

## *CB114, Churchill Quiz, December 2017.*

There are 24 questions in each Churchill Quiz —four questions in six categories:

1. Contemporaries
2. Literary matters
3. Miscellaneous
4. Personal details
5. Statesmanship
6. War

The sequence of questions is based on the order of difficulty—starting with relatively easy questions, becoming progressively more difficult

To follow a link between questions, hold down the Ctrl key and click the underlined link.

For more information on sources, or for any other enquiries, send an email to the *Chartwell Bulletin Churchill Quiz* editor, Jim Lancaster, whose email address is: [jimlancaster7@gmail.com](mailto:jimlancaster7@gmail.com)

### Question 1

[When was Churchill born—month, day and year?](#)

**Answer to Question 1—November 30, in 1874.** November 30 is the feast day of St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland.

### Question 2

[Where was Churchill born?](#)

**Answer to Question 2. At Blenheim, near Woodstock in Oxfordshire, England,** seat of the Duke of Marlborough. Blenheim is in Bavaria, best remembered as being the scene of the English defeat of the French and Bavarians on 13 August 1704, under the Duke of Marlborough.

Question 3

[Where did Churchill's parents send him to school?](#)

**Answer: to Question 3: They sent him to Harrow-on-the-Hill.** The previous six generations of Churchills all went to Eton, but his parents sent young Winston to Harrow, based on the idea that Harrow-on-the-Hill would be more bracing than Eton, which was surrounded by the fogs and mists of the Thames Valley.

Question 4

[After leaving Harrow, where did Churchill choose to continue his education?](#)

**Answer to Question 4: The Royal Military College of Sandhurst, in Berkshire, England. Winston failed the entrance exam on his first two attempts. On his third attempt in June 1893 he entered Sandhurst on a cavalry cadetship, winning the highest marks for all candidates on English**

History. And in the Sandhurst final examinations in 1894, Churchill passed out twentieth in a class of 130. (*The Official Biography of Winston S. Churchill* volume 1, page 242)

#### Question 5

On leaving Sandhurst, Churchill was lucky, in 1895, in finding a vacancy with the Fourth Hussars, a cavalry regiment. He soon realised that he needed to embark on a programme of self-education.

[Which of Edward Gibbon's books did Churchill choose to read?](#)



SECOND LIEUTENANT WINSTON S. CHURCHILL  
4th Hussars 1895

*Answer to Question 5—Edward Gibbon’s *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, published between 1776 and 1788.*

#### Question 6

On hearing that the Fourth Hussars were soon to leave for nine years’ service in India, Churchill had other ideas, one of which was to go to a part of the world where he might find some action.

Where was this action to be found?

Answer: to Question 6: In Cuba, where the Spanish authorities were trying to suppress an insurrection.

Question 7

When did Churchill embark on his first journalistic venture—with the *Daily Graphic*—five guineas for each letter from the front?

Answer: October 1895.

Question 8

Whom did Churchill meet in New York, on his way to Cuba?

**Answer: Mr. Bourke Cockran, a family friend, a distinguished lawyer prominent in New York Democratic politics.** In 1932, firstly in his book *Amid These Storms* in America, republished in England with the title *Thoughts and Adventures*, Churchill wrote in his essay *Personal Contacts*, his impressions of the remarkable Mr. Bourke Cockran:

When I first went to the United States in 1895, I was a subaltern of cavalry. I was met on the quay, in New York, by Mr. Bourke Cockran, a great friend of my American relations. I must record the strong impression



which this remarkable man made upon my untutored mind. I have never seen his like, or in some respects his equal.... It was not my fortune to hear any of his orations, but his conversation, in point, in pith, in rotundity, in antithesis, and in comprehension, exceeded anything I have ever heard.

### Question 9

Churchill had a lively time in Cuba, hearing the sound of bullets whistling at close quarters on his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, and reporting profitably for the *Daily Graphic*. He also wrote frequently to his new-found friend Bourke Cockran.

For the rest of his life, Churchill never forgot the debt he owed to Bourke Cockran.

What did Cockran teach the young Churchill that could never be forgotten?

