): "Unemployment Insurance was made universal, at enormous cost to the State. It saved us from catastrophe during some terrible years. I have always been fascinated with this idea of what I once called 'bringing the magic of averages to the rescue of die millions.'"

- Woodford Green, 10 July 1948 (Europe Unite, London: Cassell, 1950, 369): "I have myself been deeply involved, as you know, in all the schemes for insurance against old age, illness and unemployment, which have marked the present century of British political life and which are designed, if I may repeat a phrase I used twenty years ago, 'to bring the magic of averages to the rescue of the millions.'"

On this last occasion, for once Churchill's mighty memory failed him. He had first used the phrase thirty-seven years before, arguing for unemployment insurance!
125 YEARS AGO:
Winter 1881-82 • Age 7
"Love and a great many kisses."

While staying at Blenheim in January, Winston wrote his first known letter to his mother: "My dear Mamma, I hope you are quite well I thank you very very much for the beautiful presents those Soldiers and Flags and Castle they are so nice it was so kind of you and dear Papa I send you my love and a great many kisses. Your loving Winston.

A few months later, his father Lord Randolph was taken ill and Winston wrote to him: "My dear Papa, I hope you are getting better. I am enjoying myself very much. I find a lot of primroses every day. I bought a basket to put them in. I saw three little Indian children on Saturday, who came to see the house. Best love to you and dear Mamma. I am, Yr loving son, Winston."

So long ago—

100 YEARS AGO:
Winter 1906-07 • Age 32
"Taxes are an evil—a necessary evil, but still an evil."

On 14 December 1906, Churchill spoke at the Reform Club dinner in Manchester about the political problems faced by the Liberal Party in its first year of office. In it, he issued a warning to the House of Lords not to play party politics with legislation sent to them from the House of Commons:

...We have difficulties of two kinds to face—difficulties which arise from the arbitrary action of the House of Lords, and difficulties which arise from the extreme violence of a comparatively small group of people, Socialist agitators, at the other extreme of politics. Both these things injure the Liberal Party....I have no desire for a quarrel with either of the extremes I have mentioned. I have no desire to see a violent quarrel between the Liberal Party and the extreme Socialists, but I say that persons who attack us must be met, and that when the Liberal Party is assailed it must not hesitate to strike back at those who assail it.

Looking in the other direction, I have no desire to see this party embark on a great constitutional struggle with the House of Lords....If we are not to have fair play in carrying our legislation, if the measures which come from the Commons to the House of Lords are to be regarded not on their merits but simply whether letting them through or throwing them out will most help the Tory Party or most hurt the Liberal Party...then I say reform of the House of Lords must become the first and principal question of Liberal and democratic politics.

Churchill spoke in the Commons on 17 December 1906 on the constitutions the Colonial Office was drafting under his direction for the Transvaal and Orange River Colony in South Africa:

The Boers will become the trustees of freedom all over the world. We have tried to act with fairness and good feeling. If by any chance our counsels of reconciliation should come to nothing, if our policy should end in mocking disaster, then the resulting evil would not be confined to South Africa. Our unfortunate experience would be trumpeted forth all over the world wherever despotism wanted a good argument for bayonets, whenever an arbitrary Government wished to deny or curtail the liberties of imprisoned nationalities. But if, on the other hand, as we hope and profoundly believe, better days are in store for South Africa, if the long lane which it has been travelling has reached its turning at last, if the words of [Orange Free State] President Brand, "All shall come right," are at length to be fulfilled, and if the near future should unfold to our eyes a tranquil, prosperous, consolidated Afrikander nation under the protecting aegis of the British crown, then, I say, the good as well as the evil will not be confined to South Africa; then, I say, the cause of the poor and the weak all over the world will have been sustained; and everywhere small peoples will get more room to breathe, and everywhere great empires will be encouraged by our example to step forward—and it only needs a step—into the sunshine of a more gentle and a more generous age.

In February 1907, Churchill again criticized the House of Lords for their obstruction of legislation in a speech he made at the Free Trade Hall in Manchester:

Mr. Wyndham describes the acts of the House of Lords which I have just explained to you as being the attitude of umpire. Umpire, forsooth! [Cheers and laughter.] It looks to me more like the attitude of the footpad who waits for the dark night to stab his enemy than the act of an impartial chamber...

Speaking in the House of Commons on 12 February 1907, Churchill praised reciprocal free trade agreements between British self-governing colonies and explained why they were not inconsistent with the Liberal Party's unilateral free trade policy.

But is there any reason why we should wish to interfere? I think distinctly not. Taking the simple position of the orthodox Cobdenite Free Trader, I am of the opinion that taxes are an evil, a necessary evil, but still an evil, and the fewer we have of them the better. Therefore
every arrangement between protectionist States which takes the form of a reduction in the tariff barriers of the world is a distinct advantage to the world in general, and when it takes place within the circle of the British Empire it is a distinct advance towards that general system of free trade within the Empire which protectionists and free traders alike desire, although free traders are not prepared to purchase free trade within the British Empire at the cost of erecting a protective tariff round the shores of the United Kingdom.

75 YEARS AGO:  
Winter 1931-32 • Age 57  
"Terribly depressed at the slowness of his recovery..."

Churchill traveled to America in December to embark upon a lecture tour where he was originally scheduled to give forty speeches at £300 per speech. Speaking at the Economic Club in Worcester, Massachusetts on 11 December 1931, Churchill stressed Anglo-American accord: "Cooperation of the two great English speaking nations is the only hope to bring the world back to the pathway of peace and prosperity. If ever we should help, it is now, when the world is off the track and the pathway of peace and prosperity seems lost. The leading men of all countries do not seem to have a clear idea of the situation nor the steps to take to bring us out of the chaos. However, there is one thing that we can be sure of: that wherever the pathway may lead, we shall travel more securely if we do it together like good companions."

Two days later in New York City, Churchill was nearly killed crossing Fifth Avenue when he was hit by a car when he began to cross the street after looking the wrong way. On 15 December, he telegraphed his son Randolph with a description of his injuries: "Temperature 100.6 Pulse normal. Head scalp wound severe. Two cracked ribs. Simple slight pleural irritation of right side. Generally much bruised. Progress satisfactory."

Churchill left the hospital eight days later and sailed with his wife for the Bahamas, where they stayed for three weeks, allowing Churchill to recover from his injuries before resuming his lecture tour. While there, Clementine wrote to Randolph about his father's low spirits.

I am sure he will be again as well as before, but he is terribly depressed at the slowness of his recovery and when he is in low spirits murmurs "I wish it hadn't happened." He has horrible pains in his arms and shoulders...Last night he was very sad and said that he had now in the last 2 years had 3 very heavy blows. First the loss of all that money in the crash, then the loss of his political position in the Conservative Party and now this terrible physical injury. He said he did not think he would ever recover completely from the three events.

Churchill resumed his speaking tour in February and traveled throughout the country for three weeks speaking in nineteen American cities. His speech in Chicago in 7 February 1932 was typical of the message he conveyed throughout the tour—unity between the English-speaking peoples:

"We hear always when we draw closer together in international affairs the whisper (and sometimes the cry). Ah, look! The English and Americans are working together! Well, why should we be ashamed of that?" Churchill's aunt, Leonie Leslie, his mother's younger sister and with whom he had always been close, wrote to him presciently on 14 February:

"Thank goodness you are all right again, and with no terrors after effects I trust. What an escape and how lucky for you that Clemmie was there. I was in hospital in Dublin myself at the time, and said many a prayer for you as I laid awake at night. Of course you have been spared to still do great things in the future and I mean to live on to see it all!"

And Leonie did, living through Churchill's and England's finest hour in 1940 before dying in 1943 at the age of 83.

50 YEARS AGO:  
Winter 1956-57 • Age 82  
"I am not the man I was..."

With the United States and Great Britain still estranged over the failed Anglo-French invasion of Egypt to seize control of the Suez Canal, Churchill's old secretary, Jock Colville, suggested he write a letter to President Eisenhower reminding him that the Russians not the British were the enemy. Churchill did so, and Eisenhower responded in kind: "The Soviets are the real enemy of the Western world, implacably hostile and seeking our destruction."

Eisenhower went on to express his hope that the Suez fiasco "may be washed off the slate as soon as possible and that we can then together adopt other means of achieving our legitimate objectives in the Middle East. Nothing saddens me more than the thought that I and my old friends of years have met a problem concerning which we do not see eye to eye. I shall never be happy until our old time closeness has been restored."

Churchill privately told Colville that the Suez invasion was "the most ill-conceived and ill-executed imaginable." Yet, when his physician Lord Moran suggested that many people were wishing Churchill had been in charge, he demurred. "I am not the man I was. I could not be Prime Minister now."
In a unique joint venture with the University of Washington's Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs in Seattle, The Churchill Centre staged an end-of-October series of educational seminars, receptions and the 2006 Churchill Lecture, by Winston Churchill himself, a longtime honorary member and trustee of The Churchill Centre.

Centerpiece of the three-day program was our indefatigable honorary member and trustee, Sir Winston’s grandson, who combined wit, charm, reminiscences and astute political commentary in addressing a series of sold-out, standing-room-only events that included students, teachers, and business, social and civic leaders from throughout the Pacific Northwest. Preceded by a reception, the Sixth Churchill Lecture was delivered on October 26th at Kane Hall on the University of Washington campus. The second of six Churchill Lectures held outside Washington, D.C., its audience of 500+ was larger than all previous Churchill Lectures combined. Mr. Churchill also engaged with former Washington Governor Dan Evans in an armchair discussion of lecture topics.

Introduced by Mark Emmert, President of The
University of Washington, Mr. Churchill spoke on "Leadership in Times of Crisis." He presented a historical panorama of seven decades, from his grandfather's heroic stand against tyranny in 1940, to the somber warnings of the Cold War at Fulton in 1946, to the fall of Communism in 1989, which Sir Winston had predicted forty years earlier. In words reminiscent of his grandfather's at Fulton, Mr. Churchill brought us to the "gathering storm" of our own time in the shape of radical Islamism. (See sidebar.)

On Friday, October 27th, a faculty and graduate student seminar was held at the Evans School on Winston Churchill's early book The River War. The seminar was led by Paul Alkon, Professor of English and American Literature at the University of Southern California; Mark Blitz, Professor of Government at Claremont McKenna College; and James Muller, Professor of Political Science at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. Others in attendance included Chris Harmon, Bob Harmon, John English, Shasta Miller, Hans Hanson, and several students from the Evans School. Among the highlights of the seminar was a visit from Winston Churchill, editor of a recent book of his grandfather's speeches, Never Give In!

On Saturday the 28th, an international seminar for Canadian and American undergraduate students was held at the Seattle Public Library, focusing on Churchill's autobiography, My Early Life, and his interwar book of essays, Thoughts and Adventures. Nine undergraduates from half a dozen colleges and universities in Washington, Alaska, and British Columbia attended the seminar, which was moderated by Professors Alkon, Blitz, and Muller. The students had an extensive discussion of Churchill's character and political aims. They also enjoyed getting to know each other, singing Harrow School songs, and talking to Mr. Churchill, who was again present at the seminar.

Twenty-one Seattle-area high school history teachers joined Professors Alkon, Harmon and Blitz for a day-long seminar at the Seattle Public Library. Eight teachers received 5-5 professional development credits for the seminar, which had been approved in advance by the Puget Sound Educational Service District.

The seminar, entitled "Winston Churchill: The Gathering Storm and His Finest Hour," included sessions on Churchill as biographer, essayist and thinker; the gathering storm of the 1930s; Churchill in the Battle of Britain; and Churchill exercising executive power.

A few teachers' comments from the evaluations:
• "I did not realize how forward-thinking Churchill was about so many things, nor did I know that he had won the Nobel Prize for Literature."
• "I thought the Socratic method was most interesting."
• "The portion of Churchill's radio broadcast we heard ... was powerful. It makes me think about our leaders today."
• "I really don't cover the military aspects much, so I..."
learned a lot from the attendees as well as the teachers. I teach cause-and-effect (Cold War) and have previously left military aspects out. I will now cover the Battle of Britain."

- "I plan to use several Essays with my seniors."
- "As a history teacher, it was great to be able to sit in a small group with historians. I wasn’t in a classroom of 500 teachers at a hotel being talked at. Being in a small group, to me, enhanced my ability to learn."

n behalf of the Centre, Mr. Churchill presented the Winston Churchill Leadership Award to William H. Gates, Sr., chairman of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, for his work in improving health conditions and educational opportunity in under-developed areas of the world. The presentation was made at the City Club, which jointly hosted the luncheon program with the Evans School and the Centre.

The Centre presented a framed photograph of the Prime Minister taken in 1941 as he stood looking skyward at an early model B-17 Flying Fortress, provided under the Lend Lease Program by The Boeing Company of Seattle. The picture was accepted by Michael Lombardi, senior historian of the Boeing Company, who pointed through a 76-stories high window to show the present Winston Churchill the building where that plane had been built!

Perhaps nothing characterized the success of the meeting better than the elderly gentleman who approached Mr. Churchill at the end of one of his presentations: "I was

ADMIRING BOEING'S B-17: Boeing historian Michael Lombardi received a photo of Churchill admiring the B-17. Michael then pointed out the Seattle building where the plane was built!

PAGE OPPOSITE: WSC with Shasta Ann Lewis Miller, 49th State Fellow, U-Alaska, at the graduate seminar. Below, Mark Blitz left, WSC center, James Muller right, with Canadian and American students at the undergraduate seminar.

"Leadership in Times of Crisis"

I firmly believe—indeed I had the pleasure of telling President Reagan so to his face—that his Strategic Defense Initiative, dubbed "Star Wars" by foolish people who sought to mocking him, will be seen by history to have been the final straw that broke the camel's back.

