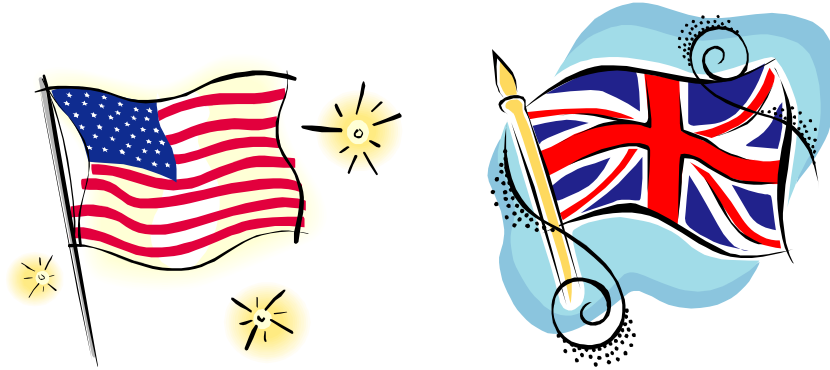


CHURCHILLIANS BY-THE-BAY
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THE GLOW-WORM

“We are all worms. But I do believe that I am a glow-worm.”

(Violet Bonham Carter, Winston Churchill as I Knew Him, page 16- WSC’s remark was made at a dinner given by Lady Mary Elcho.)

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Interspersed with various Churchilliana...

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AWESOME COURAGE OF THE D-DAY PIPER WHO THE NAZIS THOUGHT WAS MAD

By Sue Reid

Under the fire of Nazi guns and wading through a sea turning crimson with the blood of fallen colleagues, Bill Millin struggled towards the Normandy sands.

Waist deep in water, he led the commandos of the 1st Special Service Brigade on to the beach as they fought to their deaths on the most famous day of World War II.

Amid the clatter of battle and dreadful cries of the injured, Millin only just caught the five words that turned him into a hero. 'Give us "Highland Laddie" man!' shouted Lord Lovat, the charismatic Chief of Clan Fraser and Brigadier of the 2,500 commandos, who was determined to put some backbone into his invading forces.



Piper Bill Millin played again on the Normandy beaches to celebrate the the 35th anniversary of the D-Day Landings

Obediently, 21-year-old Millin, Lovatt's personal piper, put the mouthpiece of his bagpipes to his lips, ignored the carnage and thundering crash of gunfire - and played as he had never played before.

It was 8.40 on June 6 1944, the morning of D-day. In the largest amphibious assault ever mounted, 150,000 troops from Britain, America and Canada were landing along a 60-mile stretch of the Normandy coastline.

D-day was the turning point in the Allies' battle against Hitler. And the name of Bill Millin, who died this week aged 88, is intrinsically linked with the events of that early summer's day. He is a reminder of the bravery and sacrifice of ordinary soldiers as they fought to protect this nation from the Nazis. He will live for ever in the annals of history.



Bill Millin in 1944: The playing of the pipes lifted the spirits of hard-pressed British troops, and dumbfounded the German defenders

The French awarded him their Croix d'Honneur and plan to erect a statue to him close to the beach where he marched ashore - the most eastern of the beaches picked by the Allies for the invasion.

The long stretch of sand where his haunting music stirred his fellow soldiers into battle near the French town of Ouistreham was codenamed Sword, while the other four beaches to the west were Omaha, Gold, Utah and Juno.

By the time Millin landed, it had already been a tumultuous journey across the Channel. 'I had my pipes with me as we set off from England the night before,' he explained later. 'I had been playing to the troops waiting to board the landing craft as we went along the Hamble river, and then I put them back in the box.

'Lord Lovat said: "You better get them out again because you can play us out of the Solent and into the Channel. You will be in the leading craft with me." '

He stood at the front of the landing craft piping *The Road To The Isles*. When the commandos were just off the Isle of Wight, they met thousands of other boats and ships carrying troops. 'They heard the pipes, and they were throwing their hats in the air and cheering,' he remembered.

He only stopped playing because the waves had become choppy and he was losing his balance. 'After we left the Solent and were out in the Channel, the hatches on the landing craft were put down and we were very cramped.

There were some people playing cards, but most were violently sick, including myself. The next morning I pushed open the hatch and looked out at a grey dawn. The wind was blowing and freezing

'Then after another half an hour people were starting to get gear together, their rucksacks on and were making towards the front of the craft. We could see the mist of the French shoreline and the neat bungalows along the seafront.'



The only weapon Bill carried on D-day was a small dagger tucked into his sock

Bill continued: 'Everyone was checking their kit, and putting their kit on. I didn't think of being shot, how many Germans there were or anything other than the smell of seasickness on me. We all got up on deck and we stood in the freezing wind watching the shoreline. Then the order came to get ashore and I was very pleased.'

Lord Lovat, 32, jumped into the water first. Because Lovat was over 6ft tall, Bill waited to see what depth it was before going in. He said: 'My kilt floated to the surface and the shock of the freezing cold water knocked all feelings of sickness from me.'

Within seconds the commandos were being struck down by German mortar shells and machine-gun fire. One commando was

killed as Lovat got into the sea, his body floating up by Bill as he made for the shore.

Yet Lovat asked Bill to play again. He nearly refused. 'Well, when I looked round - the noise and people lying about on the ground, the shouting and the smoke, the crump of mortars,' he said later, 'I said to myself: "Well, you must be joking, surely."'

But Lovat insisted, and Bill said: 'Well, what tune would you like, Sir?'

'How about Highland Laddie and The Road To The Isles?' said Lovat, telling him to walk up and down the beach as he played.

Bill could see soldiers lying face down in the water as he played. 'Troops to my left were trying to dig in just off the beach,' he recalled. 'Yet when they heard the pipes, some of them stopped what they were doing and waved their arms, cheering.'

Lovat's commandos were heavily machine-gunned and mortared, but had a vital objective and pressed on. They had orders to link up with the British 6th Airborne division and keep secure a strategically vital bridge over the Caen Canal three miles down a road full of German snipers beyond Sword beach.

The airborne division had captured the bridge in the early hours that day in an assault later immortalised in the classic film *The Longest Day*, in which the part of Millin was played by Pipe Major Leslie de Laspee, the official piper to the Queen Mother. The 180-strong company airborne division, led by Major John Howard, swooped at dawn in gliders.

The crossing was later renamed Pegasus Bridge, after the flying horse shoulder emblem worn by British airborne forces.

The attack took the Germans completely by surprise and stopped them from swarming over the bridge and towards Sword beach.