**Answer to Question 9: The art of oratory.** Churchill never forgot the debt he owed to Bourke Cockran—**“He was my model—I learned from him how to hold thousands in thrall...”** (*The Official Biography of Winston S. Churchill*, volume 1, page 283.)

## Question 10

While in Bangalore, India, as a Lieutenant with the 4<sup>th</sup> Queen's Own Hussars in 1897, Churchill had written several letters to the *Daily Telegraph* about *An Episode of Frontier War*. Since these letters had been favourably received, Churchill was inspired to write a book about this Episode.

What was title of the book, Churchill's first book?

*Answer: The Story of the Malakand Field Force. An Episode of Frontier War.*

Churchill worked hard on this new literary adventure, but the birth pangs were highly problematic. The biggest problem was poor punctuation. This was compounded by Churchill asking his uncle Moreton Frewen to proof the first

edition, published in 1898. The result was a disaster. Moreton Frewen soon earned the nickname *Mortal Ruin*.

The reviewer at the *Athenaeum* wrote:

“As it stands, it suggests in style a volume by Disraeli revised by a mad printer’s reader...One word is printed for another, words are defaced by shameful blunders, and sentence after sentence ruined by the punctuation of a school-boy in the lowest form.”

Despite the harsh critique in the *Athenaeum* Churchill put all his hopes in a corrected second edition—the *Silver Library* edition, published in January 1899. The *Silver Library* edition was well-received—Churchill’s first book now attracted the attention of several publishers, Churchill had embarked on a new career—the successful author . *The Story of the Malakand Field Force*, and the many other books he was to write in the years to come, ensured a financial independence for the rest of Churchill’s long life.

#### Question 11

For Churchill the last two months of the 19<sup>th</sup> century were notably dramatic—his capture by the Boers in South Africa in November 1899, and his escape the following month. The first year of the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw Churchill giving a series of lectures in America and Canada. Financially, this lecture tour was not a great success. However, it was partially saved by the distinguished American whom Churchill invited to take the chair at the meeting in New York.

[Who was this distinguished American?](#)

Answer to Question 11: Mark Twain. In his introductory speech Mark Twain said:

“I think that England sinned when she got herself into a war in South Africa which she could have avoided, just as we have sinned in getting into a similar war in the Philippines. Mr. Churchill by his father is

an Englishman, by his mother he is an American, no doubt a blend that makes the perfect man. England and America; we are kin...The harmony is perfect—like Mr Churchill himself, whom I now have the honour to present to you.”

From the *Official Biography of Winston S. Churchill* volume 1, page 543: (Churchill took full advantage of his meeting with Mark Twain to get him to sign all of the *Writings of Mark Twain*, the edition limited to 1,000.)

Mark Twain’s intervention and book-signing turned out to be both providential and profitable.

## Question 12

In which of his speeches in the House of Commons did Churchill begin with the observation: “I understood that the hon. member to whose speech the House has just listened, had intended to move an Amendment to the Address.”?

Answer to Question 12: This was the opening line of **Churchill’s maiden speech in the House of Commons** , on February 18, 1901.

Churchill had campaigned twice for the Tories in the working-class district of Oldham. He won the seat closely on his second attempt, probably in no small measure due to the popularity of his escape from the Boers in South Africa.

However, Lloyd George decided at the last minute not to move his amendment. Churchill was not best pleased since he had assumed that the amendment would be moved.

At this critical moment, his neighbour, Mr. Bowles, whispered to Churchill:

“You might say that, instead of making his violent speech without moving his moderate amendment, he had better have moved his moderate amendment without making his violent speech.”

Churchill later commented “Manna in the wilderness was not more welcome” nodding with thanks to Mr. Bowles.

The first paragraph of his maiden speech continued with the suggestion that “It might perhaps have been better if the hon. member, instead of making his speech without moving his amendment, had moved his amendment without making his speech.”

Churchill was congratulated from all quarters, including the Liberals, on the opening remarks in his maiden speech.

### Question 13

“Wise words, Sir, stand the test of time, and I am very glad the House has allowed me, after an interval of fifteen years, to lift again the tattered flag of retrenchment and economy.”?