Today we are confronted by a new challenge: radical Islamic fundamentalism. But how many of you know that Churchill also warned of its dangers too? Don't worry—I didn't either!

He did so 85 years ago on 14 June 1921, hard on the heels of the Cairo Conference, at which as British Colonial Secretary, he had presided over the reshaping of the Middle East, including modern-day Iraq:

"A large number of [Saudi Arabia's King] Bin Saud's followers belong to the Wahabi sect, a form of Mohammedanism which bears, roughly speaking, the same relationship to orthodox Islam as the most militant form of Calvinism would have borne to Rome in the fiercest times of [Europe's] religious wars."

In Churchill's day the viciousness and cruelty of the Wahabis was confined to the Arabian peninsula. But today they have exported their exceptionally intolerant practices from Mauritania and Morocco on Africa's Atlantic shores, through more than three dozen countries including Bosnia, Chechnya, Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Middle East, to as far afield as the Philippines and East Timor in the Pacific.

This is the stark challenge, predicted by Winston Churchill, that today confronts the Western world. I fear it will be with us for a very long time to come. The Islamic threat comes in two forms: terrorist and demographic. What I am about to say may shock you—indeed I hope will shock you.

The writing is today on the wall for Judaeo-Christian Europe as we have known it over the past 2000 years. France has an Islamic population of approximately six million, 10% of the total. But draw a line at age twenty. Below it the figure jumps to 30%. When that generation comes of age, just one further generation will see France an Islamic country.

Nor are other EU countries far behind. Take for example Catholic Belgium: What do you imagine to be the single most popular name for a boy-child? If you haven't guessed, I will tell you: Mohammed."
privileged to be in the audience when your grandfather addressed the joint session of the U.S. Congress in December of 1941." Winston replied, "You must have been only five years old!" "Actually I was fifteen," the man said. "I was a Congressional page and was privileged to hear history being made!"

Our honorary member and trustee was astonished by this encounter and others: "A lady came up to me and said: 'Do you remember where you spoke when you visited Seattle thirty years ago?' I replied I didn't have the foggiest, though I knew it had been in the mid-Seventies as, when I visited Boeing Aircraft Corporation, I had been horrified to learn that they had just laid off 50,000, or perhaps even 100,000 workers. She replied: 'I can tell you it was the Seattle Women's University Club—I was there!'

"The natives were certainly most friendly and enthusiastic! Dan Myers, Bill Ives, Suzanne Sigman, James Muller and Jim Lane of the Centre organised an excellent programme, and it was wonderful to see the enthusiasm of the younger generation for knowledge of my grandfather."

The Churchill Centre is grateful to the Daniel J. Evans School at the University of Washington; to Dean Sandra Archibald, a bulwark throughout; and to Bill Jacobs, former chief of staff to Governor and Senator Evans—who, most importantly, will lead in the formation of the new Seattle-Puget Sound Chapter of The Churchill Centre. The chapter's first member will be Gary Alexander, chief justice of the Washington State Supreme Court.

现在我们有总统布什在欧洲联欦对土耳其申请入欧盟应该加速。我对土耳其非常敬佩，但是我要坦率地说：没有比让土耳其加入欧盟对欧洲更为灾难的事情。欧洲的伊斯兰人口会从2000万猛增到1亿。如果总统布什真关心要帮助土耳其，让他邀请他们成为第五十一个州，这样伊斯兰人口将增加十五倍！

至于恐怖主义威胁，我必须说这不仅仅是美国的战斗。它是全世界一代又一代的战斗。我们已经克服了比我们现在面对的更强大的敌人。我有理由相信，只要我们共同面对这个新挑战，美国和英国，连同我们的盟友，可以取得胜利并且最终会取得胜利——正如我们过去已经取得过胜利一样。

然后什么是领导力的本质？它由五个关键要素构成：知识、智慧、预见、荣誉、勇气。正如温斯顿·丘吉尔在他的著作中引用约翰逊博士的话："勇气是值得赞扬的人类品质...因为它是所有其他品质的保障。"

我引用的是我祖父的最后讲话，是被我父亲雷纳德代读的。那是四十年前。我记得就在昨天，我和我已故的父亲站在一起，在白宫玫瑰园，作为我父亲的答复 —— 也是他的对美国人民的告别的演讲。他说:"我，正如你们知道，有一半是美国血统，而我与这个伟大而慈善的国家的关系可以追溯到近90年前，我的父亲的婚姻。在这个由风暴和灾难的时代，在这种深刻的认识中，我回顾了这个交织在一起的向上进步。在战争中，我们并肩站在一起，因为我们知道，因为这个事实，全世界现在仍站在我们这边...."
Churchill and Roosevelt's Secret Mission to Singapore

A FRIEND IN NEED

On 11 September 1939, eight days after Churchill returned to government as First Lord of the Admiralty, President Roosevelt began the first in a lengthy stream of private correspondence between them. From his first hour as Prime Minister on 10 May 1940, Churchill had much to tell. On that day Germany invaded the Low Countries. A week later, General Heinz Guderian's XIX Panzer Corps was across the Meuse River, racing to occupy Calais, only 21 miles from Dover. On May 28th, with Dunkirk being evacuated and U-boats sinking British ships within sight of the coast, Foreign Secretary Lord Halifax floated the notion of learning Germany's peace terms. His forces cascading into retreat and defeat, Churchill had been in office little more than a fortnight.

Churchill's first message to FDR as Prime Minister, on 15 May, listed only Britain's "immediate needs," but also catalogued necessities that stretched like washing on a line: older destroyers, newer aircraft, steel, anti-aircraft guns, ammunition, a U.S. Navy port call in Ireland. "We shall go on paying dollars for as long as we can," he wrote, "but I would like to feel reasonably sure that when we can pay no more, you will give us the stuff all the same." He suggested that the U.S. Navy use Britain's Singapore base "in any way convenient," hoping to keep "that Japanese dog quiet." Neither Churchill nor Roosevelt could know how soon Singapore would be entangled with the fates of both nations.

Despite growing unease in Congress, and rancorous public divisions about the war from at least 700 anti-war organizations, Roosevelt sent Britain fifty obsolete destroyers, steel and ammunition. Gallup polls repeatedly confirmed that Americans wanted to stay out of the fight, but solid majorities also approved aid to Britain and France short of war. Revisions to the 1935 Neutrality Act allowed for such aid, but also reaffirmed American neutrality. But observing neutrality was impossible at sea, where U-boats were taking a crippling toll. In April German submarines sank 195 Allied freighters carrying 700,000 tons of crucial war materiel. To prevent a British defeat, FDR had to become aggressively but secretly co-belligerent.

SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER 1940

British coastal radar stations began tracking the blinking dots representing a massive German air raid
soon after the aircraft formed over their bases in occupied France. Over the English coast at dusk, the Observer Corps plotted Heinkels, Stukas, and escorting ME 109s headed for London, directed by the new "Knickebein" radio guidance system. They intersected directly over St. Paul's Cathedral, surrounded by the narrow lanes and Victorian warehouses within the City of London's storied square mile. The Battle of Britain had been underway since July, but for London tonight, a new strategy of indiscriminate fire-bombing saw 24,000 incendiaries and 120 tons of bombs, leaving a progression of death and 1500 fires.

Churchill often viewed the sound and fury of air raids atop Number Ten Annexe, his war headquarters at Clive Steps, reluctantly sheltering on occasion in the underground Cabinet War Rooms (now the Churchill Museum). Nicked with pinholes, Map Room status boards and floor-to-ceiling maps charted the air war and trans-Atlantic convoys. From here on the 29th, Churchill dictated a hasty message to the London Fire Brigade: "Save St. Paul's." It was spared, but on that first night of incendiary terror not even Churchill could envision that firestorms would continue until May 1941.

That same evening in Berlin, Joseph Goebbels readied a new year's address to the German people. Even his Nazi cohorts questioned the increasing extremes of the undersized, club-footed propaganda minister whom they mocked as "the poison dwarf." Goebbels boasted of more victories ahead: "Might I ask what Monsieur Reynaud would have done a year ago had he known what 1940 would bring France—or what Mr. Churchill would do now if he knew England's fate in 1941? We National Socialists seldom make prophecies, but we never make false ones. The old year is over. A new one comes. The entire German nation, at home and at the front, joins in a warm thanks to the Fiihrer."

Shortly before 9:30 pm in the White House on that Sunday, President Roosevelt coasted into the oval Diplomatic Reception Room on his small wheelchair. Among the twenty invited guests were matinee idol Clark Gable and his wife, Carole Lombard. Cordell Hull, the 69-year old Secretary of State, toyed with the ribbon of his pince-nez. Print and broadcast reporters casually smoked. Around polished-wood Philco, RCA, and Emerson radio consoles, millions of American families gathered for another of Roosevelt's fireside chats.

"Never before has our American civilization been in such danger as now," the President said. "If Great Britain goes down, all of us in the Americas would be living at the point of a gun.... the vast resources and wealth of this American hemisphere constitute the most tempting loot in all of the round world."

Wiping his broad forehead with a handkerchief, the fire crackling in the white marble fireplace to his right, FDR finished the 37-minute talk with a ringing plea and a call to arms. "We must be the great arsenal of democracy." More closely than ever, the President had linked the fate of two nations and their peoples.

In Spring 1941, Roosevelt named Admiral Ernest J. King as Commander-in-Chief Atlantic Fleet. The profane, hard-drinking admiral was so salty that even his daughter said, "He is the most even-tempered man in the Navy; he's always in a rage." Quickly implementing FDR's earlier promise to give Churchill "all aid short of war," on 18 April 1941 Admiral King issued Operation Plan 3-41. This was an outgrowth of the ABC-1 (Anglo American Naval) talks reported to FDR two weeks earlier: the first American commitment to a "Germany-first" policy should the United States go to war with the Axis powers.

Op-Plan 3-41 broadened the Western Hemisphere's previous meridians to cover enormous new ocean areas. Clearly referencing the Axis powers, two underscored words authorized the U.S. Navy to change from defensive routine to unambiguous offensive action. "If any such naval vessels or aircraft are encountered... warn them to move twenty-five miles from such territory, and in case of failure to heed such warning, attack them." (Italics the author's.)

By warning that incursions into the expanded sea frontier meant war, Op-Plan 3-41 also positioned the Atlantic Fleet near opportunistic German and Italian surface raiders and U-boats. Later orders further lowered the threshold for unrestricted war at sea—but had Axis targets intentionally crossed U.S. Navy gun-sights in the Atlantic, the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor eight months later might have been averted. Unfortunately, for once Hitler was being cautious; in spite of Roosevelt's actions, he decided to avoid provoking the Americans in the spring and summer of 1941.

GHOST SHIPS OF TASK FORCE 14

Two weeks after their Atlantic meeting, convinced that "those who hitherto had been half blind were now half ready," Churchill sent Roosevelt the first in a series of "Triple Priority" telegrams. Reinforcements were urgently needed to maintain Britain's tenuous position in the Middle East. "Would it be possible for you to lend us twelve United States liners and twenty U.S. cargo ships manned by American crews from early October until February? I know from our talks that it will be difficult to do, but there is a great need for more British troops in the Middle East." The message ended »
entreatingly: "It is quite true that the loan of these liners would hamper any large dispatch of U.S. forces to Europe or Africa, but as you know I have never asked for this in any period we can reasonably foresee in the near future."

Following Roosevelt's approval of this request, a sequence of events was set in train that would, sadly, contribute to the cruel death of many soldiers in the British 18th Division, and thousands of Australian, Indian and Empire soldiers. They died not fighting Rommel in the desert as trained, but as poorly equipped, disease-ridden bits and pieces in the swamps of Southeast Asia.

In a saga that tends to receive less attention than it deserves,* thousands of soldiers voyaged to Singapore aboard six transports, three of which were former passenger liners in the service of the U.S. Navy. The mission began seven weeks before Pearl Harbor, when eighteen U.S. Navy warships and transports received six-page, single-spaced orders that would link British and American forces in a mission spanning nearly the entire globe.

Concocting a diminutive fig leaf to elude the Neutrality Act's remaining restrictions, Roosevelt proposed to route the Liverpool-boarding 18th Division via Halifax instead of the U.S., avoiding transferring troops of a belligerent in the port of a neutral country. Churchill replied on 9 October: "If you agree our experts can make a firm programme whereby nine British liners arrive at Halifax with 20,800 men comprising the 18th Division and start transshipment to your transports."

Two months later, the convoy now distantly at sea and its escorts ordered to other duties, news of the Pearl Harbor attack pulsed through the crews on the remaining ships. On 12 December 1941 Churchill reacted to the changed situation by cabling Roosevelt: "We feel it necessary to divert 18th Division round Cape in your transports to Bombay to reinforce army we are forming against Jap invasion of Burma and Malaya." FDR penciled a staff note in the margin: "I think OK. Check Army and Navy. Expedite."

Six of the U.S. transports landed their troops at Bombay, but new orders sent three British and three American troop transports to Singapore, the "impregnable fortress" that would soon become the most dangerous place in Southeast Asia for British forces.

On Sunday, 11 January 1942, now almost 18,000 miles from the mission's beginning in England, British soldiers and American sailors at Divine Service shared the spiritual bonds of the old comforting hymn: *Now Thank We All Our God*. The USS *Mount Vernon* (former SS Washington), USS *Wakefield* (formerly SS Manhattan) and USS *West Point* (formerly SS America) passed Krakatoa Island, transited the narrow Sunda Straits, saluted Fort Connaught and its useless guns pointing seaward, and disembarked their troops at the new $ 100 million naval base.