It also allowed the invading soldiers to push across the bridge and make their way through France.

Throughout that morning, the airborne division had to repel repeated counter-attacks at Pegasus, which was surrounded by Panzer divisions. And by early afternoon, the jaded British troops were urgently needing help from Lovat and his commandos.

Suddenly, at 1 pm, there was the sound of bagpipes. With Bill Millin playing Lovat's favourite tune *Blue Bonnets Over The Border*, the commandos marched into view. despite heavy German fire, as the red berets of the airborne division and the green berets of the commandos mingled there was a lightening of spirits.

Major Howard approached Lovat. Holding out his hand, he said: 'We are very pleased to see you, old boy.' Lovat responded: 'Yes, and sorry we are two and a-half minutes late.'

The commandos went over the bridge to confront the Germans - with Bill Millin playing his pipes as brave as a lion leading the way.

'not once did I think I was going to die,' said Bill afterwards. 'I was too busy playing. We had been attacked by snipers once we left Sword Beach, particularly from cornfields on the right of the road. 'At one point I glanced round, stopped playing and everyone was face down on the road. even Lovat was on one knee. Then the next thing this sniper comes scrambling down from a tree and Lovat and our group dash forward.

'We could see this sniper's head bobbing about in the cornfield. Lovat shot at him and he fell. Lovat sent two men into the cornfield to see what had happened, and they brought back the dead body.'

Remarkably, the only weapon Bill carried that long day was a Scottish dirk in his sock. He survived unscathed. The Germans put a hole in his bagpipes with shrapnel. So he just pulled a spare set out of his rucksack.

The great mystery is why the Germans didn't gun him down. He couldn't have been more conspicuous in full Highland dress and with blaring bagpipes.

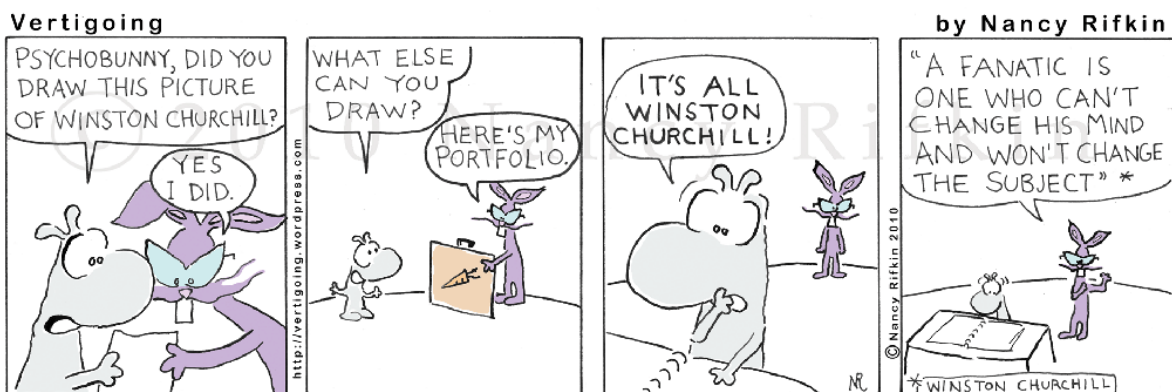
Pipers were banned in conflict zones after World War I because so many died. Lovat's orders for Bill to play on d-day breached all Army rules.

It would take Bill more than 40 years to find out why he survived. He said: 'I met a German commander at a d-day reunion and asked why they hadn't shot me.

'The commander just tapped his head and said "We thought you were a 'Dummkopf ', or off your head. Why waste bullets on a Dummkopf?"

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1304597/Awesome-courage-Bill-Millin--D-Day-piper-Nazis-thought-mad.html#ixzz0xJ5o7o8O>

The Winston Churchill Cartoon



Remembering the Battle of Britain

LONDON

Wed Jun 23, 2010 1:22pm BST

(Reuters) - As the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain approaches this summer, the last of Winston Churchill's "few who saved the many" have been recalling their experiences.

Their memories of those 13 terrifying weeks in 1940 which saw 2,500 young pilots pitted against the might of the Luftwaffe have been collected in a new book by oral historian Max Arthur.

Some of those involved, now in their 80s and 90s, gathered in London this week for the launch of "Last of the Few," published by Virgin Books.

Here are some extracts from the book:

-- Flying Officer Al Deere (New Zealander)

"We used to try and get up above them and come in from out of the sun but it didn't always work that way. Sometimes you didn't see them -- they were somewhere up in the sun. When you became engaged it was every man for himself. One minute there were Spitfires and Me 109s going round in circles; the next you were all by yourself. That was if you were still there."

-- Pilot Officer Frank Carey

"I was attacking a Do 17 and it did a snap half-roll, which was an extraordinary thing for a kite of that size to do. I did the same and followed it closely down. It was nearly vertical; in fact, the pilot was dead, I think, because it just went straight on in.

But before I'd realised that, the rear-gunner fired and hit me well and truly. Stupidly, perhaps, I'd been following it rather closely because it was such a fast aircraft and I knew it could get away from me.

If I'd known the pilot was dead, of course, I wouldn't have bothered. Then I was busy getting myself down.

First of all, I was on fire. So I thought, 'Right, I must get out.' I thought what had I had to do in my mind, pulled the thing up into nearly a stall, and stood up. Of course with a 100 mph drag over me I got thrown back, and my parachute pack got caught up in the hood

The aircraft slowly got itself into a dive, and the faster it went, the harder it was for me to get out. My ticker was going at a fairly fast rate; but at least the fire seemed to have gone out and I was able to select a big ploughed field and had no difficulty getting it down."

-- Flight Lieutenant James Brindley Nicolson

"July 16 was a glorious day. The sun was shining from a cloudless sky and there was hardly a breath of wind anywhere.

Suddenly, very close, in rapid succession, I heard four big bangs. They were the loudest noises I'd ever heard and they had been made by four cannon shells from an Me 110 hitting my machine. The first shell tore through the hood over my cockpit and sent splinters into my left eye, nearly severing my eyelid -- couldn't see through that eye for blood. The second shell struck my spare petrol tank and set it on fire. The third tore off my left trouser leg and the fourth struck the back of my left shoe, shattering the heel and making quite a mess of my left foot.

The effect was to make me dive away to the right. Then I started cursing myself for my carelessness. I was just thinking of jumping out when an Me 110 whizzed underneath me, right into my gunsights. He was going like mad, twisting and turning as he tried to get away from my fire.

Both of us must have been doing about 400 mph as we went down together in the dive. I remember shouting out loud at him: 'I'll teach you some manners, you Hun!'