[In which of his speeches did Churchill make this remark?](#)



Answer: to Question 13: Churchill's speech attacking Mr. Brodrick's plans for a significant increase in military expenditure. Churchill had published a slim book of speeches *Mr. Brodrick's Army* about army matters in 1903

The 'tattered flag' was a reference to his father's struggle fifteen years earlier on the same issue.

Question 14

Whom did Churchill choose to be his Private Secretary at the Colonial Office?

Answer to Question 14: Edward Marsh, an obscure clerk in the West African Department.



Eddie Marsh later wrote in his memoirs: *A Number of People* pages 149-152:

Late in the afternoon I betook myself to Lady Lytton, who was a great friend of his [Churchill] as well as of mine and poured out my misgivings. Her answer was one of the nicest things that can ever have been said about anybody:

“The first time you meet Winston you see all his faults, and the rest of your life you spend in discovering his virtues” and so it proved. That night I dined alone with him in his flat in Mount Street, and so far as he was concerned all my doubts were dispelled—he was the man for me, though I could still hardly see myself as the man for him.

Soon afterwards we set out for Manchester, where he was to stand for the North-West Division at the General Election. We installed ourselves at the Midland Hotel, and walked out to take the air, following our noses, and soon finding ourselves in the slums. Winston looked about him, and his sympathetic imagination was stirred.

“Fancy” he said “living in one of these streets—never seeing anything beautiful—never eating anything savoury—*never saying anything clever!* (The italics were his—it would be impossible to give a better rendering of italics in the spoken word.)

When the Great War was over, he [Churchill] produced one day a lapidary epigram on the spirit proper to a great nation in war and peace: **“In war, Resolution; in defeat, Defiance; in victory Magnanimity; in peace, Good-will.”** (I wish the tones in which he spoke could have been recorded—the first phrase a rattle of musketry, the second ‘grating harsh thunder’, the third a ray of the sun through storm-clouds; the last, pure benediction.

(editorial note: When Churchill’s six volumes on *The Second World War* were published (1948-1954) the above epigram was reprinted in all the editions—in the Cassell edition in England, in the Houghton Mifflin edition in America and in the Chartwell illustrated edition.

## **THE MORAL OF THE WORK**

***IN WAR: RESOLUTION***

***IN DEFEAT: DEFIANCE***

***IN VICTORY: MAGNANIMITY***

***IN PEACE: GOODWILL***

The following extract from *The Official Biography of Winston S. Churchill* volume 2, page 112, completes this sketch of Eddie Marsh:

Henceforward, until his [Marsh's) retirement thirty years later Marsh was to accompany Churchill to every Government department he occupied—to the Board of Trade, to the Home Office, to the Admiralty, to the Duchy of Lancaster, to the Ministry of Munitions, to the War Office, back to his original Colonial Office and to the Treasury. They were inseparable. Whenever Churchill was out of office, Marsh reverted to the Colonial Office,

These peregrinations with Churchill inevitably interrupted what would have been Marsh's normal promotion. But whether Churchill was in or out of office their friendship persisted; indeed, he became a great family friend and was a constant visitor to Chartwell, even in the bleak thirties. After Marsh had left the Civil Service in 1937, he frequently, as he would have said, 'corrected the orthography' [spelling] of Churchill's books.

### Question 15

The new year 1906 opened with the publication of a major book by Churchill in two volumes.

[What was the title of the book?](#)

Answer to Question 15: The biography of his father *Lord Randolph Churchill*

All else being equal, writing a filial biography is rightly considered a difficult challenge, as noted by the review of *Lord Randolph Churchill* in the *Times Literary Supplement*:

“Sons have not always proved the most judicious of biographers... But here is a book which is certainly among the two or three most exciting political biographies in the language.”

*Lord Randolph Churchill* received almost universal acclaim in the press, Churchill being praised for having written a valuable addition to the history of the decade 1890-1900, as well as an admirable biography of his father. Churchill would have been delighted to receive the comments of Lord Rosebery about *Lord Randolph Churchill*:

“I cannot find a fault. Good humoured, impartial, vivid, sympathetic, and written in an admirable style... it is a book difficult to lay down. (*The Official Biography of Winston S. Churchill*, volume 2, p. 141).