The 18th Division craved a fight, but they had only desert kit, and the *Empress of Asia*, the ship carrying all of their artillery, ammunition, trucks, automatic weapons, and rations, was sunk in the channel by Japanese aircraft. The Japanese were then funneling 85,000 British, Australian, Indian and Asian enemy troops toward the narrow causeway leading to the island of Singapore. In meager opposition, the RAF had only a ragbag of twenty-two obsolete Hudsons, Blenheimers, Buffaloes, and open-cockpit Wildebeests against 530 first line Japanese warplanes.

Sixteen days later, holding a white flag in one hand and the Union Flag in the other, General Arthur E. Percival surrendered to General Tomoyuki Yamashita the 85,000-man garrison and the "impregnable" fortress. It was Japan's greatest major victory of the war, and the greatest defeat ever for British arms.

*The subject has been touched on in Australian historian David Day's tendentiously argued monographs. The Singapore disaster has been much-studied, and the fate of the Australians there much discussed in particular. The transporting of Australians to Southeast Asia for what proved to be a futile defense (Churchill wanted but was denied an Australian division to defend Rangoon) was one of the main points of contention between the British and Australian war cabinets in the disastrous early months of 1942.
The reputation of Australia's troops suffered severely from their role in Singapore's defeat, wrote Australian historian and Churchill critic David Day: "After denying Singapore its necessary defence equipment for so long, Churchill instructed its commanders on 10 February to 'put aside any thought of saving the troops or sparing the population. The battle must be fought to the bitter end at all costs. The 18th Division has a chance to make its name in history. Commanders and senior officers should die with their troops. The honour of the British Empire and of the British Army is at stake.'"

The Singapore mission in 1941 resulted in death for one in three Tommies and vast numbers of Australian, Indian and Empire troops. In a Secret Session of the House of Commons, Churchill told Parliament that no attempt would be made to fix the blame, and that more "testing, trying, adverse, painful times lie ahead." With all its heartbreak, the transport of the 18th Division offered one encouraging facet: the depth of cooperation that had grown between Roosevelt and Churchill long before Pearl Harbor.

**EPILOGUE**

To verify the story of the 18th Division, the author located survivors at London's Royal Hospital Chelsea, interviewed American sailors George Ramos and Jack Horrigan, and located orders approving the convoy at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland. The Roosevelt Library furnished the original Churchill-Roosevelt correspondence.

In 1964, the writer and his wife sailed on the final trans-Atlantic crossing of the great SS America, the wartime USS West Point, one of the American convoy vessels. On a handrail section of the boat deck were carved numerous initials of troops, refugees, repatriated prisoners and other wartime passengers. They offered silent witness to sacrifice and valor.

Several weeks before the opening of the Chicago conference, Churchillians were invited to the City Council and office of Mayor Richard M. Daley for the presentation of a Churchill Proclamation, recognizing the conference's historical significance and officially welcoming The Churchill Centre and its members, as matters of public record.

Nearly two hundred Churchillians gathered along the shore of Lake Michigan to learn more of Churchill's relationship with the city through his three visits in 1901, 1929 and 1932. His travels to Chicago, and America at large, are a snapshot of his maturation as a statesman and world leader. The conference theme, "Churchill in the Land of Lincoln," embodied the conference focus.

The event was dedicated to the memory of friend and former Churchill Centre Treasurer Chuck Platt. The Centre's prestigious Blenheim Award, which had already been voted to Chuck before his untimely death, was accepted by his wife Linda.

The grand dame Drake Hotel, crowning glory of Michigan Avenue's "magnificent mile"—the only remaining Chicago hotel that can claim Churchill as a guest (1929)—was an ideal conference venue. Events began Wednesday evening with a welcome reception hosted by President Bill Ives. Ambassador Paul Robinson, Chairman Emeritus of Trustees, highlighted the key subjects that would be pursued. The conversation of members was silenced for a few minutes of stirring bagpipe music by the Shannon Rovers. Edwina Sandys donated two of her signed Churchill prints, which were raffled to benefit the Centre.

Thursday morning dawned with a full ballroom eagerly waiting to compare the leadership and oratory styles of Churchill and Lincoln. Frank Williams, founder of the Lincoln Forum and chief justice of the Rhode Island Supreme Court, began with a detailed review of Churchill, Lincoln and their war generals. Col. David Jablonsky, professor of National Security Affairs in the Department of National Security and Strategy at the Army War College, continued the morning session with an outstanding look at the two men and their generals.

The second session continued on the theme as Harold Holzer, leading authority on the political culture of the Civil War and co-chairman of the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, led the assembly into the details of the styles of the two men. Steven Hayward, Churchill was well received by the city of Chicago on the day. Churchill for his part avowed "there is «

"Churchill in the Land of Lincoln"

A Certain Day

BY PHILIP AF

The Larsons co-chaired the 2006 Churchill Conference and are directors of the Winston S. Churchill Friends of Greater Chicago.

FINEST HOUR 133/24
In all three of his visits, and fondly noted in local newspapers as a splendor in Chicago and a life thrust that is all its own -

**The Land of Lincoln**: isih of Eloquence

ANP SUSAN LARSON

adjunct professor of political science at Georgetown University, further delineated and contrasted the two leaders. Following each of the sessions, an open microphone allowed questions and observations from participating Churchillians, students and friends.

At luncheon in the elegant French Room, members heard the thoughtful words of former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar. Awards and thanks were presented to outgoing governors Paul Courtenay, Phil Larson and James Thomas. Bill Ives then thanked us on behalf of all members for chairing the conference. Gary Garrison, the Centre's Local Affairs Coordinator, announced that New England Churchillians, represented by their director Joe Hern, was the recipient of the Action This Day Award for the third consecutive year of outstanding local activities.

Thursday afternoon featured John Ramsden, Professor of Modern History at Queen Mary University of London, on his established area of expertise, the "Making of the Churchill Legend." The open microphone was crowded as delegates exchanged views.

Friday was an exciting day for those who elected to travel west of Chicago to Cantigny, the 500+ acre estate of Col. Robert R. McCormick, former editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune. Though a renowned Anglophobe, McCormick was also a friend of Churchill for over forty years (see FH 131: 33-37). The estate includes McCormick's English manor-style home, the First Division (Big Red One) Museum, and enchanting gardens. Following lunch, General David L. Grange, president and CEO of the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation and former commanding general of the First Infantry Division, addressed 120 delegates. He gave a candid current analysis of the United States military strategy, including his opinions on the Middle East. Those who chose not to spend the day at Cantigny were free to enjoy the treasures of Chicago.

The unique Gold Coast Room of the Drake Hotel was the venue for a black tie dinner Friday night. Members dined on a carefully researched menu which included two dishes offered to the visiting Churchill party in 1929: Chicken Wellington and Peach Melba. The Loyal Toasts were offered by Paul Courtenay, Marcus Frost and James Muller. One of our own, Laurence S. Geller, co-chairman of The Churchill Centre's Board of Trustees and president & CEO of Strategic Hotels & Resorts in Chicago, regaled the after-dinner audience with his personal journey in becoming a Churchillian, which began in war-torn London, and his »
first impressions of Churchill as a young boy. He brought his audience forward with memories which paralleled world events and charted his own experience as a soldier in the Israeli army, whom his mates nicknamed, "Laurence of Arabia"—and concluded with a clarion call to Churchillians: that Winston Churchill's wisdom and experience is never more relevant than it is today.

The Bugle Boy/USO Band entertained the group with their version of a USO show, complete with numbers reminiscent of the Andrews Sisters, and then offered dance band music of the era. The dance floor was crowded with enthusiastic Churchillians "showing their stuff." When the band wound down at nearly 11:30 pm, some forty people were still on the dance floor.

Saturday morning, while conference delegates shopped or visited museums, James Muller, of the University of Alaska Anchorage and chairman of the Centre's academic advisers, welcomed students and their teachers to a special session designed for them. He gave an overview of Churchill's life and accomplishments while inviting students to offer details or ask questions. The group was spirited, and very interested in learning more about the great man. They visited and exchanged ideas over box lunches. Each received a signed copy of Celia Sandys' *Churchill*, and a conference program.

On Saturday afternoon students joined the general session to hear us discuss "Churchill's Chicago Affinity." We gave eyewitness accounts of his three visits to Chicago, which we had researched over a five-year period, using newspaper and museum archives to weave a story of lost material with a "you are there" approach. The object was to transfer the audience to days gone by and to Winston Churchill's visits to Chicago and America. (See also *FH* 118 & 131.)

James Muller took to the stage to discuss the now-rare four-volume *Collected Essays of Sir Winston Churchill*, the only collection of Churchill's periodical articles in volume form. He was joined by Paul Alkon,

Michael Maibach, president and CEO of the European-American Business Council and sponsor of the Sir Martin Gilbert Essay Competition, announced and presented awards to the student essay contest winners. Commander Joseph E. Troiani, USNR, instructor on National Security at Northwestern University and Lewis University, served as program coordinator. James Kirchick of Yale University won the college division first prize of $1000; Sasha Rousseau of Johns Hopkins University won $250 as runner-up. Identical prizes were awarded in the high school division: first prize was won by Michael Nitz of McHenry High School West Campus. There were two runners-up: Matthew Palaparthi of Hyman G. Rickover Naval Academy, Chicago Public Schools system; and Bethany Reed of Thousand Oaks High School in California.

Richard Langworth, editor of *Finest Hour*, who is compiling a book of 5000 Churchill quotations, *Winston Churchill by Himself*, discussed his 2008 work with examples of quotations, including several ascribed to Churchill that he never uttered (some he wished he did). During the vigorous floor discussion Danny Mander, who had actually guarded Churchill and Eden during the Teheran Conference in 1943, introduced some new material unheard of by the audience, and his account is now to be published in *Finest Hour*. Christopher Hebb wrapped up the daytime sessions by describing details of the Vancouver conference in 2007.

Saturday’s dinner and grand finale was held at the historic and stately Union League Club, site of Churchill’s 1932 speech, "The World Economic Crisis," to 1500 people who had spilled out into the hallways to hear him. The Club is noted for an art collection second only to The Art Institute in Chicago. The Churchill
Centre presented a plaque to the Club marking Churchill's historic speech, and also will be contributing a special copy of the forthcoming new edition of Churchill's *The River War*. This limited, leather bound edition is also to be presented to conference benefactors.

Following dinner, *Finest Hours* editor offered a history of the speech and the circumstances that caused Churchill to deliver it, on the American journey where he was nearly killed by a car crossing Fifth Avenue in New York. Chicago's British Consul General, Andrew Seaton, then rose to comment on the continued relevance and vibrancy of the "special relationship" between the English-speaking peoples Churchill loved. As we dispersed for the final time, a few lingering for the traditional cigars and cognac, we bid fond good-byes to fellow Churchillians at the close of a memorable event.

As we put the final period on the 23rd International Churchill Conference, we wish to thank those who stood by our side and made it all come to pass. We particularly thank John and Chrissy Stoffer, Phil and Laura Fiskow, Joe and Terri Troiani, Catherine Sommers, Bill Ives, Dan Myers and Richard Langworth. Presenters, benefactors, student sponsors, students and of course the loyal Churchillians who journeyed to Chicago have our deep and lasting thanks.

**Essay Contest Winners**

*College Division.* Winner: James Kirchick, Yale University (Professor Theodore Bromund). Honorable mention: Sasha G. Rousseau, Johns Hopkins University (Professor Stephen Dixon).


**Conference Benefactors**

Charles & Mary Anne Bobrinskoy, Gary & Beverly Bonine, Marcus & Molly Frost, Christopher & Dorothy Hebb, William & Virginia Ives, Philip & Susan Larson, Ruth Lavine, Carole Martyn, John & Susan Mather, Linda Plan, Dr. Joseph Troiani & Terri Badgett-Troiani, Raymond L. Wiesner

**Student Sponsors**

What Did WSC Say about Stalin?

Q: Stalin’s foreign minister Moiotov maintains in his memoirs (Conversations avec Moiotov, Paris: Albin Michel 1995, 75), that Sir Winston Churchill in 1959 spoke in laudatory terms about Stalin: (“Staline a été un homme d’une énergie exceptionelle”). Is this true?

—Andrea Graziosi, Professor of History, Università di Napoli “Federico II”

A: Although Churchill made no speech about Stalin in 1959 (indeed no speeches at all in the Commons after his retirement in 1955), the words "Staline a été un homme d’une énergie exceptionelle" rang a bell. I found something similar in Churchill’s speech to the House of Commons on 8 September 1942.

From Churchill, The End of the Beginning (War Speeches 1942), London: Cassell, 1943, 216-17:

It was an experience of great interest to me to meet Premier Stalin. The main object of my visit was to establish the same relations of easy confidence and of perfect openness which I have built up with President Roosevelt. I think that, in spite of the accident of the Tower of Babel which persists as a very serious barrier in numerous spheres, I have succeeded to a considerable extent.

It is very fortunate for Russia in her agony to have this great ruggid war chief at her head. He is a man of massive outstanding personality, suited to the sombre and stormy times in which his life has been cast; a man of inexhaustible courage and will-power, and a man direct and even blunt in speech, which, having been brought up in the House of Commons, I do not mind at all, especially when I have something to say of my own. Above all, he is a man with that saving sense of humour which is of high importance to all men and all nations, but particularly to great men and great nations. Stalin also left upon me the impression of a deep, cool wisdom and a complete absence of illusions of any kind. I believe I made him feel that we were good and faithful comrades in this war - but that, after all, is a matter which deeds, not words, will prove.