-- Flight Lieutenant Robert Stanford Tuck

"The last affair was a regular shooting match. I arrived back at base with no oil, no glycol and the sliding hood and side door of my Spitfire shot away. I had a cannon shot through the tail which left only two inches' play on the elevators with which to land -- and I had no flaps, no brakes and a flat tyre.

I did somehow manage to put it down all right, and as I finished my landing run, the engine seized up. That Spitfire was too shot up and damaged to fly again, but I was lucky enough to escape with only a slight wound in the thigh, caused by a piece of metal flying off the rudder bar.

(Reporting by Sophie Wettern; Editing by Steve Addison)



On the Battle of Britain: Faced with the British opposition Nazi commander Hermann Goering said: "We'd forgotten the English fought best with their backs to the wall."



Scare Winston Churchill photo of the British Prime Minister wearing sunglasses and holding a cigar on a Naval Warship during World War II. Stapled information sheet dated 12 June 1944 has Army Photographic Agency stamp and states that the ship is taking him to the headquarters of General Montgomery.

“Is Paris Burning?” –Hitler

August 25, 1944 Paris is liberated



The British General Election 1945
Introduction



Outside Buckingham Palace to cheers as Winston Churchill with King George and Queen Elizabeth alongside Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret addressed the crowds.

On VE-Day, May 8 1945, following the surrender of Germany, Churchill could relish the success of his endeavors since he had become Prime Minister five years before. Wherever he went that day he was given a hero's welcome.

The diarist Harold Nicolson, who was then an MP, noted that when Churchill came into the House of Commons: 'The House rose as a man, and yelled and yelled and waved their order papers'. He proposed a motion identical to one which the House

had carried on November 11 1918: ‘That this House do now attend at the Church of St. Margaret, Westminster to give humble and reverent thanks to Almighty God for our deliverance from the threat of German domination’. Nicolson noted: ‘... the motion was carried ...following the Speaker, we all strode out ...into the sunshine... We entered St. Margaret’s by the West door which ...meant a long and sinuous procession through a lane kept open for us through the crowd. I had expected jeers or tittering since politicians are not popular... But not at all. Cheers were what we received and adulation.’¹ That evening Churchill spoke from a Whitehall balcony to a huge crowd celebrating the victory. When he told them: ‘This is your victory’ they roared back as in unison: ‘No it is yours.’

In his victory broadcast, Churchill had warned: ‘Japan, with all her treachery and greed remains unsubdued’. On May 18 he agreed with Clement Attlee, the Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the Labour Party and other senior Labour Ministers in his Government that the all-party Coalition should stay in office until Japan was defeated. However the Labour party’s National Executive Committee influenced by Herbert Morrison, their Deputy Leader who largely controlled the party machine, decided that Labour should leave the Coalition, a conclusion ratified two days later by the party’s annual conference.² On May 23 Churchill resigned. At the King’s request, he formed a Caretaker Government of Conservative and non-party ministers which would hold power until a General Election, the first since 1935, set for July 5, could be held to allow sufficient time for the votes of the armed services to be collected, the count would take place on July 26, three weeks after polling day.

On May 26 Churchill took the Conservatives into battle against Labour in his first General Election as Prime Minister. Most

pundits, including Attlee, had expected 'Winnie' to win but within two months of his triumphant reception on VE-Day, and, to almost everyone's surprise, Churchill was defeated in one of the biggest electoral landslides in British history. Labour had won almost 50% of the popular vote and a handsome majority of nearly 200 seats in Parliament.

To many people Churchill's stunning defeat epitomizes an amazing act of ingratitude by the British electorate to the man who had rescued them from 'the threat of German domination.' To explain the landslide, David Ramsay and Jim Lancaster have looked at both sides. David explores why the Conservatives lost the election. Jim looks at why Labour won. It is a fascinating story, one which confounds some of the 'instant' reasons suggested at the time. When in charge of supreme affairs during the war, Churchill had, to quote Gladstone, stayed 'high and dry above the ebb and flow of party politics.' But he had fought many campaigns during his long career, wearing different party hats. He won some and he lost some. He knew better than most that when one descends into the party arena, anything can happen.

David and Jim will explain why 'anything happened'.

Editor, Glow-Worm

1. Nicolson Nigel, The Diaries and Letters of Harold Nicolson Vol. II, The War Years 1939-1945, p.457

2. Addison Paul, The Road to 1945, 1994 edition, p.257

Why the Conservatives Lost *by David Ramsay*



Several reasons can be advanced for this unexpected landslide defeat.

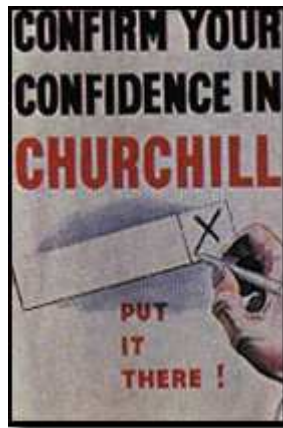
Firstly, in 1945 the Conservative Party had effectively been in power for twenty-seven of the previous thirty years: an almost unprecedented span. Andrew Bonar Law, one of their most effective leaders, had provided the votes to sustain the Lloyd George Coalition during and after World War I. The last General Election had been held in 1935. Consequently anyone under 31 in 1945, many of whom

had no political adherence, was voting for the first time. The Party had enjoyed power for too long and it was time for a swing of the pendulum.

Secondly, the Conservative Party was blamed for the pre-war National (mainly Conservative) Government's policy of appeasing Nazi Germany and particularly for Neville Chamberlain's betrayal of Czechoslovakia at Munich, although Churchill had vigorously opposed appeasement. The Labour Party's record was equally undistinguished. George Lansbury, its Leader until 1935, was a pacifist and under his successor, Clement Attlee, it had consistently opposed every measure of rearmament until 1937.