J. A. Spender, the editor of the *Westminster Gazette* wrote to Churchill:

“I must add a private word to say what a brilliant book I think it is, & how masterly in its grasp of forces & characters. But apart from that, you have done what you chiefly set out to do—the son’s part to the father as very seldom it has been done before. May I offer you my very warm congratulations?”

The book did well, selling almost 6,000 copies between January and April 1906. (*The Official Biography of Winston S. Churchill*, volume 2, p. 143).

Lord Randolph was only 46 years old when he died on January 24<sup>th</sup> 1895.

Churchill ended his two-volume biography of *Lord Randolph Churchill* with these words:

There is an England which stretches far beyond the well-drilled masses who are assembled by party machinery to salute with appropriate acclamation the utterances of their recognised fuglemen; an England of wise men who gaze without self-deception at the failings and follies of both political parties; of brave and honest men who find in their faction fair scope for the effort that is in them; of ‘poor men’ who increasingly doubt the sincerity of party philanthropy. It was to that England that Lord Randolph Churchill appealed; it was that England he so nearly won; it is by that England he will be justly judged.

## Question 16

[Who was ‘F. E.’?](#)

Answer to Question 16: Frederick Edwin Smith, First Earl of Birkenhead (1872-1930)



'F. E.'

The above photograph precedes Churchill's article on 'F. E', *First Earl of Birkenhead* (1872-1930) in his book *Great Contemporaries*. As Churchill explains in his article on 'F. E.' Frederic Edwin Smith always chose to be known, by friend and foe, as 'F.E.'

Here are extracts from Churchill's article on 'F. E.' in *Great Contemporaries*:

I did not come to know him ('F. E.') till he was thirty-four. An ardent Conservative, he was angry with me for leaving that party on the Protection issue. His own father had been in the eighties a keen admirer of Lord Randolph Churchill, and had taught him to embrace not only the conceptions of Tory Democracy, but to think kindly of one who had done much to make it a living force in modern politics.

'F.E.,' to use his famous soubriquet ('nickname'), felt a strong antagonism to me for breaking a continuity. He did not wish to meet me. It was only after the Parliament of 1906 had run some months of its course that we were introduced to one another by a common friend as we stood at the bar of the House of Commons before an important division.

But, from that hour, our friendship was perfect. It was one of my most precious possessions. It was never disturbed by the fiercest party fighting. It was never marred by the slightest personal difference or misunderstanding. It grew stronger as nearly a quarter of a century slipped by, and it lasted until his untimely death. The pleasure and instruction of his companionship were of the highest order. The world of affairs and the general public saw in F.E. Smith a robust, pugnacious personality, trampling his way across the battlefields of life, seizing its prizes as they fell, and exulting in his prowess. They saw his rollicking air. Acquaintances and opponents alike felt the sting of his taunts or retorts in the House of Commons and at the Bar. Many were prone to regard him as a mere demagogue whose wits had been sharpened upon the legal grindstone. It is a judgement which those who practise the popular arts before working-class audiences in time of faction are likely to incur. The qualities which lay behind were not understood by his fellow-countrymen till the last ten years of his life.

But his close friends, and certainly I, acclaimed him for what he was—a sincere patriot; a wise, grave, sober-minded statesman; a truly

great jurist; a scholar of high attainments; and a gay, brilliant, loyal, lovable being. We made several considerable journeys together. We both served for many years in the Oxfordshire Hussars. We were repeatedly together at Blenheim. We met and talked on innumerable occasions: never did I separate from him without having learnt something, and enjoyed myself besides.

He was always great fun; but more than that he had a massive common sense and a sagacious comprehension which made his counsel invaluable, whether in public broil or private embarrassment. He had all the canine virtues in a remarkable degree—courage, fidelity, vigilance, love of the chase. He had reached settled and somewhat sombre conclusions upon a large number of questions, about which many people are content to remain in placid suspense. Man of the world; man of affairs; master of the law; adept at the written or spoken word; athlete; sportsman; book-lover—there were few topics in which he was not interested, and whatever attracted him, he could expound and embellish

For all the purposes of discussion, argument, exposition, appeal or altercation, F.E. had a complete armoury. The bludgeon for the platform; the rapier for a personal dispute; the entangling net and unexpected trident for the Courts of Law; and a jug of clear spring water for an anxious, perplexed conclave.