One thing stands out in my mind above all others from this visit to Moscow—the inexorable, inflexible resolve of Soviet Russia to fight Hitlerism to the end until it is finally beaten down. Premier Stalin said to me that the Russian people are naturally a peaceful people, but the atrocious cruelties inflicted upon them by the Germans have roused them to such a fury of indignation that their whole nature is transformed.

Churchill has occasionally been hoisted on the petard of this speech, given when Hitler was still ascendant. But perspectives change, as Churchill recalled in his war memoirs:

In April, 1945, as the victorious Western and Russian Forces were joining hands in victory, I wrote to Stalin: “Do not, I beg you, my friend Stalin, undertake the divergencies which are opening up. There is not much comfort in looking into a future where you and the countries you dominate, plus the Communist Parties in many other States, are all drawn up on one side, and those who rally to the English-speaking nations and their associates or Dominions are on the other. It is quite obvious that their quarrel would tear the world to pieces and that all of us leading men on either side who had anything to do with that, would be shamed before history. Even embarking on a long period of suspicions, of abuse and counter-abuse, and of opposing policies, would be a disaster hampering the great developments of world prosperity for the masses which are attainable only by our trinity.”

—RML

Churchill was involved with or held commissions in several different military units throughout his life. Since he took his commission upon graduating from the Royal Military College Sandhurst (now Royal Military Academy) was there ever a period in which he was not affiliated with a military unit?

—BRIAN DAVIS

A: Churchill graduated from the RMC in December 1895, but his commission in 4th Queen’s Own Hussars dated from February 1896; during the interval he had no duties and was on leave.

Note now the distinction between a commission and a posting. Churchill held commissions in only three regiments (apart from those entailing honorary colonelcies, etc.). All his other postings were on attachment from his parent regiment. While holding a commission in 4th Queen’s Own Hussars he was detached from regimental duty and posted or attached to the Spanish Army in Cuba (1895-96), 35th Sikh Infantry (India, 1897), 31st Punjab Infantry (India, 1897), and 21st Lancers (Egypt & Sudan, 1898).

After resigning from the 4th Hussars (and from the British Army itself) in 1899, and following his escape—as a war correspondent—from the Boers later that year, his second—temporary—commission, which he held for some six months, was in the South African Light Horse.

His third and final commission (1902) was in a regiment of the Territorial Force (TF), comprising part-time reservists, which changed its name to Territorial Army (TA) in 1908. This regiment was the Queen’s Own Oxfordshire Hussars. During World War I he was detached from QOOh on posting to: 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards (1915) and 6th Battalion, The Royal Scots Fusiliers (1916). Churchill held his TA commission from 1902 until 1924 (apart from 1916-1920, when he was on the reserve list).

—PHC

Contact FH for more details of the TA commission and WSC’s honorary colonelcies, by Paul Courtenay.
Before going to public (private) school, a boy of Churchill's class in the 1880s was sent to a suitable prep school. Young Churchill at the age of seven was sent in November 1882 to St. George's at Ascot: expensive, modern with electric light, and a marked preference for Eton College, where men of the Marlborough family, including Winston's father, had been educated since the 18th century.

The Head Master was the Reverend Herbert William Sneyd-Kinnersley (1848-1886), a graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge, who had founded St. George's in 1877. Aged 34 when Winston entered, he was an unpleasant snob with two coats of arms, one each for his double-barreled name—and a cruel pervert. He flogged the boys with religious fervour, until blood was drawn, sometimes up to twenty strokes. An alumnus described him as "an unconscious sodomite."

Winston was a high-spirited youngster with a precocious streak. When handed a Latin grammar on his first day, he was perplexed by the vocative tense of mensa (O table). When he was told he would use this tense to speak to a table, he replied "But I never do"—his first impertinence, which started his long path of corporal punishment. (Yet his remark was perfectly sensible.)
Winston was very talkative, and in consequence was made to run round the playground until he ran out of breath. The punishment failed to cow him, and his resistance was lion-hearted. After having been accused of a trifling offence and beaten, Winston kicked Sneyd-Kinnersley's prized straw boater to smithereens. Revenge at a future date was uppermost in his heart, for the next decade. When a gentleman cadet at Sandhurst, aged nineteen, he felt fit enough to exact physical retribution and rode over to the hated place, only to discover that Sneyd-Kinnersley had died and the school had changed hands.

In the degrading conditions of St. George's his health broke down at the age of nine and he was removed from the hated school. His mother and his nurse had been shocked by the wounds he had received from the frequent beatings. The family doctor, Robson Roose, who had come to prominence by his attendance on Lord Randolph Churchill and who invited his distinguished patients to elegant dinner parties, practised in London and Brighton. He recommended that in view of Winston's weak state of health, the boy should go to school in the bracing sea air of Brighton, where his parents selected an establishment at 29 & 30 Brunswick Road run by maiden sisters, the Misses Thomson.

The Thomson sisters, Charlotte (1843-1901) and Catherine Amelia (1845-1906) were flattered by the Churchill choice, but Winston was becoming a handful and a trifle precocious. He had begun to sign his books "Winston Spencer Churchill, November 30" together with a quotation: "To reign is worth ambition, though in Hell, Better to reign in Hell than serve in Heaven." (Paradise Lost, Book I, line 263.)

From Brighton in October 1884 he wrote his mother, "I am very happy here." Perfecting his swimming and riding, he recovered his health. His taste in reading developed through being allowed to see Punch cartoons and was presented by his father with Bram Stoker's best-seller, Dracula.

The time was approaching for the choice of a public school. Again the fashionable doctor's advice was sought. Roose was against Eton College because of the fogs in its low-lying Thames valley; the alternative was Harrow, situated on a hill in Middlesex.

On 18 March 1888 Winston sat for the Harrow entrance exam, chaperoned by Charlotte Thomson. Although Harrow historians have not discovered the alleged exam paper containing only his name and an ink blot, which he recalled amusingly in My Early Life, he allegedly failed to answer a single question in the Latin paper. Charlotte reported to his mother that he had suffered from severe nervous excitement and had told her that he had never translated Latin into English. This was untrue as he had spent a full year translating Caesar and Virgil.

Perhaps his latent Latin was known to the Harrow Headmaster, Reverend Welldon, who decided to give Winston a chance. Welldon was subsequently credited with vision but at the time he was severely criticized and accused of gross favouritism. Perhaps the truth was that Lord Randolph being at the summit of national politics, Welldon preferred to avoid the embarrassment of rejecting his son. Yet Harrow historians have declared that not even Lord Randolph's son could have been admitted at that time knowing no Latin.

The Thomsons were relieved when Winston left, for they were having difficulty controlling him. It was said facetiously at the time that to mark the occasion a half holiday was granted and the Union Flag was flown!

James Edward Cowell Welldon (1854-1937), Headmaster of Harrow from 1885 to 1898, was a champion of muscular Christianity. His shoulders were nearly as broad as his Church views. Educated at Eton and King's College, Cambridge, he was appointed to the headship at the age of thirty-one. He became consecutively Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen, Bishop of Calcutta, Metropolitan of India, Canon of Westminster, Dean of Manchester and Dean of Durham.
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Churchill held a lifelong respect and affection for Welldon. When serving as a cavalry subaltern in India, learning that Welldon, then Bishop of Calcutta, was dangerously ill, he undertook a long and hazardous journey in a period of civil strife to visit and succour his old Head Master. They met again in Calcutta when Churchill was staying with the Viceroy, Lord Curzon, and Welldon was Metropolitan of India. At dinner Welldon said to his former student, "I presume it will not be long before we hear you declaiming in the House of Commons." Churchill did not demur. One wonders at the reaction of senior officers serving in India towards a twenty-five-year-old subaltern mixing at ease in such gilded circles.

When Winston arrived, Harrow was in the country. From the Head Master's house to the southeast there was a view of the outskirts of London; from the churchyard to the southwest, Windsor could be seen. But the Metropolitan Railway from London was expanding, having reached Rickmansworth some ten miles to the northwest. Harrow-on-the-Hill would be the next station.

New boys were placed in a Small House (usually about 15 students), before being passed on to larger Houses. In April 1888 Winston was placed in H.O.D. Davidson's Small House, where he spent his first three terms. Davidson (1854-1915), an Old Harrovian, was a keen player of games and a kindly schoolmaster. He was Winston's tutor for most of his time at Harrow, even after the boy had moved to the Head Master's House. His second son, Donald, was Churchill's Attorney General during the war years 1940-45, and ended his judicial career as a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary.

Among the fifteen boarders in Davidson's Small House was Winston's cousin Dudley Marjoribanks, whose mother was the third daughter of the Duke of Marlborough. Marjoribanks joined the Royal Horse Guards in 1895. Winston also knew Francis William White, youngest son of Lord Annaly, who left Harrow after five terms to live in Argentina and South Africa. During the Great War he was Major, Superintendent Remount Services. A third family connection in the House was Henry Francis Stirling, whose mother was a close friend of Lady Randolph. Stirling joined the Army, serving in the Coldstream Guards from 1896 to 1909, and fought in the Boer War.

The 500 boys at Harrow were taught in twenty-one separate divisions or classes grouped in three Forms: Fourth, Fifth and Sixth. Winston was placed in the Third Remove of the Fourth Form: the bottom class. The Fourth Form Room was built in 1611. Wooden panels round its walls contained signatures of Harrovians who became famous, including Robert Peel, Lord Palmerston, Spencer Perceval and Lord Byron.

Young Winston's school career was depressing. Latin in particular; yet the classics in general were the key to success in the examinations set by the Civil Service Commissioners who controlled entry to the army or navy, the administration of the Empire, the Foreign Office and virtually all the government departments. Winston refused to tackle the niceties of a dead language, despite special tuition by Welldon. Although he managed to move up two divisions, he never left the Fourth Form. He did however achieve fame in his first term in winning the Declamation Prize by reciting without fault 1200 lines of Macaulay's "Lays of Ancient Rome," including its inspiring Stanza 27:

Then out spake brave Horatius
The Captain of the Gate:
"To every man on this earth
Death cometh soon or late.
And how can man die better
Than facing fearful odds,
For the ashes of his father,
And the temples of his Gods."

Thus Winston became a "prizeman," the letter "p" being placed after his name in the school lists. By the summer term, however, Davidson felt obliged to write to Winston's mother:

I do not think that he is in any way wilfully troublesome but his forgetfulness, carelessness, unpunctuality and irregularity have been so serious, that I write to ask you, when he is home to speak very gravely to him on the subject...if he is not able to conquer this slovenliness he will never make a success of a public school. He is a remarkable boy in many ways and it would be a thousand pities if such good abilities were made useless by habitual negligence.

Winston was very lucky to be supervised by outstanding masters with kind hearts and infinite patience. Robert Somervell (1851-1933) was his English and first form master. His methods of teaching were outstanding. Thirty-eight years after leaving Harrow, in My Early Life, Churchill acknowledged his debt to him:

He knew how to do it. He taught it as no one else has taught it. Not only did we learn English parsing thoroughly, but we
also practised continually English analysis. Mr. Somervell had a system of his own. He took a fairly long sentence and broke it up into its components by means of black, red, blue and green inks. Subject, verb, object: Relative Clauses, Conditional Clauses, Conjunctive and Disjunctive Clauses! Each had its colour and its bracket. It was a kind of drill.

Charles Henry Powell Mayo (1859-1929) was the Mathematics master for Winston's last year and in six months managed to teach him enough for exam purposes. At his first attempt, out of 2500 marks, Winston obtained 500. At his second he scored nearly 2000. He attributed this to the kindly interest and teaching of Mayo, who convinced him that mathematics was not a hopeless bog of nonsense.

Louis Martin Moriarty (1855-1930) was French, and brought a Parisian touch into the social life of Harrow. He had an English degree and was listed in consequence as "Esq MA." (The names of Harrow French masters without English qualifications were preceded by "Mons.") Moriarty probably had the greatest influence on Winston. They fenced together and Moriarty took over the Army Class, in which Winston was a member for two years. This class grouped those boys going into the Army for special lessons in order to satisfy the Commissioners but they remained in their statutory Forms, and poor Winston was buried in the Fourth. They kept in touch for many years after Winston left Harrow. When Churchill was appointed Colonial Secretary in 1905, Moriarty sent him his warmest congratulations. Churchill replied:

...Almost the only valuable and pleasant part of my instruction there was received at your hands, and though I fear I am sadly lacking in scholarly education the taste for history which I acquired or developed in your Army Class has been very pleasantly indulged by me in the years that are past...

On the death of Lady Randolph in 1921, Moriarty wrote a charming letter of condolence and added: "As you see, I am still lingering on the Hill, though retired, when...before I was old and half blind, we learnt together."

Bernard Jules Minssens (1861-1924) came to Harrow as a French master during Winston's last year. Welldon and Winston's parents considered that the boy should spend a few weeks in France to improve his French. The Christmas holidays of 1891 were designated, but Winston wanted to spend most of December at home in England. A furious argument broke out, and Winston lost. He was duly packed off to Minssens, who had agreed to have him for a month at his home, 18 rue de Provence in Versailles. Winston spent a quiet Christmas. Mrs. Minssens was English so there was turkey and plum pudding. Minssens had good horses, and Winston enjoyed plenty of riding.

Winston remained independent at Harrow. He avoided team games, and had only one real friend, John Peniston Milbanke (1872-1915) later 10th Baronet, who joined the Army through the Militia and was commissioned in the 10th Hussars. In the Boer War he was awarded the Victoria Cross for saving the life of an injured trooper whilst being seriously wounded himself. He was killed in action in 1915, commanding the Sherwood Foresters at Suvla Bay during the Gallipoli campaign.