A book entitled *Guilty Men* written under the pen name Cato and published in July 1940 sold 200,000 copies in a few weeks. Its anonymous authors were three journalists on the London Evening Standard, among them Michael Foot, the future leader of the Labour Party and Frank Owen (a former left-wing Liberal MP and a biographer of Lloyd George). The book was a vitriolic attack on Chamberlain and his Government and his predecessors as Prime Minister, Baldwin and Macdonald, blaming appeasement for British military weakness and the Dunkirk evacuation. It was also a one-sided left-wing polemic which ignored Labour's opposition to rearmament or that, after meeting Hitler in 1936, Lloyd George had described him as 'the George Washington of Germany.' Although Foot admitted years later to the book's 'unrelenting crudity' *Guilty*

Men had a profound impact and was undoubtedly a factor in the electoral defeat. One of Churchill's biographers, Geoffrey Best, concluded that the Conservatives had lost the election long before 1945.¹ The future Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan, himself an opponent of appeasement, noted: 'It was not Churchill who lost us the election ... if anything we could have got through clinging on to his coat tails -it was the shadow of Neville Chamberlain.'²



Thirdly, conventional opinion believed that the military vote was responsible for the Conservative defeat, citing the influence of the Army Bureau of Current Affairs (ABCA), whose staff was predominantly left-wing (Frank Owen, the co-author of *Guilty Men*, edited the newspaper in South East Asia Command). ABCA produced newspapers and pamphlets, effectively the only media available to those serving overseas, and arranged discussion meetings on post-war issues. The leftward trend in service opinion had not gone unnoticed: Lord Queensberry, who ran a popular club for the forces in London, told Churchill's Secretary, Jock Colville, that

eighty percent of the soldiers who visited his club stated that they would vote Labour. ³

Although about 3 million ballot forms were distributed to them, only about 1,700,000 servicemen actually voted. As Labour received nearly 12 million votes and the Conservatives and their allies only 9,400,000, the service vote was not the deciding factor in their victory.

In reality civilian electors had been exposed to similar and probably more powerful influences. Britain had moved to the left during the war years. The circulation of the leading left-wing newspaper, the tabloid Daily Mirror had increased from 1,750,000 in 1939 to 3,000,000 by 1947. The editorial policy of The Times, the organ of the British Establishment, on home affairs shifted sharply left. By December 1943 the circulation of the popular photo-magazine Picture Post, edited by a Labour supporter, Tom Hopkinson, had reached 1,950,000. The Left Book Club, the publishers of *Guilty Men*, sent its nearly 60,000 members a newsletter and a book by a Socialist author every month, and organised 1,500 local Left Discussion Groups. The combined influence of these publishers was formidable.

After Chamberlain, struck down by terminal cancer, retired in October 1940, Churchill succeeded him as leader of the Conservative party. Colville noted: 'He was certainly not conservative by temperament' ⁴

He was never comfortable with the party leaders and concentrated most of his attention on pursuing the war, leaving other issues to his colleagues in the War Cabinet. Its three Labour members, Attlee, Morrison and Ernest Bevin, the Minister of Labour, increasingly influenced the Coalition's internal policies. It commissioned a series of reports on social issues, notably the Beveridge Report on National Insurance (the British term for Social Security) published in 1942. Beveridge's recommendation for a universal cradle-to-grave insurance system was enthusiastically welcomed by Labour but Churchill, aware of the Treasury view that the system could not be afforded in Britain's economic situation, was lukewarm and the Conservative Party as a whole hostile. Even Macmillan, on the Party's progressive wing, considered Beveridge 'extravagant.'⁵ In the event the Coalition arrived at a consensus on the reforms for which Lord Woolton, the Minister of Reconstruction and formerly the successful and popular Minister of Food, who then had no party allegiance, must take much of the recognition.

In 1943 Gallup polls put Labour ahead of the Conservatives by between 7 and 11%. Between 1942 and 1945, the Conservatives lost a series of by-elections to left-wing candidates, either independents or members of the recently formed Common Wealth Party. Interestingly Attlee discounted the polls and by-elections as passing phenomena: seemingly accepting the widely-held opinion that Churchill, as the victor of the war, would sweep to power as

Lloyd George had in 1918. After the election he told Colville that he had expected a Conservative majority of at least 40 seats.

The Common Wealth Party election organizer expressed a different reaction: '...our speakers ...would make reference to Churchill's war record and debt owed to him by the people of this country. Great and enthusiastic applause always followed. Then they would say that despite his services to the nation ... neither Churchill nor any other man had the right to dictate to the people how they should vote. Invariably this brought even greater applause.' ⁶ The inference was clear. Although Churchill was greatly admired, people would not necessarily vote Conservative even if he was the party's leader. Finally, the Conservatives fought an unduly negative campaign, directed by two of Churchill's ministers, Lord Beaverbrook and Brendan Bracken. The perceptive Colville noted: '... they are both utterly mischievous and will do the Conservative Party countless harm at this election. (They) are firing vast salvos which mostly ... miss their mark. Without Winston's personal prestige the Tories would not have a chance. Even with him I am not sanguine of their prospects ...the housing shortage has left many people disgruntled.' ⁷ The Conservative campaign derided Labour on two counts; firstly, as extremists although Morrison had drafted their manifesto to appeal to centrist voters and overlooking the Coalition's consensus on social reforms, including the 1944 Education Act, the work of a rising Conservative star RA Butler. Secondly, they were disparaged as inexperienced, ignoring the significant contribution Labour Ministers

had made to the Coalition. Morrison had also been a successful Leader of the London County Council, roughly equivalent to Governor of New York.

In his first election broadcast, which he had drafted without any input from Beaverbrook or Bracken, Churchill asserted that a Labour Government would bring in 'some form of Gestapo' and that 'Socialism was inseparably interwoven with Totalitarianism.' Clementine Churchill, whose views were often sound, had tried unavailingly to get him to delete this reference. His use of the pejorative word Gestapo to describe a party led by the essentially moderate Attlee was widely criticized. It was a blunder of the first magnitude which enabled Attlee to make a damaging reply a day later, emphasising the difference between Churchill as 'the great leader in war of a united nation' and as 'the party leader of the Conservatives'.

Nevertheless, the Opinion Polls showed a swing to the Conservatives during the campaign: a Labour lead of 16% on May 28, (when the election was announced) had dropped to 4% by polling day for which Churchill must take most of the credit. He was greeted enthusiastically by large crowds wherever he went during his campaign, even in areas which were to vote Labour. Electors were possibly unwilling to reveal their intention to vote against Churchill. Incredibly some Labour supporters failed to realize that they were voting against him. In contrast those Conservatives who did take to the stump were severely heckled.

A Woman's Royal Naval Service officer, who had served on my father's staff and was stationed in Germany in July 1945, told me that she and most of her wardroom colleagues, who had not been able to follow the campaign, had voted Labour purely because they wanted a change. Many other electors, particularly those voting for the first time, must have thought as they did. Indeed two experienced pollsters concluded that about 60% of these new electors had voted Labour.

Labour's effective campaign gave the party credibility with an electorate which was looking to the future while, despite Churchill's incomparable war record, the Conservatives were seen as yesterday's men and out of touch with public opinion.



General elections that linger in the memory include 1945, when Clement Attlee's Labour pulled off a surprise defeat of Winston Churchill's Tories. Photograph: Hulton Archive.