Many examples are given by his son of his use of these various methods. There can scarcely ever have been a more sustained, merciless interchange than the one which took place between him and Judge Willis in the Southwark County Court:

A boy who had been run over was suing a tramway company for damages. F.E. appeared for the company. The case for the lad was that the accident had led to blindness. The judge, a kindly if somewhat garrulous soul, allowed sympathy to outrun discretion.

‘Poor boy, poor boy!’ he exclaimed. ‘Blind! Put him on a chair so that the jury can see him’

This was weighting the scale of justice, and F.E. was moved to protest.

‘Perhaps your honour would like to have the boy passed round the jury box,’ he suggested.

‘That is a most improper remark,’ exclaimed the judge.

‘It was provoked by a most improper suggestion,’ was the startling rejoinder.

Judge Willis tried to think of a decisive retort. At last it arrived.

‘Mr. Smith, have you ever heard of a saying by Bacon—the great Bacon—that youth and discretion are ill-wedded companions?’

‘Yes, I have’, came the instant repartee. And have you ever heard of a saying of Bacon—the great Bacon—that a much-talking judge is like an ill-tuned cymbal?’

‘You are extremely offensive, young man,’ exclaimed the judge.

‘As a matter of fact,’ said Smith, ‘we both are; but I am trying to be, and you can’t help it.’

Such a dialogue would be held brilliant in a carefully-written play, but that these successive rejoinders, each one more smashing than the former, should have leapt into being upon the spur of the moment is astounding.

Question 17

[In which year did Churchill get married?](#)





Churchill and his best man, Lord Hugh Cecil, arriving at St. Margaret's Westminster in an electric brougham.

Answer to Question 17. In September 1908

Churchill had proposed to Clementine Hozier in the Temple of Diana at Blenheim on 11 August 1908. His proposal was accepted; On August 15 the following announcement was published in *The Times*:

MR. CHURCHILL. A marriage has been arranged between Mr. Churchill MP and Miss Clementine Hozier, daughter of the late Sir Henry Hozier and Lady Blanche Hozier.

The wedding was in St. Margaret's Westminster—then, as today, the Anglican parish church of the House of Commons . Churchill invited his former headmaster Bishop Welldon to give the address .

Throughout the convulsions of political life, and the waging of the two greatest wars in history, the love between Winston and Clementine remained constant and abiding. As Churchill often remarked in other contexts: “Here firm, though all be drifting.” (*The Official Biography of Winston S. Churchill* volume 2, page 275)

#### Question 18

While at the Admiralty what was Churchill able to achieve which was outwith the traditional responsibility of the Admiralty?

Answer: to Question 18: The foundation of the Royal Naval Air Service—  
through his ability to procure funds by ‘various shifts and devices’. (Source: *The  
World Crisis* volume 1, pp. 311-12)



‘NEPTUNE’S ALLY’

Bernard Partridge, *Punch* 25 May 1914

*The Official Biography of Winston S. Churchill*  
Volume 2, 1901-1914, facing page 690.

Before the war the British air force was divided into the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service, the former of which were to be concerned with aeroplanes and the latter with hydro-aeroplanes, or seaplanes as I christened them for short. The War Office claimed on behalf of the Royal Flying Corps complete and sole responsibility for the aerial defence of Great Britain. But owing to the difficulties of getting money, they were unable to make any provision for this responsibility, every aeroplane they had being earmarked for the Expeditionary Force. Seeing this and finding myself able to procure funds by 'various shifts and devices', I began in 1912 and 1913 to form under the Royal Naval Air Service flights of aeroplanes as well as of seaplanes for the aerial protection of our naval harbours, oil tanks and vulnerable points, and also for a general strengthening of our exiguous and inadequate aviation.

In consequence I had in my own hand on the eve of the war fifty efficient naval machines, or about one-third of the number in possession of the Army. The War Office viewed this development with disfavour, and claimed that they alone should be charged with the responsibility for home defence. When asked how they proposed to discharge this duty, they admitted sorrowfully that they had not got the machines and could not get the money. They adhered however to the principle.