At Harrow, Churchill and Milbanke discovered an ancient school bye-law which forbade the playing of football games during exam week. The two boys in consequence lay on their bunks reading during games periods. The School expected them to be beaten but Welldon was obliged to rule that Winston's argument was sound.

In November 1891 Lord Randolph came for the first and only time to visit his son—and then only after an entreaty from Welldon. He took both boys to lunch at the King's Head Hotel. Winston was awkward and silent, listening to Milbanke conversing easily. He wished he could so converse with his brilliant father.

Although Winston did not fraternize with his other schoolmates, he did make his presence known. During his first term he was attracted to "Ducker," Harrow's huge swimming pool. He delighted in creeping up behind an unsuspecting boy and with a well aimed push sending the victim into the water. One of his victims turned out to be Leopold Amery (1873-1955) of the Sixth Form—Head of House, a champion at Gym and with football colours, described by the boys as a "pocket Hercules." Retribution came as Winston was hurled into Ducker's deep end. On the following day at roll call Winston went up to the great man to apologise: "I »
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mistook you for a Fourth Form boy, you are so small. My father, who is a great man, is also small." Amery sporting-

y said the matter was closed.

Amery and Churchill were destined to cross each
other's paths for more than a century. Amery was edi-
tor of the school magazine, The Harrovian, and blue-pen-
ciled many of Winston's submissions. He was in South
Africa as The Times correspondent during the Boer War,
and the two shared a tent at Estcourt. Amery was to have
accompanied Churchill in the famous armoured train but
overslept, thus avoiding capture or even death. He subse-
quently held such high offices as First Lord of the
Admiralty, Secretary of State for the Colonies, Secretary of
State for Dominion Affairs. And it was Leo Amery who
delivered the fatal Cromwellian words to Neville
Chamberlain in 1940: "You have sat too long here for any
good you have been doing. Depart, I say, and let us have
done with you. In the name of God, go." As Prime
Minister, Churchill appointed Leopold Amery Secretary
of State for India.

Richard Meinertzhagen (1878-1967) was four
years younger than Winston and had the misfortune to
dispute the pavement with him when walking in opposite
directions. He was bounced into the gutter and subjected
to a glance from Winston's cold blue eyes which he never
forgot. It was a warning to keep off. Later when in the
Army and out shooting in Burma he was reminded of the
look in the eyes of a wild boar about to charge.

After Harrow, Meinertzhagen went into the
Army and became a Middle East specialist. He was
Colonel in charge of the Field Intelligence Section of
General Allenby's army. When Churchill was Colonial
Secretary in 1920, he created a special Middle East
Department and appointed Meinertzhagen as military
adviser to it in April 1921.

When Winston was in the Head Master's House
he fagged for Nugent Hicks, the House Head. Following
a major transgression he was duly beaten, but said to
Hicks: "I will rise above you later on." Hicks replied, "You
shall have two more," which he duly delivered. Winston
replied, "I am leaving now, but what I said stands." Hicks
later became Bishop of Lincoln.

The three Trevelyan brothers were at Harrow.
George, the historian, entered in September 1889, a year
after Winston. He went straight into the Fifth Form,
Third Remove, well ahead of Winston. Trevelyan became
the leading social historian of the age; his Garibaldi series,
history of Queen Anne, and book on the Stuarts will long
endure. For many years after Harrow, Churchill sought
Trevelyan's advice on his own historical researches. In 1940
the mastership of Trinity College, Cambridge—a Royal
appointment vested in the Prime Minister—fell vacant.
At the height of the Battle of Britain, Churchill took time
off to appoint Trevelyan. After the war Churchill resumed
work on A History of the English Speaking Peoples, which
had been interrupted by the war. Wishing to consult
Trevelyan, he was invited to the College where he spent
some weeks as a guest in the Master's Lodge.*

A year after Winston's entry to Harrow a young-
ster by the name of H.S. McCorquodale was placed in
W.G. Guillemard's Small House. The two boys had a nod-
ning acquaintance. During the Boer War, the day before
the attack on Spion Kop, Churchill rode across the pon-
toon bridge. He heard his name called out and saw
McCorquodale's cheery face: his old schoolmate had just
joined Thorneycroft's Mounted Infantry that evening.

In the morning Churchill was asked to identify a
body which was not recognised. It was leaning on a rifle.
A broken pair of field glasses, shattered by the same shell
which had killed their owner, lay nearby. They bore the
name of McCorquodale. As Churchill put it: "Joined in
the evening, shot at dawn—The great sacrifice had been
required of the Queen's latest recruit."

In 1890 Winston, whilst in the Head Master's
house, turned his hand to writing poetry:

INFLUENZA

O'er miles of bleak Siberia's plains
When Russian exiles toil in chains
It moved with noiseless tread
And as it glided slowly by
There followed it across the sky
The spirits of the dead.

*The author matriculated at Trinity College in 1947. Once I entered
through the Great Gate into Great Court. Deep in thought, I looked up to
see two elderly figures leaving the Master's Lodge: Trevelyan and Churchill.
There was no escape; luckily I was correctly dressed and gowned. With
great courtesy they inquired about what I was reading and what sport I had
taken up. Churchill recognised my ex-service tie, and to my surprise,
Trevelyan knew my name, though I had only met him once. For reasons I
never discovered, Churchill used frequently to enter Great Court through
a small passage from New Court, used mainly by kitchen staff, bedders
(servants) and undergraduates from the nearby law library. One evening a
crowd mainly of College staff lay in wait: "Good old Winnie," they roared.
Insight into Churchill's innate decency, evident even in those early days when many schoolmates regarded him as a prig, was evidenced by the famous experience of his old nurse when she came to visit him at Harrow.

Elizabeth Ann Everest (1833-1895) was born in Chatham and entered service with the Churchill family in 1875, where she remained for eighteen years. Winston acquired the terms "black dog" to denote a foul mood, and "garden of England" to describe Kent, from Mrs. Everest. The "Mrs." was honorary as was the fashion in those days for women in such employment. Winston was devoted to her, and immortalized her as the housekeeper in his only novel, *Savrola*:

She had nursed him from his birth up with a devotion and care which knew no break. It is a strange thing, the love of these women. Perhaps it is the only disinterested affection in the world. The mother loves her child; that is maternal nature. The youth loves his sweetheart; that too may be explained. The dog loves his master; he feeds him. A man loves his friend; he has stood by him perhaps at doubtful moments. In all there are reasons but the love of a foster-mother for her charge appears absolutely irrational. It is one of the few proofs, not to be explained even by the association of ideas, that the nature of mankind is superior to mere utilitarianism, and that his destinies are high.

One day Winston invited Everest to Harrow. Boys were very nervous of being laughed at because of the appearance and clothes of the distaff side of their families: no form of endearment was expected to be shown. Winston of course did not give a damn. Mrs Everest arrived in an old poke bonnet, her figure of ample proportions. He threw his arms around her and kissed her in full view of all and sundry. After showing her round the school, they walked down the High Street arm in arm to a tuck shop for tea. As the years passed and Churchill became famous, one contemporary went into print to say it was the nicest thing that a Harrow boy had ever done. Another, a military man, said it was the bravest.

When Mrs. Everest fell mortally ill in 1895, Churchill rushed up from Aldershot to be with her at the end. Only 62, she was dying of diphtheria. It had been raining heavily and his coat was soaking wet. The old nurse insisted on it being taken off and dried. Winston and his brother Jack paid for her tombstone, maintained today at the City of London Cemetery by the International Churchill Society (UK).

Winston's inquiring mind often led him into various scraps. He was beaten with other boys for exploring a disused factory and causing damage. On another occasion he became interested in an ancient manse, Roxteth House, abandoned since 1861, which stood amid extensive grounds at the bottom of West Street. There was an old well in the garden at the bottom of which, according to rumour, there was a secret passage leading to the parish church. The bottom was filled with accumulated rubbish.

Winston planned to clear it with a bomb, which he duly constructed. He placed it in an open haversack and walked to the house. On the way a local detective, whom he had befriended to look after his dog, asked him if it was a bomb. Winston did not deny this.

He dropped the bomb down the well and lit the fuse. Nothing happened for some minutes. He stuck his head down the opening at the precise moment the bomb went off. Winston was spattered with debris and his face was cut and bruised. A kindly neighbour who was hanging out her washing took him in and cleaned him up. "I expect this will get me the bag," he said. The lady had by then recognised him. She never said a word except to her nephew, Harry Woodbridge, who divulged the story after his aunt's death.

During his four and half years at Harrow, Winston became quite well known in the town. Apart from the detective who cared for his dog, he was a frequent visitor to the book shop and the tuck shops. The boys were not very well fed in the Houses. Bread and butter, tea and coffee and meat (only for the mid-day meal) were served. Hance's Tuck Shop's menu included enticing choices: mutton cutlets and peas, ham and eggs, steak and onions, fried placie and chips, cold ham and tongue, sausages, mushrooms on toast, and devilled kidneys. The price was sixpence per dish.

*Continued next issue. M*
The Thompson Saga: Regurgitated and Revisited

There is much of interest in this book, and also much to deplore. It is the "authorized" biography of Detective Inspector Walter Thompson, the familiar figure at Churchill's side for so many years, and is based on his own writings. Thompson's own words tell a compelling story, some of it already familiar, though much is new. It is the author Tom Hickman, despite some skilful merging of the personal narrative with his own commentary, who casts doubt on the accuracy of some of this background panorama by poorly verified detail.

Thompson was Churchill's protection officer from 1921 till 1930, briefly in 1931-32, and from 1939 until 1945. He himself published four books about his experiences: Guard from the Yard (1938), I Was Churchill's Shadow (1951), Sixty Minutes with Winston Churchill (1953), and Assignment Churchill (1956). This new book contains plenty that was published there, but much new material, found by Thompson's great-niece in an old suitcase many years later.

Thompson joined Churchill's service in time to accompany WSC on his 1921 Middle East visit. Later, as a special concession to an ex-minister in a potentially dangerous situation due to the Irish question, Thompson was reassigned to Churchill for his 1931-32 New York visit, when WSC was accidentally hit by a car. Thompson, who was asleep after 26-hours' non-stop duty, felt guilty that he had not been present and that, if he had been there as usual, he would probably have prevented his charge from stepping into the traffic flow.

Recalled to duty in 1939, Thompson travelled everywhere with Churchill, as many photographs testify. In 1945 he was abruptly withdrawn from this duty by Scotland Yard, which does not seem to have treated him well, overlooking promotion claims till late in the day—"out of sight, out of mind." A curious incident in 1943, in which Thompson accidentally shot himself at home, is of somewhat unusual interest.

Details of Thompson's private life are revealed for the first time; it is curious that although he followed a strict moral code (asking to be relieved from guarding another dignitary due to the latter's love affair), he was not above breaking his own marriage vows. We learn of his family life, of his three sons in the RAF (one killed in 1943), and of his later marriage to one of Churchill's secretaries, May Shearburn.

A few errors might be excused; but there are so many that Hickman can be justifiably accused of knowing too little about Churchill to have been entrusted with this biography. For example, we are told that WSC held the appointment of First Sea Lord, that he crossed the Atlantic in 1941 in a "destroyer," that his 1941 Ottawa speech contained the line, "Some neck! Some chicken!," that his RAF uniform at Teheran was that of an Air Marshal, and so on and so on. Despite these blemishes, the book is still worth reading for a glimpse behind the scenes.

—PAUL H. COURTENAY

Considerable confusion has attended the simultaneous appearance of Walter Thompson's "authorized biography" (reviewed above) and this compilation of Thompson's own memoirs, allegedly inspired from the same cache of private papers discovered by Thompson's great-niece, Linda Stoker, in an old suitcase.

Unfortunately, while the "Authorised Biography" described opposite is a new work, Beside the Bulldog is what I would call a "bandwagon book": it is nothing more than a reprint of Thompson's small 1953 book Sixty Minutes with Winston.
Churchill, with a few photographs, issued to take advantage of Hickman’s biography and the attendant publicity.

There is a short introduction by grand-niece Stoker, who writes that she spent six years researching Walter Thompson’s life. The result of six years’ research is an introduction so short that I read it in less than fifteen minutes—only twenty-two pages of text, set in double-spaced, large font: an old trick. And even this brief introduction is full of exaggerations, mushy prose and regurgitated untruths—that Norman Shelley read Churchill’s speeches, for example. Stoker has a few footnotes in the main text, but they are of little import.

Readers who do not have Sixty Minutes might be interested in buying Beside the Bulldog. They would have an illustrated Sixty Minutes. But this reviewer bought this book unaware that it was a reprint. Beware of publishers and covers.

—JAMES LANCASTER

A New Niche in Churchill Studies


In the initial stage of a scholarly project, one reads laboriously all available sources and highlights the key passages. When the subject is the ambidextrous Churchill, a division of labor takes place: Historians single out sentences that shed light on events and motives, and literary scholars focus on sentences that reflect the manner of expression. Material that is not highlighted by either type of researcher tends to be dismissed as trivial.

It is Professor Alkon’s fine idea to apply to Churchill the idea that, when dealing with outstanding personages, nothing is trivial. The result is a book that, while usually steering away from standard Churchillian topics, manages to be interesting nonetheless by taking the reader into the byways and crannies of Churchill’s capacious mind.

Though not arranged in an inevitable sequence and lacking an overarching theme (other than that Churchill had a rich imagination which wandered far afield), these six essays offer in-depth readings of portions of the canon. Alkon thereby carves out a niche of his own in Churchill studies.