1. Best, Geoffrey, *Churchill A Study in Greatness*, pp. 268-269
2. Horne, Alastair, *Harold Macmillan 1894-1956*, p.281
3. Colville, John, *The Fringes of Power Downing Street Diaries*, p.128
4. *ibid*, p. 605
5. Addison, Paul, *The Road to 1945*, p. 233
6. *ibid*, p. 252
7. Colville, John, pp 604 & 607

David can be contacted with any questions or comments at: rambo85@aol.com

Why Labour Won the 1945 General Election

by James R Lancaster

On June 3rd 1944, three days before the invasion of Normandy, Churchill and Bevin, the Minister of Labour, set off on a launch on Southampton Water to see the embarkation of troops from the Tyneside Division. Some of them called out: “Look after the missus and kids, Ernie.” Bevin was profoundly moved, only too aware of the fierce battle these men would soon be facing on the other side of the channel. He told the tale a few weeks later, on June 21st, in the House of Commons:

With my right hon. friend the Prime Minister, I had an opportunity of visiting one of our ports and seeing the men of the 50th Northumbrian Division among others, going aboard ship—gallant men, brave men with no complaint. They were going off to face this terrific battle, with great hearts and great courage. The one question they put to me when I went through their ranks was, “Ernie, when we have done this job for you, are we going back to the dole?”

This little-known exchange goes a long way towards explaining why Labour won the 1945 election. Bevin had been explicitly invited by Churchill because, as Minister of Labour and National Service, his contribution over five long years of war had been massive. That the ‘other ranks’ recognised Ernie immediately is hardly surprising — the “working-class John Bull” was the most popular man in the Labour party.

The background to this anecdote goes back more than twenty years, to the end of the First World War. Lloyd George’s promise of “A land fit for heroes to live in” during the ‘Khaki’ election in November/December 1918 had proved shallow and worthless. A soldier’s account:

Many’s the time I’ve gone to bed, after a day of ‘tramp, tramp’ looking for work, on a cup of cocoa and a pennyworth of chips between us; I would lay puzzling why, why, after all we had gone through in the service of our country, we have to suffer such poverty, willing to work at anything but no work to be had.

The great deception after the end of the 'War to end all wars' was still very much alive in the memories of many voters when they went to the polling booth on July 5th 1945. The Daily Mirror published the following cartoon 'without apology' the day following the long-awaited German surrender:



The well-known cartoon by Philip Zec published in the Daily Mirror on VE-Day, 8 May 1945

It must be remembered that by 1945 the Conservatives had been in power for most of the inter-war years, during which time unemployment had never dropped below 1.5 million. And the last general election had been ten years ago, in 1935. In that year the

Labour party recovered significantly from the debacle of 1931. It was a recovery which went from strength to strength, assisted by an undercurrent for improved social conditions. Such changes are not always perceptible at the time; it is only in the after-light that they become self-evident. Winston Churchill, a few weeks after the Labour victory in 1945, wrote:

I must confess I found the event of Thursday [July 26th, 1945 when the election results were declared] rather odd and queer; especially after the wonderful welcomes I had from all classes. There was something pent-up in the British people after twenty years which required relief.

This swing to the left was helped on its way by the launch of *Picture Post* on the news-stands of Britain in 1938. Influenced by the success of *Life*, founded in America in 1936 by Henry Luce, *Picture Post* became an instant publishing success, reaching a circulation of over 1.6 million in only a few months.

But there was more to this new publication than the enticing attractions of photo-journalism. Edward Hulton, its wealthy founder and publisher, was a Conservative interested in social reform. The editor, Tom Hopkinson, turned *Picture Post* into a magazine interested in the lives of ordinary people. Here is the cover of the first edition, ‘a kind of printed television’, launched on 1 October 1938:



The cover of the first issue of *Picture Post*, 1 October 1938

One of its contributors, J.B. Priestley, was also a popular broadcaster on the BBC, his northern accent going down well with many folk, north and south. Graham Greene said of his talks: “He became in the months

after Dunkirk a leader second only in importance to Mr. Churchill. And he gave us what our other leaders have always failed to give us — an ideology.” In his book *Out of the People*, published in 1941, Priestley wrote about the effects of the Blitz:

“Men and women with a gift of leadership now turn up in unexpected places. The new ordeals blast away the old shams. Britain, which in the years immediately before this war was rapidly losing such democratic virtues as it possessed, is now being bombed and burned into democracy . . . The war has brought into existence, through the enormous organisation of civilian defence services, a new democratic factor of the utmost importance.”

Priestley was not alone in noticing the social levelling phenomenon of the Blitz, and the anger of the people against the “idle drifting into disaster” during the self-deluding administrations of MacDonal, Baldwin and Chamberlain. Commentators from all sides of the political spectrum noticed the same thing, and welcomed it. One could even speak to people without being introduced, as one posh lady remarked. And the phenomenon did not end when the bombing stopped after Germany’s invasion of Russia in June 1941. The egalitarianism of the ration book, and the share-and-share-alike on the home front during the six long years of the Second World War, heralded a major change in social attitudes. Everyone, young and old, did their bit:



A small boy contributes his bath towards aluminium for a new aircraft

The victory at El Alamein in November 1942 may have been ‘the end of the beginning’ to use Churchill’s well-known phrase; it was also ‘the end of the beginning’ on the road to Labour’s electoral victory in 1945.

It was the turning point. Only three weeks later, on December 1st 1942, William Beveridge published his famous report *Social Insurance and Allied Services*. Churchill, who thought that Beveridge was ‘an awful windbag and a dreamer’, was less than enthusiastic. Even Attlee, the leader of the Labour party, said at the time: “He [Beveridge] seemed to think that the war ought to stop while he put his plan into effect.” Despite Beveridge being a Liberal, his ‘New Jerusalem’ was accepted as Labour’s blueprint for the key social legislation enacted during the 1945-1950 Labour Government.

Although the Beveridge Report was a best-seller, the leadership of the Labour party wisely kept it in perspective. The Party was in complete agreement with Churchill — winning the war was the first priority. To this end, Labour leadership was consistent during the five years of the coalition. It hardly ever put a foot wrong. It controlled the extreme left-wing elements in the Party, and kept its distance from Trotskyites and similar trouble-makers. When the Communist party summoned a ‘People’s Convention’ in January 1941 to agitate against the war, Herbert Morrison (Labour) as Minister for Home Security immediately banned the Party’s paper the *Daily Worker*. As Deputy Prime Minister, Attlee kept a tight ship for the duration — one more reason for the Party’s electoral victory in July 1945.