When the war began the situation foreseen arose—All the military aeroplanes went to France at once with the Expeditionary Force, and not a single squadron or even an effective machine remained to guard British vulnerable points from German aerial attack. The Admiralty was, however, found provided with a respectable force of its own which immediately took over the protection of our dockyards and patrolled our shores in connection with the coast watch.

As the Germans overran Belgium and all the Channel ports were exposed, the danger of air attacks upon Great Britain became most serious and real. Zeppelins had already cruised over Antwerp, and it was known that London was in range of the Zeppelin sheds at Dusseldorf and Cologne. To meet this danger there was nothing except the naval aeroplanes the Admiralty had been able to scrape and smuggle together. On September 3 Lord Kitchener asked me in the Cabinet whether I would accept, on behalf of the Admiralty, the responsibility for the aerial defence of Great Britain as the War Office had no means of discharging it.

I thereupon undertook to do what was possible with the wholly inadequate resources which were available. There were neither anti-aircraft guns nor search-lights, and, though a few improvisations had been made, nearly a year must elapse before the efficient supplies necessary would be forthcoming. Meanwhile at any moment half a dozen Zeppelins might arrive to bomb London or, what was more serious, Chatham, Woolwich or Portsmouth. (Source: Churchill's *The World Crisis*, volume 1, 1911-1914, extracts from pages 311-13.)

## Question 19

Who wrote the following entry in her diary on November 30, 1914—Churchill's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday?

What is it that gives Winston his pre-eminence? It certainly is not his mind. I said long ago and, with truth, Winston has a noisy mind.

Certainly not his judgement—he is constantly very wrong indeed (he was strikingly wrong when he opposed McKenna's modest naval programme in 1909 and, roughly speaking, he is always wrong in his judgement about people). It is of course his courage and colour—his amazing mixture of industry and enterprise. He can and does always—all ways put himself in the pool. He never shirks, hedges, or *protects* himself—though he thinks of himself perpetually. *He takes huge risks.* He is at his very best just now; when others are shrivelled with grief—apprehensive, silent, irascible and self-conscious morally; Winston is intrepid, valorous, passionately keen and sympathetic, longing to be in the trenches—dreaming of war, big, buoyant, happy, even. It is very extraordinary, he is a born soldier.

When he came back from Antwerp he sent in his resignation saying he wanted to join the Army and have a command of some sort—he did not care what. He confided this to Freddie Guest who spoke to me of it with grave anxiety. I reassured him by telling him that Henry (the Prime Minister H. H. Asquith) would not dream of accepting Winston's resignation.

The fall of Antwerp was a cause of real sadness to Winston.

He was subjected to violent abuse in long letters to *The Morning Post* from Walter Long and other Unionists—the first departure from the political truce—but this did not affect him one hair, he is quite unsensitive, which is also a help! (*The Official Biography of Winston S. Churchill* volume 3, pp. 179-80.) ?

Who wrote the above entry in her diary on November 30, 1914—Churchill's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday?

Answer: to Question 19: Margot Asquith, the wife of the Prime Minister Herbert Henry Asquith.

The extract of Margot Asquith's diary entry for November 30, 1914 was sourced from *The Official Biography of Winston S. Churchill* volume 3, pp. 179-80. But the unedited diary entry includes Margot's conclusion, on Churchill's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday, November 30, 1914, that Winston Churchill '**had no political future**'! (source the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* volume 2, page 757, column 1.).

## Question 20

Who was [Eddie Marsh's great friend] about whom Churchill wrote the following obituary notice published by *The Times* on 26 April 1915?

[Eddie Marsh's great friend] is dead. A telegram from the Admiral at Lemnos tells us that his life has closed at the moment when it seemed to have reached its springtime. A voice had become audible, a note had been struck, more true, more thrilling, more able to do justice to the nobility of our youth in arms engaged in this present war, than any other—more able to express their thoughts of self-surrender, and with a power to carry comfort to those who watch them so intently from afar. The voice has been swiftly stilled. Only the echoes and the memory remain; but they will linger.