An example of the exploration of the offbeat is the first essay. In seeking a way out of the never-ending Iraq war, we are oft reminded that Iraq is an artificial construct glued together eighty-five years ago by Churchill and other British notables, including T. E. Lawrence. Alkon ignores the well-known public events to dwell rather on the high regard these two adventurous and articulate writers had for each other—despite the curious contrast between Churchill’s irrepressible ambiciousness and Lawrence’s latter-day desire for anonymity.

Another little known topic is Churchill and the movies. We learn that in the 1930s Churchill was tempted by the art of documentary script-writing. Though little came of these forays, Alkon brings to light many interesting twists in the functioning of Churchill’s agile mind in matters not associated with him.

Better known is Churchill’s painting. Besides reminding us that, surprisingly, nearly all the 500 or so paintings by this alleged war-lover are of peaceful, serene settings, Alkon traces the painterly effects in Churchill’s early books, written long before he took up the hobby. The analysis is thorough, though it does leave the reader wondering whether such a careful scrutiny of passages by other great authors would not show similar results. Especially well done is the thorough examination, in the Malakand, of Churchill’s sympathetic word painting of an evening scene among Afghan natives (135-37).

Another at first glance unprepossessing topic is Churchill’s frequent recourse to counterfactual history, or speculations along the lines of “What if?” The last three essays explore the ramifications of this habit of mind.

Showing how the maneuver can be related to science fiction, Alkon discusses the possible influence of the socialist science fiction writer H. G. Wells on Churchill—on his imagination, of course, not on his politics. Also important here is Churchill’s ambivalence about the impact of science on modern life, as well as his occasional agnosticism about the existence of “progress.”

In the fifth essay, Alkon rejoins the school of literary critics by providing a standard—and excellent—analysis of temporal perspectives as part of the narrative art in the Marlborough. The last essay contains a brilliant analysis of the alienation effect in one of Churchill’s most poignant pieces of writing: the short, deeply personal, posthumously published gem of a story, The Dream.

This book is a must for Churchillians. Among its strengths is the close textual analysis of both well- and little-known passages and the drawing of parallels with major literary works (whether or not read by WSC) in order to provide a context for Churchill’s achievement. Intelligence, erudition, and scholarship are firmly in control and in balance. The writer is focused, the style is crystal clear, the analysis is subtle, and the results are consistently enjoyable and enlightening.

—MANFRED WEIDHORN

• Prof. Weidhorn is the dean of authors on Churchill the writer, with four books on the subject: author of the recently published The Person of the Millennium: The Unique Impact of Galileo on World History; and his forthcoming book, An Anatomy of Skepticism.
Take No Hostages: Not Even Winston

There has to be some doubt over Churchill's causative responsibility for the loss of the two capital ships. Yes, he was largely responsible for their despatch to Singapore. This was however perfectly justifiable in the twin interests of deterring Japan and of placing some British strength in the area of some of her most valuable possessions. Direct responsibility cannot, however, be traced any further to Churchill. The fact that the force was strategically unbalanced and lacking organic air power was largely owed to the terrible demands upon an overstretched and ill-prepared Britain.

Moreover, the decision to go to sea and seek to attack the Japanese invasion forces was that of Admiral Phillips—as was, most critically of all, the decision not to break radio silence and call for air cover. It appears that Churchill (via the Admiralty) probably was responsible for sending the "prodding signal" of 7 December 1941, asking "what action it would be possible to take with naval or air forces."

Nicholson uses the correct terminology in calling this signal a "prod": what it does not do is stipulate what should be done—when, or where, or how. It does not, for example, state that air cover would not be essential. This, surely, is the abiding lesson of the episode: that capital ships were no longer safe unprotected under hostile skies. The book makes clear that a lack of awareness of air power was one of the otherwise highly respected Admiral Phillips' shortcomings.

It is within a wartime Prime Minister's role to ask for action to be taken. What is not acceptable is interference in operational military manoeuvres: this Churchill did not do. He may, as Nicholson argues, have known about the plan to go on the attack (although this is far from clear). But that is not the same as ordering it. Churchill's role was political: how the war was fought was a military matter; while he may have been responsible for putting the ships in the area, what happened to them once they were there was not in his direct control.

Nicholson, however, appears to accept that the despatch of the ships was a justifiable deterrent move, but argues that they ought to have been withdrawn once it was clear the plan had failed. This has a superficial attraction, but to have withdrawn Britain's most powerful assets at the very moment of enemy attack would not only have been antithetical to Royal Navy traditions, but would have sent the very worst signals to the Japanese (who respected the ships' capabilities) and to the Australians (already alienated over the lack of investment in Singapore). These were crucial political considerations of which the military were blissfully free—but which Churchill could not afford to ignore.

Agree or disagree, however, this book is excellent debating fodder, and is a useful historical tool. Footnotes are extensive and meticulously researched, and there is a selection of primary documents in the appendix. Its structure and approach makes referring to one aspect of the story very easy, whilst the author's passion makes for a fast reading book, drawing together all the strands of this famous but desperately sad story.

—ROBERT A. COURTS


This sprightly historical novel uniquely involves the two Winston Churchills (see "That Other Winston Churchill," FH 106) during their Boston meeting in 1901, who enjoy an adventure of derring-do against Irish Fenian terrorists intent on
As the titles suggest, their novels occur in British life in the early 20th century. The hero, Irish probation officer "Cootch" Connolly, learns of the plot and enlists the help of a Jewish girl, Rebekah Hurwitz, with whom he falls madly in love, engendering dubious reactions from her family and his: "Jews weren't always viewed favorably by the Irish....All these thoughts invaded my brain. I hadn't been haunted by such a woman in my entire life...."

Connolly meets Churchill by mail, and they meet when WSC's lecture tour brings him to Boston. Churchill's agent, Major Pond, introduces WSC to American Winston, and Ryan imagines what they likely said to each other during their first meeting. (American Winston: "I don't often meet desperadoes who've had a price on their heads." English Winston: "It was a mere £25.")

Never popular with Irish Republicans, Churchill becomes a target, but Connolly saves him from a bullet. With American Winston, they save the Constitution, which English Winston says has a "marvelous history of contributions to America's years." Buy this book and find out how this adventure, and Cootch's love affair with Rebekah, turn out. Ryan writes well, and gives us a picture of an altogether believable "Young Winston."


Robin Paige is a pseudonym for a husband-and-wife writing team who produce a series of cookie-cutter whodunits: Death in Hyde Park...Glamis Castle...Dartmoor...Whitechapel, etc. As the titles suggest, their novels occur in Britain, and they have a fair if exaggerated and somewhat shopworn view of British life in the early 20th century. They also know very little about Winston Churchill.

The possibly eponymous protagonists are Charles and Kate Sheridan, invited by the Marlboroughs to Blenheim because Kate is working on a book about an old scandal. The ancient palace of Marlborough Hall, said to have stood here in 1154, was the scene of a tryst between the King Henry II and his teen-age flame Rosamund, carried out under the very nose of Henry's Queen, Eleanor of Aquitaine. The story is loosely based on folklore: "Fair Rosamund" was the legendary mistress of Henry, who hid in a mysterious hunting lodge the King built for her, accessible only by a labyrinth ("Rosamund's Bower"). Alas, goes the story, Henry's scheme was defeated: he found her lover poisoned.

But Death at Blenheim Palace is not based on fact. Most of what's known about Rosamund is pure legend. Most sources deny she was poisoned by a jealous Eleanor, or that Henry constructed a "bower" at Woodstock which was pulled down when Blenheim was built. John Churchill was given the property and a grant to build Blenheim in 1705, so exactly why an 1154 structure was called Marlborough Hall is obscure.

The novel occurs in 1903; the Sheridans meet a frequent Blenheim visitor, Winston Churchill. With Churchill's help, or rather in spite of it, they solve a more current and compelling mystery, which turns into a kind of reenactment of the old legend. The action is set off by the sudden disappearance of another house guest, Gladys Deacon, with whom the Duke is already involved, to the distaste of Duchess Consuelo, and Churchill. (In real life, Gladys—pronounced "Gladeeiss"—did eventually replace Consuelo as Duchess, though not for long.)

Churchill is here to write Lord Randolph Churchill (mistritled in this book), which Sheridan describes as "rather a white-wash job." WSC's task is "to redeem Lord Randolph from the portraitals of his malicious peers as a conniving, capricious politician who had throwed up a promising career on a crazy whim. While others might suggest that Lord Randolph had been an angry, spendthrift, syphilitic husband and a cold and uncaring father, Winston saw him as a great statesman who was too busy about the affairs of the Empire to squander his energies on his family, and especially his undeserving eldest son."

Clearly, if you're here for an accurate picture of the Churchills, you should look elsewhere. Authors who haven't bothered to check current historical conclusions about Lord Randolph's career, let alone his health or the title of his biography, are merely superficial. Winston never regarded his father's career as the reason his father ignored him. And Winston himself gets the same short shrift, described as a boorish, red-faced, impatient "toff," unlikely to get to the bottom of any problem involving large amounts of grey matter. Charles Sheridan's main use for WSC is to send him off on simple errands to the village.

—RICHARD M. LANGWORTH

The Right Words

more serious differences. Using a word or phrase incorrectly in Britain could cause you to be laughed at or might get you a punch in the nose!

Toni Hargis, a native of England who moved to the States in 1990, evidently spent quite a while being either mystified or embarrassed by what her new acquaintances were saying. At the same time, she was baffled when some of her statements were greeted with annoyance or howls of laughter. On trips home she began listening to what Americans found confusing in the UK and what Yank tourists said and did that the British couldn't comprehend.

Hargis offers twenty-two chapters on topics ranging from "Words That Guarantee Confusion" to "Grub and Other Delicacies" to "Crime and Violence." Each chapter has its own glossary of British words that may require translation and a list of American words that the Brits (no, they don't call themselves that) may not understand or may even find offensive. "Pissed off" means the same on both sides of the Atlantic but, while saying "I'm pimed" means being angry in the USA, in Britain it means being drunk.

Visitors who have dined in England know that cookies are biscuits and tea is a late afternoon meal as well as a drink. An "English muffin" was invented Stateside, and the closest thing to it in England is a crumpet (the food, not the girl in the mini-skirt). However, don't be surprised if an English friend invites you to dinner promising a "joint." You don't smoke it—the word means "roast" of lamb, beef, etc. In Coventry for breakfast, I was offered a "Bacon Butty," which turned out to be a bacon sandwich on heavily buttered bread. All these terms are listed in Rules, Britanitania along with others like Bucks Fizz (Mimosa) and mange tout (snow peas).

Don't think of this book as a dictionary. It also delves deeply into manners and customs: How to behave or not behave at a wedding; what is expected in response to an invitation; how much later the British have dinner and go to bed than Americans, etc. Hargis warns seriously about keeping your wallet and other valuables safe because England has a very high crime rate. Yanks know that British policemen are called Bobbies, but have they heard of a "panda car"? It's a police car—black and white.

This book is genuinely fun to read and provides useful pointers. Next time you're in an English hotel, if you're male, don't call the valet to pick up your pants to be pressed. Pants are underwear—men wear "trousers." At work, don't ask for Scotch Tape—you want "sellotape." And a ball point pen is a "biro," evidently referring to the inventor's name. It also tells you what American words or slang will simply not be understood. Fraternities and sororities don't exist. Homecoming doesn't happen. Thanksgiving is not a holiday and the British make a lot more fuss over April Fool's Day, going to serious lengths to avoid making important announcements or bringing out new products on April 1st.

I could go on and on but you should read the book yourself to get the most out of it. Cheery-bye! I'm off to the boozier.

—MIKE COOK

Mr. Cook is editor of The Vintage Triumph. He was public relations manager for British Leyland and Jaguar Rover Triumph.

History Live

Churchill Remembered.
Two-CD set, narrated by Tim Pigott-Smith. BBC Audio, available from Amazon.co.uk for £6-12. Also downloadable for £9 at http://xrl.us/syii.

Few radio archives have deeper resources than the BBC, with many of its recordings going back to the earliest broadcasting days in the 1920s. The Corporation recently realised the immense value of its recordings by launching a successful series of musical and then spoken-word publications. One of Britain's finest classical actors, Tim Pigott-Smith (Brendan Bracken in BBC's The Wilderness Years TV series) narrates the latter, linking voices from the time on events that they witnessed. The 1940s volume of that series is in itself of great interest to FH readers.

As a spin-off from that successful oral history, and again with Pigott-Smith as narrator, the BBC has produced an oral life of Churchill told at considerable length, mainly through the reminiscences of people who knew him. Written and researched by Mark Jones, it provides a sensible, informed and detached view of Churchill's life through 1955; I noted only a couple of trivial factual errors (such as the date of the election in 1906—a very common student error, since unusually the government changed a month before the election, rather than afterwards as more usual). But these are slips which don't seriously detract from the piece as a whole. The CDs' real strength is, on the other hand, a quite fascinating array of personal reminiscences, ranging from the army sergeant who tells how as a young cavalryman Winston looked after his horse in India in 1897 (recorded 1955), to staff members like John Colville, Ian Jacob and Anthony Montague Browne describing WSC's working methods during and after his finest hour.

There are a few over-familiar pieces which Churchillians would not have needed in the anthology—Neville Chamberlain declaring war in 1939 and Churchill himself talking about the Iron Curtain in 1946, for instance—but that is more than balanced by the rare opportunity to hear the actual voices of Leo Amery, Sam Hoare, Lady Astor and many others, as continued on page 43...
"COHEN CORNER"*

**BY CHRISTOPHER BELL**

**TOTAL IMMERSION** in the Cohen Bibliography of Churchill's works suggests it may rank with the *Complete Speeches and Collected Essays* in its service to Churchill scholarship.