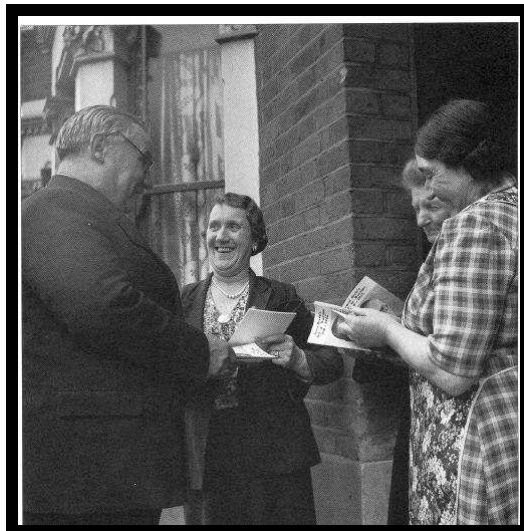
While party politics were kept to a minimum, both by the Conservatives and by Labour, the period between December 1942 and July 1945 showed a consistent leftward trend. The Conservative party lost several key by-elections. The opinion polls showed a Labour lead of 7% in June 1943, rising to 11% in July, and to 13% in November. By the time of the 1945 election the polls showed a Labour lead of 16% on May 28th, falling dramatically to 9% on June 18th and to only 6% on July 4th, the eve of polling day. The explanation for the last-minute Conservative revival is almost certainly the ‘Churchill’ factor, not only his BBC broadcasts, but also his triumphal five-day campaign trip.

The lead-up to the 1945 election campaign started with Labour’s decision, on October 6th 1944, to fight the general election as an independent party. Following Churchill’s formation of the Caretaker Government on May 23rd 1945 the starting gun was fired for the campaign.



One of the Labour election posters in June 1945

Labour had used the intervening months wisely and well — good campaign management from the grass roots to the top. The support of the *Daily Mirror*, the *Daily Herald* and the *News Chronicle* was of course critically important. More surprising was the support of *The Times* and the *Economist*, both papers having the highest regard for the one figure of ‘real eminence’ in the Party — the Minister of Labour, Mr. Ernest Bevin.



Ernest Bevin canvassing in Wandsworth, London, in June 1945

Picture Post

They were right. ‘Ernie’ Bevin, who had left school when he was only eleven years old, was identified right across the spectrum as Labour’s hero of the coalition Government. His record after five long years as Minister of Labour was remarkable; a colossal performance praised with grateful thanks on several occasions by Winston Churchill.

By June 1945 Bevin had become the ‘Churchill’ of the Labour Party. When the results of the election were declared on July 26th 1945 — a landslide victory — it was the working-class bulldog from Bristol who, against the odds of a lifetime, played the key role in winning the election for “his people” and for Labour.

The long tide of history however belongs to Clement Attlee, the leader of the Labour party since 1935. For twenty years — in opposition, in the Coalition Government, and finally in power — he managed an often tempestuous set of players with consummate skill. He was an emollient chairman and he was not without a sense of humor. On becoming a Knight of the Garter on 24 June 1956 he wrote an amusing limerick about himself:

Few thought he was even a starter
 There were many who thought themselves smarter
 But he ended PM
 CH and OM
 An Earl and a Knight of the Garter

(PM=Prime Minister, CH=Companion of Honour, and OM=Order of Merit. The Order of Merit is in the sole gift of the Sovereign)

Postscript

George Orwell, who famously described himself as a lower-upper-middle class Socialist, had admired Churchill throughout the war years, even if he hoped ardently for a Labour victory in July 1945.

It so happens that his last piece of writing to be completed was a review of Churchill’s second volume of war memoirs *Their Finest Hour*. It was written in a sanatorium in Gloucestershire in April 1949, and published in the *New Leader*, New York, on May 14th. He died on 21 January 1950.

At the end of the review Orwell tells how it was rumoured that in his “we shall fight in the fields and in the streets” speech after the Dunkirk evacuation in June 1940, Winston had added as an aside “We’ll throw bottles at the b...s, it’s about all we’ve got left.” Orwell ended his review with this generous reflection:

One may assume that this story is untrue, but at the time it was felt that it ought to be true. It was a fitting tribute from ordinary people to the tough and humorous old man whom they would not accept as a peace-time leader, but whom in the moment of disaster they felt to be representative of themselves.

Jim Lancaster

Note from the Editor of Glow-Worm:

If you are interested in reading the source notes for this article, send an email to the author:

jim@JRLancaster.com

He will send you the annotated version as an email attachment.

The British General Election Finis

Two days after polling day Churchill and Clementine with their youngest daughter Mary flew to Bordeaux for a brief holiday, their first since before the war, at Hendaye near the Spanish border. On July 15 Churchill and Mary flew on to Berlin for the Potsdam Conference. He had invited Attlee to join the British delegation ‘so that there should be no break in his knowledge of affairs’¹ On July 25 Churchill and Attlee flew back to London for the count of the Election vote the next day. He

accepted the Conservative Central Office's view that the Party would be returned with a comfortable majority. He wrote:

'My hope was that it would be possible to reconstitute the National Coalition Government in the proportions of the new House of Commons. Thus slumber. However, just before dawn, I woke suddenly with a sharp stab of almost physical pain. A hitherto subconscious conviction that we were beaten broke forth and dominated my mind. All the pressure of great events, on and against which I had mentally maintained my "flying speed" would cease and I should fall. The knowledge and experience I had gathered, the authority and goodwill I had gained in so many countries would vanish. I was discontented at the prospect and turned over at once to sleep again, I did not wake until nine o'clock and when I went into the Map Room the first results had begun to come in. They were, as I now expected, unfavourable. By noon it was clear that the Socialists would have a majority. At luncheon my wife said to me: "It may well be a blessing in disguise" I replied: "Well, at the moment, it seems quite effectively disguised." ²

Mary wrote poignantly in her diary:

'We lunched in Stygian gloom ...

Papa struggled to accept this terrible blow-this unforeseen landslide But not for one moment in that awful day did Papa flinch or waver.

'It is the will of the people' -robust-controlled –

All the Staff and all our friends looked stunned & miserable'. ³

At seven o'clock that evening Churchill went to the Palace and tendered his resignation. He sent this masterful message, in which his greatness shines out so clearly, to the people of Britain:

'The decision of the British people has been recorded in the votes counted today. I have therefore laid down the charge which was placed on me in darker times... It only remains for me to express to the British people, for whom I have acted in these perilous years, my profound gratitude for the unflinching, unswerving support which they have given me during their task, and for the many expressions of kindness they have shown towards their servant.' ⁴

His message was broadcast on the BBC. After hearing it, General Sir Hastings ‘Pug’ Ismay, who had served Churchill so well as his Military Chief of Staff and who had on the previous day flown back with him and Attlee, was moved to write: ‘The British people the world over should thank God that in their time of trouble their principal servant was the greatest Englishman of his time, perhaps the greatest of all time’.