During the last few months of his life, months of preparation in gallant comradeship and open air, the poet-soldier told with all the simple force of genius, the sorrow of youth about to die, and the sure triumphant consolations of a sincere and valiant spirit. He expected to die; he was willing to die for the dear England whose beauty and majesty he knew; and he advanced towards the brink in perfect serenity, with absolute conviction of the rightness of his country's cause and a heart devoid of hate for fellow-men.

The thoughts to which he gave expression in the very few incomparable war sonnets which he has left behind will be shared by many thousands of young men moving resolutely and blithely forward into this, the hardest, the cruellest, and the least-rewarded of all the wars that men have fought.

They are a whole history and revelation of [Eddie Marsh's friend]—Joyous, fearless, versatile, deeply instructed, with classic symmetry of mind and body, ruled by high undoubting purpose, he was all that one would wish England's noblest sons to be in days when no sacrifice but the most precious is acceptable, and the most precious is that which is most freely proffered. (Source: Companion volume 3, Part 1, page 814, of *The Official Biography of Winston S. Churchill* volume 3.)

Question 20 (bis):

Who was [Eddie Marsh's great friend] about whom Churchill wrote this obituary notice published by *The Times* on 26 April 1915?



Answer to Question 20: the poet Rupert Brooke.

Before leaving Cairo for Lemnos, Sir Ian Hamilton had asked Rupert Brooke to join his staff. But Brooke shared the eagerness of his colleagues for action, and turned down the offer. While still in Egypt he was taken ill with sunstroke, but wrote confidently to Violet Asquith that he hoped to be well enough 'for our first thrust into the fray'.... From Egypt, Brooke proceeded with the Royal Naval Division to the Dardanelles, but he did not recover. 'There is bad news of Rupert,' Edward Marsh telegraphed to Violet Asquith on April 22; 'he is ill with blood-poisoning on a French hospital ship. Condition grave. I am hoping and will wire directly I hear more,'

Two days later he was dead. The news reached London on the eve of the Gallipoli landings. Churchill, who had met Brooke socially at 10 Downing Street, knew how great a friend he was both to Edward Marsh and to Violet Asquith; he was upset by Brooke's death, and angry with Marsh for not having introduced them sooner....(*The Official Biography of Winston S. Churchill* volume 3, p. 401)

Rupert Brooke's poem *The Soldier*, written in 1914, was his last poem:

If I should die, think only this of me:

That there's some corner of a foreign field  
That is forever England. There shall be  
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;  
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,  
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,  
A body of England's, breathing English air,  
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,

A pulse in the eternal mind, no less

Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England

given;  
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;  
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,  
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.



From a photograph by Stewart Schell

*Rupert Brooke*  
1913

(editorial note: in July 1918 Churchill's secretary Eddie Marsh compiled a book of Rupert Brooke's poems, with all the poems in chronological order—the earliest poems first. Eddie Marsh wrote a long memoir for the book, covering the whole of Rupert Brooke's short life—Brooke died at the age of twenty-eight.)

# RUPERT BROOKE

THE COLLECTED POEMS



WITH A MEMOIR BY  
**Edward Marsh**

## Question 21

Following the failure of the Dardanelles campaign in June 1915, Churchill decided to rent Hoe Farm, in a secluded wooded valley a few miles from Godalming. This turned out to be a fortuitous decision, as we learn from this

extract from *The Official Biography of Winston S. Churchill* volume 3, pages 501-2:

Churchill could not drive Gallipoli from his mind. Only the weekends offered the chance of a brief escape. “I am now off to Hoe Farm for the Sunday” he wrote to his brother...How I wish you could be there. It really is a delightful valley, and the garden gleams with summer jewellery. We live very simply—but with all the essentials of life well understood & well provided for—hot baths, cold champagne, new peas and old brandy.

[What was fortuitous about his escape to Hoe Farm? How did Hoe Farm change his life?](#)

**Answer to question 21: It was at Hoe Farm that Churchill first discovered the muse of painting.**

His sister-in-law Gwendoline Churchill set up her easel in the garden and began to sketch. Churchill was fascinated. Hoe Farm provided the inspiration. There was much to paint—the pond in front of the house, the winding, tree-lined drive, the rambling house with its jumble of roofs and chimneys, the sloping lawns, the woods beyond.