Readers of the new bibliography will be struck by the vast number of works unearthed by Cohen that Woods simply did not find. Thus, for example, by 1908, Woods' numbering *had My African Journey* as A12. In Cohen, it is already A27. *Into Battle*, published 1941, is Woods A66 and Cohen A142. Woods' final entry in this section of works entirely by Churchill is *Frontiers and Wars*, his A143/1, which is Cohen A274. Cohen also benefits from the passage of time, which allows him to add another thirty main entries to Section A published since Woods' final edition (plus innumerable additions of editions, issues and states of works unknown to Woods). The total number of main entries in Cohen's Section A is 333.

Perhaps more important is the depth of detail, nicely illustrated by his treatment of the *African Journey*. In Woods, the entry is simply A12, with no sub-numbering to identify other editions or issues. Cohen, on the other hand, provides a separate listing and full bibliographical details for the first British issue, Colonial issue (both cited and in wrappers), the three American issues, the Canadian issue of first edition sheets, the attractive and scarce 1910 Newnes paperback edition, as well as the 1962 Neville Spearman edition (not to mention seven post-Woods editions and issues published between 1962 and 1992).

Woods' entry for the *Second World War*, to give one other example, included three editions/issues (in 15 pages); Cohen describes thirty-four editions/issues in 150 pages. (Twenty-one of these had actually been published prior to Woods' last edition, but only three were described by him.)

The bibliographical descriptions benefit from their substantive uniformity. Each one includes a title page transcription, a collational statement, the breakdown of the contents, a description of the typography and paper, the binding, publication and printing information, locations, and cross-references to other bibliographies (including Woods), where such referrals can be found. Cohen also provides Churchill dealers and collectors for the first time with descriptions of dust jackets, including changes, however slight, from one printing to another (very important to collectors because jackets can so easily be switched from a later to a first printing volume).

Another major contribution is the thoroughness of Cohen's bibliographical descriptions. Every work in Section A, whether volume, pamphlet or leaflet, is bibliographically described. Woods never provided equal treatment for pamphlets and leaflets, even though he had clearly gone to great trouble to find them (and Cohen has found and described well over 100 new ones).

In the case of the scarce *Shall We Commit Suicide?*, for example, the title page transcription makes it clear that there were at least two printings of the first edition. In the case of the much more common publication of Churchill's 20 August 1940 speech (known best for its tribute to "The Few"), a full description of colours, typography and paper make it clear that there were at least five different combinations of paper stocks and wrappers used in the printing of 300,000 copies of the first and only >>
Although it is common bibliographic practice to include location information, Cohen provides it to Churchill collectors and dealers for the first time. It is easy enough to locate a copy of The Story of the Malakand Field Force, but most libraries and online catalogues do not indicate, for example, whether they hold first state copies (without the domestic errata slip); and none will indicate whether the catalogue in the back of the volume is a 12/97 or a 3/98 catalogue; or whether, as in the case of the copy held by the Legislative Library in Halifax, the book has no catalogue. Nor will any library indicate whether its copy of the Colonial issue of the Malakand includes the Indian or the domestic errata slip, in the unlikely event that errata slip information is included at all.

Cohen also provides an immense amount of information about translations, particularly in Section A. Unlike Woods, who simply listed the languages into which Churchill's works were translated (including such non-existent languages as Belgian, Brazilian and Braille), Cohen provides the foreign title (in its original alphabet, whether Cyrillic, Hebrew or other, or transliterated if originally in Japanese or Korean ideographs), the name of the publisher and the city and date of publication, together with (on occasion) the price at which the work was originally offered.

Where the work has been published in a new edition or issue, or simply been reprinted, he provides the corresponding information for the new appearance and, where he has uncovered details of the foreign publishing arrangements, he provides these as well. On occasion, as in the case of the Second World War, where French editions were published in France, Belgium and Switzerland by different publishers, these are all noted, as are the several German appearances of that work in Switzerland and Germany.

STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY

The structure of the new bibliography offers surprises. Like Woods, Cohen Sections A and B deal respectively with works wholly or substantially by Churchill and works by other authors that include a Churchill contribution: a foreword, preface, or introduction. A few items have been re-assigned from one section to another.

In the case of Charles, IXth Duke of Marlborough, Woods B23 becomes Cohen A98, on the grounds that the Churchill contribution is clearly dominant. In the case of Beating the Invader, a World War II leaflet that Woods placed in Section A, Cohen shows conclusively that most of the text was in fact prepared by the Ministry of Information. Churchill was invited by Duff Cooper, the Minister of Information, to provide an introduction to the leaflet, and it is thus relocated to Cohen's Section B. It is also interesting to note that Cohen identifies two separate issues of this leaflet in English: one by the Ministry of Information and the other by the Ministry of Public Security, as well as a Welsh translation.

The rest of the Cohen bibliography is radically different from Woods and far more helpful to the researcher or collector. Woods' Section C included all periodical contributions, whatever their nature. Cohen's Section C also lists periodical contributions, but only of letters or telegrams filed as a reporter from the battlefield, articles, and book reviews. Speeches or broadcasts have been given their own home in Section E, while all other contributions to the periodical press, whether letters to the editor or other correspondents, press releases, minutes, etc., are gathered together in Section G.

Similarly, the volumes, pamphlets and leaflets by other authors that comprised Woods' Section D are redistributed by Cohen into two separate sections, one (Section D) containing oratorical material, and another (Section F) containing letters and other miscellaneous material.

Once again, Cohen is both far more thorough and extensive. The earlier bibliographer identified 528 periodical contributions. Cohen has quadrupled that number, locating and describing 2178 such contributions (706 in Section C, 223 in Section E and 1249 in Section G).

Equally importantly, where the Woods entries for major serializations, such as Mr. Churchill's Book (mislabelled The World Crisis by Woods—The Times did not use that title), The Second World War and A History of the English-Speaking Peoples, are limited to a single line, providing only the name of the periodical and a range of dates, Cohen provides the actual dates of publication, the title and every subtitle, and the pagination for each part. He includes the same information for each of the British and principal Canadian serializations for the volumes of Mr. Churchill's Book (approximately forty parts for each volume, in comparison to the single line for each volume in Woods). For The Second World War, both the daily and weekly American appearances are given, in addition to the British serialization details (about eighty entries for each volume, in comparison to the single line for each volume in Woods).

The series of articles on Churchill's impressions of the United States and Canada (Cohen C330) presents another interesting comparison of the two bibliographies. Woods provides a list of each of the titles of the twelve parts with dates and pagination as published in the Daily Telegraph; however, he eliminates any reference to the North American serializations, which are of obvious relevance given the subject matter. Moreover, the Daily Telegraph serialization was not even the first appearance of the series. Cohen again provides all titles, sub-titles, dates and pagination for the prior appearances in the Washington Post, the New York World, and the Los Angeles
Times, as well as the later Canadian appearance in the Family Herald and Weekly Star. He also provides each of the subtitles, corrects Woods' pagination errors, gives the references to the subsequent publication of the articles in the Collected Essays, and supplies rich additional notes relating to the fascinating negotiation of the arrangements for the publication of the series.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

One of the most extraordinary features of the Bibliography is the presentation of background information relating to what Cohen describes as the "circumstances of publication" of each work in Section A or C for which he has been able to uncover such data.

Some of this information is available in the document volumes of the official biography, but most had to be dug out of Churchill's unpublished private papers and publishers' or agents' archives. Cohen's impressive research effort enables him to describe Churchill's thoughts about his writings, his progress at various stages, negotiations with publishers, royalty/contractual details, debates with publishers over titles. [The World Crisis, for example, might have been published as The Great Amphibian if Churchill's views had prevailed.) In addition to the historical value of the information, it adds highly readable detail to the necessarily drier bibliographical description. Along the way Cohen demolishes many longstanding myths. It has long been known, for example, that The Second World War was first published in the United States, but Cohen shows that this was not for the reasons commonly thought.

The Cohen bibliography is a remarkable achievement. It is easy to forget that writing was Churchill's main source of income. But unlike most professional writers, Churchill also had a remarkably rich and varied political career, which further contributed to his momentous output. Ronald Cohen is the first scholar to capture the full scope of Churchill's literary activities—not only his many books, speeches, and articles, but the thousands of letters, war despatches, memoranda, and lesser items he produced during his long life.

This is a model of how a bibliography should be written: with meticulous attention to detail, exhaustive research, a deep respect for the subject, and a literary flair of its own. It was a long time in the making, but it was worth the wait.

HISTORY LIVE...

continued from page 40

well as their actual memories. There are trenchant, and often critical, remarks from Lord Boothby; especially interesting memories from Oswald Mosley (far more favorable to Churchill than might have been expected); and several extracts from one of Churchill's closest friends, Violent Bonham Carter (nee Asquith), with whose Winston Churchill As I Knew Him most readers are familiar.

Less expected highlights include the BBC's star war correspondent, Richard Dimbleby, on Churchill visiting the Normandy beaches in 1944; prophetic contemporary contributions from Ed Murrow on the significance of Churchill becoming Prime Minister in 1940; Harold Wilson's father recalling the experience of being Churchill's Liberal agent in Manchester in 1906; and the historian Alan Bullock (an early postwar biographer of Hitler) on Churchill's historical importance. Many of these recordings were broadcast only on the BBC's overseas services, and the collection now published seems never to have been broadcast as a whole. It's a rich, varied, sometimes humorous and always stimulating account of a great man's life. At not much over $10 for 160 minutes of recordings, it is a quite amazing bargain. I listened to it over the course of a lengthy car journey to the North of England, and two hundred miles flew by in the wink of an eye. Every Churchillian should buy one!

—JOHN RAMSDEN

Note: The BBC also offer another CD pair, "Never Give In: Winston Churchill's Greatest Speeches" (again £6-12 on Amazon, co.uk). There are other collections already available, but none that are anything like so cheap. Finally, Amazon are offering these two CDs plus the paperback of Churchill speeches, Never Give In!, edited by his grandson, for only £14.69.

B

• Professor Ramsden is Vice-chairman of The Churchill Centre's Board of Academic Advisers and Professor of History at Queen Mary College, University of London.
Jim and Lydia Lancaster live in the Cotentin Peninsula in Normandy, France, close to Utah Beach, where the 7th U.S. Corps Airborne and Infantry Divisions landed on 6 June 1944. Jim was born in Sevenoaks, Kent, so favoured by Winston Churchill and his nanny Mrs. Everest, not far from Chartwell, on 21 December 1942—the day Churchill and Roosevelt made plans to meet in Casablanca. Many years later he went to Marlborough, and then to Balliol College, Oxford, followed by a peripatetic career in business and consulting.

When Jim moved to the United States in 1975 he took his first serious steps towards becoming a graduate Churchillian. He started to build a library—reading copies and first editions. He did this the old-fashioned way, by exploring secondhand bookshops in New York, San Francisco, London and a great many other towns. It was a lot of fun, and it still is.

What attracted him to building a Churchill library, having first built a Samuel Johnson library? Three main reasons: a passion for history, the pleasure of reading words writ well, and an ever deeper admiration for the life and work of Winston Spencer Churchill. Over time Jim has become an impotent, unreconstructed Churchillian, building up a "quiver full of arrows in debate."

Today Jim is doing his best to thank Churchill for his very being, and to keep the memory alive. He has recently written sixteen essays for the new Discover Churchill website sponsored by The Churchill Centre—a pedagogic site aimed at high school students. His essays are designed to introduce young people to many different aspects of Churchill’s extraordinary life.

Jim has also taken over the ChurchillTrivia column, now named ChurchillQuiz, in Finest Hour, starting this issue (page opposite). As before there will be typical quiz questions, such as "When was Great Contemporaries first published?" Other questions are specifically designed to inspire readers, for example, "What did Churchill describe in a speech to the House on 5 October 1938 as ‘a total and unmitigated defeat?’" Such questions will encourage readers to explore with growing interest the life and work of a man who, in his finest hour, saved our world from unimaginable tyranny.

Before creating the new ChurchillQuiz column, Jim entered all previous Q&As in a database to avoid repetition. None of his questions will have appeared in any previous edition of Finest Hour. Surprisingly, many simple ones, such as "When was Winston Churchill born?", have never been asked before.

And the questions are easier! Also important—in each Quiz the easier ones come first. This is intentional. It encourages all readers to tackle the ChurchillQuiz, and inspires the brave to persevere "even unto the end."

Not only is Jim doing this; and writing features (Churchill and Lloyd George in our next issue); and contributing to Suzanne Sigman’s new educational Churchill website; and helping the editor find gems for his new book of Churchill quotations, maxims and reflections. He is also digging out quotations that stump the editor, such as, from a researcher in Belgrade: "When did Churchill refer to the Serbs as ‘the Prussians of the Balkans?’" He really has left us with no other choice but to name him, with pride and affection, Finest Hour’s newest Senior Editor.
JAMES LANCASTER'S

CHURCHILL QUIZ

ACH column includes four questions in each of six categories:
- Churchil contemporaries (C),
- literary matters (L),
- miscellaneous (M),
- personal details (P),
- statesmanship (S)
- and war (W), with the easier questions first. How far can you get?