With this message, Churchill ended his epic six volume work *The Second World War*, adding one more word: FINIS.

1. Churchill, Winston S., *The Second World War Vol. 6*, p .521
2. *ibid*, p. 583
3. Soames, Mary, *Clementine Churchill The Portrait of a Marriage*, p. 424
4. Churchill, p.584

APPEASEMENT

29 September 1938 at ‘The Other Club’

Walter Edward Guinness, 1st Baron Moyne’s ties to Churchill were strengthened through 'The Other Club', an informal dining club for politicians in London that Churchill had founded in 1911, which Moyne later joined. A rule was that members had to freely express their opinions. Moyne was there on 29 September 1938 when the bad news came of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's capitulation to Hitler at Munich. Also present were Brendan Bracken, Lloyd George, Bob Boothby, Duff Cooper, J.L. Garvin, editor of *The Observer*, and Walter Elliot. "Winston ranted and raved, venting his spleen on the two government ministers present and demanding to know how they could support a policy that was 'sordid, squalid, sub-human and suicidal'."^[26] At that time, they still shared the minority view in parliament; the majority agreed with Moyne's cousin-in-law 'Chips' Channon MP, who recorded about

Munich that 'the whole world rejoices whilst only a few malcontents jeer.'^[27]

26. Wilson, D. A. (1998). *Dark and light*. London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson. p. 150. ISBN 0297817183.

27. Channon, H.; James, R.R. (1967). *Chips: the diaries of Sir Henry Channon*. London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson. pp. 172–173. OCLC 53427734.

Churchill On Appeasement

“Appeasement in itself may be good or bad according to the circumstances. Appeasement from weakness and fear is alike futile and fatal. Appeasement from strength is magnanimous and noble, and might be the surest and perhaps the only path to world peace. When nations or individuals get strong they are often truculent and bullying, but when they are weak they become better mannered. But this is the reverse of what is healthy and wise.”

➤ House of Commons, 14 December 1950

“The word ‘appeasement’ is not popular, but appeasement has its place in all policy. Make sure you put it in the right place. Appease the weak, defy the strong. It is a terrible thing for a famous nation like Britain to do it the wrong way round.”

➤ Backbench Luncheon, 16 May 1950

“...if you will not fight for right when you can easily win without bloodshed; if you will not fight when your victory is sure and not too costly; you may come to the moment when you will have to fight with all the odds against you and only a precarious chance of survival. There may even be a worse case. You may have to fight when there is no hope of victory, because it is better to perish than to live as slaves.”

➤ *WWII, vol.1 The Gathering Storm, p.272 Cassell*

“...there is no evil worse than submitting to wrong and violence for fear of war. Once you take the position of not being able in any circumstances to defend your rights against the aggression of some particular set of people, there is no end to the demands that will be made or to the humiliations that must be accepted.”

➤ Letter to Stanley Baldwin, 22 January 1927

Five Best Books About Appeasement
--Bruce Bawer selects powerful books about appeasement

Guilty Men

By "Cato"

Frederick A. Stokes, 1940

This brief, impassioned j'accuse, written under the pseudonym Cato by British journalists Michael Foot, Peter Howard and Frank Owen, was churned out and published at lightning speed in July 1940, a month after the British escape at Dunkirk from the German army

advancing through France. It was a fateful moment, as Foot recalled in a 1988 preface, when the "shameful" era of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's feckless leadership had ended and "English people could look into each other's eyes with recovered pride and courage." To read "Guilty Men" now is to feel Englishmen's shock at the might of the Nazi war machine and to share the authors' rage at the obtuseness of the appeasers (Chamberlain and 14 others are listed) who sweet-talked Hitler in Munich, agreeing in 1938 to let him annex part of Czechoslovakia, and mocked Winston Churchill for assailing conciliation and urging rearmament. This urgent piece of journalism made appeasement and Chamberlain's infamous claim, upon returning from Munich, of having secured "peace in our time" synonymous with naïveté and cowardice.

2. Munich, 1938

By David Faber

Simon & Schuster, 2009

Many fine histories of the fruitless attempts to avoid war by appeasing Hitler in the 1930s have been written, but none is more riveting—and more packed with revealing detail—than David Faber's meticulously researched "Munich, 1938." In one vividly reconstructed episode after another, Faber brings to life the fatuity of trying to placate a bellicose dictator. Meeting Hitler, British cabinet member Lord Halifax obsequiously extols his "achievements" and comes away praising his charm—while Hitler comes away reassured that he's dealing with craven fools who won't thwart his plans. Echoes of the present abound: In an episode that recalls the 2005 Danish cartoon crisis, British authorities, informed that

Hitler doesn't like the caricatures of him in the Evening Standard newspaper, order the offending cartoonist to stop. Rich in illuminating portraits and dramatic confrontations—and effective in its alternating narratives of Downing Street shilly-shallying and ruthless plotting at Berchtesgaden—this book makes it impossible to buy the revisionist argument (served up most famously in A.J.P. Taylor's 1961 "Origins of the Second World War") that appeasement was actually a smart policy.

3. Chamberlain and Appeasement

**By R.A.C. Parker
Macmillan, 1993**

Among the more readable academic works on the appeasement of Hitler and perhaps the most sensible of those that take revisionist arguments seriously, this study by an Oxford historian rejects the standard view that Chamberlain was a coward or fool, arguing that "in 1938 and after Chamberlain was probably wrong and Churchill probably right; but Chamberlain had good reasons for his moves into disaster." Though ultimately unpersuasive, Parker does a skillful job of putting the best possible face on Chamberlain's actions and, in doing so, offers a useful window on revisionist thinking. Not that Parker, in the end, is a true revisionist: As he concludes, "Chamberlain's powerful, obstinate personality and his skill in debate probably stifled serious chances of preventing the Second World War."