Churchill's experiments that Sunday were the beginning of a new experience—painting—which was to bring him comfort until the last years of his life. (*The Official Biography of Winston S. Churchill* volume 3, p. 502.)

#### Question 22

In which year did Churchill first issue a formal proposal for the development of a trench-spanning vehicle?

Answer: to Question 22: in September 1914.

The trench-spanning-vehicle was based on a caterpillar traction system—the precursor of the tank, which proved itself for the first time at the Battle of the Somme in September 1916. The most significant victory of the tank was at the Battle of Amiens in August 1918, which General Ludendorff referred to as ‘The Black Day’ of the German Army.

While Churchill initiated the concept of a caterpillar tank in the First World War, it was not until the Second World War that the Mark IV heavy duty infantry tank became known as the *Churchill* tank.

Question 23

What supreme event took place before the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918?

Answer to Question 23: At five o'clock on the morning of November 11, the German Armistice Commission finally accepted the Allied terms.

From Churchill's account in *The World Crisis* (his 6-volume history of the First World War):

I stood at the window of my room looking up Northumberland Avenue towards Trafalgar Square, waiting for Big Ben to tell that the War was over...Almost before the last stroke of the clock had died away... the regulated streets of London had become a triumphant pandemonium...

Who shall grudge or mock these overpowering entrancements? Every Allied nation shared them. Every victorious capital or city in the five continents reproduced in its own fashion the scenes and sounds of London. These hours were brief, their memory fleeting; they passed as suddenly as they had begun.

Too much blood had been spilt. Too much life-essence had been consumed. The gaps in every home were too wide and empty. The shock of an awakening and the sense of the disillusion followed swiftly upon the poor rejoicings with which hundreds of millions saluted the achievement of their hearts' desire.

There still remained the satisfactions of safety assured, of peace restored, of honour preserved, of the comforts of fruitful industry, of the home-coming of the soldiers; but these were in the background; and, with them all, there mingled the ache for those who would never come home. (*The Aftermath*, volume 5 of Churchill's *The World Crisis*.)

Question 24

What was the Declaration which occupied much of Churchill's time as Colonial Secretary between November 2, 1917 and 4 July, 1922?





Answer: to Question 24: The Balfour Declaration, the statement issued by the British government in November 1917 announcing support for the establishment of a **‘national home for the Jewish people in Palestine.’**

From the outset, Churchill was a strong supporter of the Balfour Declaration, which he defended during numerous meetings with Arab and Jewish delegations:

Churchill to an Arab delegation on March 14, 1921:

“You have asked me to repudiate the Balfour Declaration and to veto the immigration of Jews into Palestine. It is not in my power to do so, nor, where it is in my power, would it be my wish. The British Government have passed their word—that they will view with favour the establishment of a National Home for Jews in Palestine, and that inevitably involves the immigration of Jews into the country... (*The Official Biography of Winston S. Churchill* volume 4, pp 564-5)

If, instead of sharing miseries through quarrels you will share blessings through co-operation, a bright and tranquil future lies before your country. **The earth is a generous mother. She will produce in plentiful abundance for all her children if they will but cultivate her soil in justice and in peace.** (*The Official Biography of Winston S. Churchill* volume 4, page 566.)

The many meetings which Churchill had with Arabs and Zionists culminated in his speech in the House of Commons on July 4, 1922. In the face of strong and determined opposition Churchill had reaffirmed the Balfour Declaration as a basic feature of British policy. He had rejected the repeated Arab demands for a total end to Jewish immigration... He had spoken with admiration of all that the Jews had achieved in Palestine, of its potential, and of Britain’s determination to allow the Jewish National Home to grow and flourish under British protection. (*The Official Biography of Winston S. Churchill* volume 4, page 662.)

The House divided at the end of Churchill’s speech—his appeal had been successful. Only 35 votes were cast against the Government’s Palestine policy, and 292 in favour. (*The Official Biography of Winston S. Churchill* volume 4, page 659.)

The decisive vote in the House of Commons on July 4, 1922 was endorsed the same day by the League of Nations vote making the Balfour Declaration an integral part of the Palestine Mandate. (*The Official Biography of Winston S. Churchill* volume 4, page 660.)

**FINIS**