Level 1:
1. How was Churchill named on his birth certificate? (P)
2. What was the text on the labels which Churchill pinned to urgent minutes when he was Prime Minister from 1940 to 1945? (S)
3. Where did Churchill say: "I cannot help reflecting that if my father had been American and my mother British, instead of the other way round, I might have got here on my own"? (M)
4. When was Winston Churchill born? (P)
5. How many elections did Churchill contest in his political career? (M)
6. Who wrote of Lord Randolph Churchill: "I grieve, as all must grieve, that that daring and gifted spirit should have been extinguished at an age when its work should only have just begun."? (L)

Level 2:
7. "For us it remains only to say that in_______there died the greatest American friend we have ever known, and the greatest champion of freedom who has ever brought help and comfort from the New World to the Old." To whom did Churchill refer? (C)
8. "How an under-estimated boy of genius, of noble character and daring spirit, seized and created a hundred opportunities to rise in the world and add glory by his own merit and audacity to a name already famous" is the theme of which volume in the official biography? (L)
9. What was the date of Churchill's "We shall never surrender" speech? (S)
10. With whom was Churchill dining when he heard about Pearl Harbor? (C)

Level 3:
11. The first edition of Churchill's The World Crisis was published in how many volumes and how many books? (L)
12. With what friends did Churchill sign many of his messages to Roosevelt? (C)
13. How far can you get? of The River War? (L)
14. How many volumes and how many books? (L)
15. Who wrote of Lord Randolph Churchill: "I grieve, as all must grieve, that that daring and gifted spirit should have been extinguished at an age when its work should only have just begun."? (L)
16. Where is Malakand? (M)
17. In June 1940, to what did Churchill refer when he described "a miracle of deliverance, achieved by valour, by perseverance...by unconquerable fidelity"? (S)
18. "It was yesterday that Turkey gave in and it will be Austria tomorrow. 'A drizzle of empires' Winston calls it, 'falling through the air.'" Give the month and year for this quotation. (W)
19. Who was "the prematurely bent figure of the late candidate for Oldham, the one lodestone of hope to the weary soldier"? (W)
20. "There was a moment of a world aglare, of a man aghast...I do not understand why I was not broken like an eggshell, or squashed like a gooseberry." What was Churchill writing about? (P)

Level 4:
21. In February 1940, why did Churchill order the German warship Altmark to be boarded? (W)
22. Which World War II museum has a large granite block engraved "Port Winston" at the main entrance? (W)
23. Which fellow war correspondent did Churchill ask to review the proofs of The Story of the Malakand Field Force that he asked to meet the author? (C)

FINEST HOUR 133/45
"I confess myself to be a great admirer of tradition.... The wider the span, the longer the continuity, the greater is the sense of duty in individual men and women, each contributing their brief life’s work to the preservation and progress of the land in which they live, the society of which they are members, and the world of which they are the servants."
—Winston Churchill, Royal College of Physicians, 1944

"To conquer a nation, destroy the values of its people."
—Bill O'Reilly, Culture Warrior, 2006* 

The Cardinals’ bus from their Manhattan hotel was delayed more than an hour as it made its way to Shea Stadium. A combination of bad weather, typical New York traffic and the plane crash all led to major issues for the bus.

Major issues for the bust
It is subtle, and it creeps into our discourse innocently. But the campaign to eradicate the traditional values and mores of Western Civilization is ceaseless.

An example is the substitution of secular-humanist words for traditional words in everyday language. My pet gripe is the word "issues" as substituted for the word "problems." The idea is that we must not be "judgmental" (another popular favorite) about our troubles, because our troubles may be right. This extends even to inanimate objects. Not only people but now even buses have "issues."

No. "Issues" are subjects on which there is disagreement. What the bus had were problems. It's catching, because we all want to use hip forms of speech. If editors don't watch out, we fall for it too. I recently had to stop myself from saying that I have "issues" with fanatics trying to kill us. What I have, of course, are violent objections.

One might expect a publication dedicated to the life and times of Winston Churchill to tilt traditional. We don't care what you think about the war in Iraq, economic policy, immigration, religion, global warming, or Messrs. Bush, Blair, Harper or Howard. All those are legitimate, er, "issues," over which reasonable people may disagree.

An "issue" (in the legitimate sense of the word) came up at a Churchill Centre scholarly panel when it was argued that the "spheres of influence" (Tolstoy) agreement between Churchill and Stalin at Moscow in October 1944 proved that Churchill and Britain were no different from Stalin and Russia—that both sides had identical objectives, i.e., their own national interests. This is a common argument of secular humanists who would have us believe that the Western democracies are no better than Nazis, Soviets, or Islamofascists.

Leave aside that Churchill saw the Moscow agreement as a temporary expedient which might end up saving Greece from communization (which it did). Did his behavior prove that "we" were the same as "they"?

No. The "national interests" of Britain in Greece included objectives like getting the ouzo concession for Harrods and Greek support (optional) of British policies after the war; whereas the "national interests" of Russia in, say, Poland, were simply everything that Poland had, produced, and aspired to be. To my knowledge, nothing Greece did after the war was seriously done at the behest of London, while everything Poland did was directed by Moscow. That's the difference between "us" and "them."

Small wonder that Western democracies today find their most enthusiastic friends among the former Warsaw Pact.

When Churchill in his war speeches referred to "Christian civilisation" (a phrase I've actually seen edited out of some transcripts) he did not mean to exclude Jews or Buddhists or Muslims. He meant those words in the much broader sense of universal ethics: the Ten Commandments (a "judgmental" set of rules now expunged from certain public places), the Sermon on the Mount, charity, forgiveness, courage, the Golden Rule. All those...traditions.

So let me reiterate the assumptions we believe our readers expect. We hold that the traditional democracies which fought and won World War II and the Cold War—Britain, Canada, America, Australia—have produced the most prosperity and liberated the largest number of people in the history of the world. Their efforts allowed unprecedented masses to say what they think without fear of being stuck up against a wall by thugs carrying pistols. I include the Russians among the allies who won the war, but exclude them from the aforementioned group, because they enslaved at least as many people before and after the war as they helped liberate during it.

Finest Hour will try as hard to avoid substituting "issues" for "problems" as we do to avoid split infinitives. We will not attach PC filters to descriptions of Churchillian thoughts and deeds, however antique they may sound today. We do not believe that when democracies fight, however ineptly, it’s equivalent to what the fanatics did to us in New York or Washington or London or Madrid. We do not believe that "we" are the same as "they." We do not believe that Churchill’s failures and faults, however notable, begin to compare with the level of his successes and qualities. No "issues" on that one!

Just wanted to get that off my chest.
OPPORTUNITY FOR READERS

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**AVAILABLE ISSUES:**

- #53 Churchill & the Baltic (1), "Winnie" musical, *Their Finest Hour* reconsidered, stamps: Admiralty, Collecting local stamps. **Cover:** WSC by Corke.
- #57 Gilbert at Vancouver, Companion Volumes, Boer wanted poster, *Collected Works*, *The Dream*, Britain tour. **Cover:** Grace Hamblin, Robt. Hardy.
- #58 We are lampooned by *The New Republic* (and dish it back), Lord Soames, '87 Dallas conference, Pamela Harriman. **Cover:** "Retirement" cartoon.
- #59 AUSTRALIA NUMBER. Six articles on Churchill & Australia. Also: Speaking "Stringe," painting Canada, revisionists & *The Hinge of Fate*, collecting WW2 postcards. **Cover:** Australian flag.
- #64 WSC on advent of WW1, reviews of OfCl. Biography, Churchill literary family tree, *The Dream* 1989 version, Churchill's self-education, revising *Closing the Ring*. **Cover:** WSC lithograph.
- #65 FUNERAL 25TH ANNIVERSARY. Gilbert on writing the OfCl. Bio, Churchill chínaware, Churchill tour of France. **Cover:** funeral photo.
- #66 India by WSC back in print, Robert Hardy, H.L. Mencken and WSC, Australia's changing foreign policy, Denis Kelly. **Cover:** the new India.

**FULL COLOR COVERS FROM HERE ON...**

- #67 Dunkirk: 50th anniversary, WSC and Lloyd's, Britain & Europe, Churchill and the Navy, Sir William Stephenson. **Cover:** Garter star & badge.
- #69 Churchill the Orator: five articles on style, broadcasting, disabilities, language. 1909 prediction he will be Prime Minister, Call to Canadians to revitalize Canada. **Cover:** WSC *Spy* cartoon.
- #75 Jack Kemp, Dorothy Rabinowitz on WSC, *The People's Rights*, La Pausa display in Dallas, Lady Soames on Churchill organizations, two 1945 encounters with WSC by James Heinemann. **Cover:** smoking *Cooper portrait of WSC 1945.*
- #83 Diana Cooper on *Clementine Churchill*, WSC & Eastern Europe, 1934 Mediterranean voyage, Churches in North America, Salvaging Charmley. **Cover:** Lady C painted by Winston.
- #88 WSC's Durban speech after escape, Chartwell, new website, Britain's VE-Day, James Muller, array of Churchilliana. **Cover:** Churchill in Dublin aged 4, the earliest known painting of WSC.
- #90 Lady Thatcher's speech on 50th Anniv. of Fulton, visiting Gallipoli, more Chartwell, Admiral Fisher, *The Eastern Front*. **Cover:** Chartwell.
- #96 Churchill's Life of Marlborough, '97 Toronto conference, Churchill Memorial Trust, WSC's short story "Man Overboard!", U.S. Grant, Churchill and Music. **Cover:** painting by Adrian Hill and the RAF Memorial Flight.
- #99 CENTENARY OF OMDURMAN: three articles including Churchill's on the cavalry charge. Lady Soames on her parents, Weidhorn on Winston, Hayward on Leadership, WSC as Coalition war leader, Neville Chamberlain. **Covers:** Lady Soames and 4th Hassars statuary.
- #108 Churchill's Saucer (no. 1), 2002 Newfoundland coin, Letter to passers-by. **Cover:** WSC portrait (1849).
- #113 Brendan Bracken, Churchill's relevance, illingworth WSC cartoons, Churches aboard HMS *Renown*, Churchill and the Navy, Jerome cousins, Celia Sandsy in Morocco. **Cover:** Lying in state painting by Alfred Eigeron Cooper, 1965.
- #114 WSC on George VI, Gilbert on Churchill & Women, Bletchley Park, Queen Mum obituary, Churchill on Daylight Savings Time, Queen Mary Fellows program, Myths: He let Coventry burn. **Cover:** Oil painting of WSC by Martin Driscoll commissioned for the *Queen Mary* WSC suite.
- #115 WSC's Mentor Bourke Cockran, Teaching the Next Generations (3 articles), Churchill holograph thank-you notes, Why did Churchill forgive the Germans?, WSC secretary Patrick Kinna, Myths: Alexander Fleming saved his life twice. **Cover:** Last painting from life, HaIlstair 1957.
- #117 Grace Hamblin Remembered, Simon Schama on WSC, aboard USS *Churchill*, Chartwell Memories, 2002 Virginia conference, "Englander": Churchill through German Eyes, Morocco tour, Sarah Churchill's series of intaglio prints, Myths: Lord Randolph's syphilis. **Cartoon covers:** WSC as captain in the storm, from wartime France; and British pols on holiday, *Punch*, 1927.
- #118. Churchill and Chicago: two articles. 2003 Bermuda conference, Churchill & India by Larry Arnn, Secretary Marian Holmes, Churchill and Air Travel, Milestone in Churchill's life. **Cover:** *The Orpen portrait at the nadir of his career, 1916.*
- #119 LAWRENCE OF ARABIA NUMBER: eight articles including Churchill's on Lawrence, Alkon on *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, Churchill-Lawrence letters, Churchill's advice for a Lawrence movie. Also Inspector Walter Thompson and Armistice Day, Paris, 1944. **Covers:** Lawrence of Arabia by Augustus John & Lawrence cartoon.
- #123 Fabulous full wrap cover painting by WSC of Katoubia Mosque, Marrakech (only WW2 painting), Manchester Vol 3 excerpt, Churchill and the Second Front, WSC and America, Speech on the outbreak of war.

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As an addendum to the notes on the Quebec conference (FH 130:23), we outlined details of the badge of The Royal Sussex Regiment and its 5th (Cinque Ports) Battalion: both included the plume seized from the French Royal Roussillon Regiment by the 1st Battalion at Quebec in 1759. As Honorary Colonel of the 5th (Cinque Ports) Battalion—4th/5th after a 1943 amalgamation—Winston Churchill often wore its badge in 1944 and 1945: notably in Italy, on his second visit to Moscow, at the crossing of the Rhine, at Yalta, in Berlin and at Potsdam. The last of the Big Three conferences at the latter place was the final occasion on which he wore this uniform.

On 2 September 1955, not long after Sir Winston's final retirement as Prime Minister, a small party of officers from the Royal Sussex was invited to Chartwell, where they presented him with a pair of silver menu holders. In the illustration, the one on the left is the badge of the regiment itself; the Garter star was introduced during the colonelcy of a Knight of the Order of the Garter soon after 1803.

The menu holder on the right is the badge of the 5th (Cinque Ports) Battalion, so prominently worn by its Honorary Colonel as noted above. In the centre of a Maltese cross are the arms of the Cinque Ports—the battalion having originated as the Cinque Ports Volunteers. A silver plaque round the base of each menu-holder, now on display at Chartwell, reads, "To Sir Winston S. Churchill KG, Hon Colonel 4di/5th (Cinque Ports) Bn, from the officers 1955."

In a letter of thanks three days later Sir Winston wrote: "I was indeed complimented by the Regiment's gift of the beautiful silver menu holders which you were kind enough to present to me. Representing as they do badge badges of The Royal Sussex Regiment and the Cinque Ports Battalion they will be a treasured possession in my family, and I hope you will convey my warm thanks to the Regiment for this gesture by which, believe me, I am most honoured."

Since those days the regiment has been twice amalgamated into larger groupings (1966 and 1992), but the Roussillon plume survives in the collar badge of its current successor, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment; so the Quebec exploit of 1759 is not forgotten.

—PAUL H. COURTEENAY

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