4. I Saw Poland Betrayed

**By Arthur Bliss Lane
Bobbs-Merrill, 1948**

Arthur Bliss Lane writes in "I Saw Poland Betrayed" that, just as Chamberlain imagined that the notoriously deceitful Hitler respected him and would never lie to him, so Franklin Roosevelt thought that his personal charm "was particularly effective on Stalin" and that FDR could therefore trust him to keep his word. Lane originally shared Roosevelt's credulity; this candid, absorbing memoir recounts his stint as U.S. ambassador to Poland in 1944-47, during which he gradually saw that there was "no difference between Hitler's and Stalin's aims [and] methods." He concluded that the Teheran, Yalta and Potsdam agreements—and America's failure to take a tougher stand against the establishment in Eastern Europe of police states run by Soviet puppets—amounted to appeasement of the same kind that Chamberlain had practiced. Lane quit the Foreign Service to write this book and dedicated the rest of his life (he died in 1956) to spreading the grim truth about life behind the Iron Curtain.

5. The Tyranny of Guilt

**By Pascal Bruckner
Princeton, 2010**

It's clear why democracies appeased Hitler and Stalin—they preferred making concessions to waging war. But why do current European leaders kowtow to tinhorn tyrants abroad and to the bullies who run European Muslim communities, none of whom wield the kind of power that those dictators did? In this eloquent book—virtually every line of which is an aphorism worth quoting—French intellectual Pascal Bruckner finds the answer to today's appeasement largely in yesterday's: remorse over Europe's failure to prevent world war, the Shoah and the Gulag (not to mention remorse over

colonialism) has led Europeans to view their civilization as intrinsically destructive and thus not worth defending. But by choosing guilt over responsibility, Bruckner argues, they're only repeating past errors. The lesson of the 20th century, he says, isn't that peace is worth any price; it's that "democracies have to be powerfully armed in order not to be defeated by the forces of tyranny."

—Mr. Bawer is the author of "Surrender: Appeasing Islam, Sacrificing Freedom," recently published in paperback.



*In 2000, in a provocative book titled **While America Sleeps: Self-Delusion, Military Weakness, and the Threat to Peace Today**, (St. Martin's Press, 2000), Donald Kagan, a Yale Professor of history and classics, and his son and coauthor Frederick, a professor of history at West Point, sternly*

warned: "America is in danger. Unless its leaders change their national security policy, the peace and safety its power and influence have ensured since the end of the Cold War will disappear."

*"In their eerily prescient assessment, the Kagans explained that the United States in the 1990s and the current decade was in many ways chillingly similar to Great Britain after the First World War. Two earlier works — *While England Slept*, by Winston Churchill, and *Why England Slept*, by John F. Kennedy — had examined the implications of Great Britain's failure to play the role of peacekeeper in the 1920s and 1930s. The failure, Churchill and Kennedy argued, led to the Second World War. Don Kagan expressed the fear that this country was on the same and, in his view, avoidable path...*

...Bruce Fellman, in a Yale Alumni Magazine article about Professor Kagan ("Lion in Winter") in the April 2002 issue.

Winston Churchill £5 Crown from the British Royal Mint

By Michael Alexander on July 23rd, 2010
Categories: Royal British Mint, World Coins

The **British Royal Mint** has issued a new coin honoring the 70th anniversary of the Premiership of

Winston Churchill, which began in May 1940. The coin is part of an ongoing series of £5 crowns which make up the "Celebration of Britain" series, issued in conjunction with the 2012 London Olympiad.

For morinformation on this ongoing series and ordering, please visit the website of the Royal Mint at: www.royalmint.co.uk or www.royalmint.com for worldwide enquiries.





Caption Contest

Send your entry to:

1churchillians@gmail.com

Winner will receive a WSC memorabilia prize!

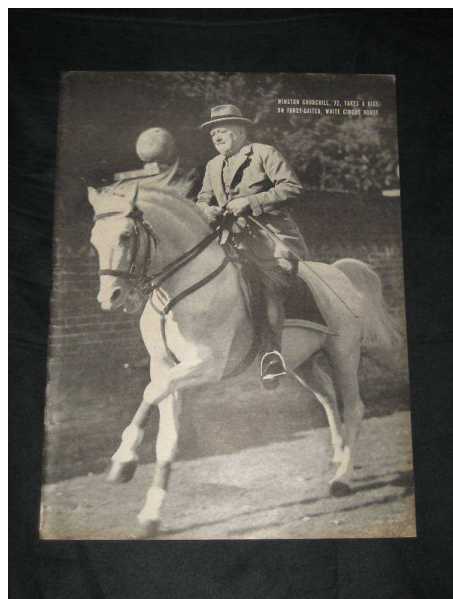
TRIVIA/SIGNIFICA: "HE HASN'T A YEAR TO LIVE"

On September 21, 1947, a 30-year-old American Congressman collapsed in Claridge's, the London hotel, and a friend got him to a clinic. Luckily for him, the friend, Pamela Digby Churchill, had been the daughter-in-law of Winston Churchill and a woman well connected enough to send one of London's most prominent physicians, Daniel Davies, to the young man's bedside. After an examination, the doctor told Pam Churchill: "That young American friend of yours - - he hasn't a year to live."

The Congressman was John F. Kennedy. He had heard words like that most of his life. He had already been given the last rites of the Roman Catholic Church at least twice as a young man. He always expected to die young and because of that he lived life as a race, running against his own mortality...

From Reader's Digest - April 2003

**Time Magazine October 1946
Picture of the Week**



The horse-loving soul of Circus owner Jan Van Leer was delighted when he read in one of Winston Churchill's books the observation that, "it is better to give one's son a horse than money." Van Leer asked and was granted permission to come to Churchill's house at Chartwell in Kent to show the ex-Prime Minister two of his fancy horses, which can waltz and polka. Unable to resist one named Salve, Churchill, who had not ridden for 10 years, went off for a 10 minute canter, found that it did his liver good. "I'm still the man I was," he said.



At the Weekly Standard, Joseph Loconte draws a lesson from Winston Churchill's July 4, 1940 address to the House of Commons.

Seventy years ago, British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill delivered a speech before the House of Commons that masterfully rebuked the United States for sitting on the sidelines while Britain stood alone to defend freedom against totalitarianism. Churchill's insights are worth recalling during our own season of war, when the historic ties between the two nations seem frayed and in doubt...

Churchill's martial resolve, reinforced in his July 4 speech to Parliament, demolished American doubts about Britain's mettle. In the process, he challenged the nation's democratic friends to join the struggle against international terrorism and tyranny. "I call upon all subjects of His Majesty, and upon our Allies, and well-wishers—and they are not a few—all over the world, on both sides of the Atlantic, to give us the utmost aid," he said. "In the fullest harmony with our Dominions, we are moving through a period of extreme danger and of splendid hope, when every virtue of our race will be tested, and all that we have and are will be freely staked..."



CHURCHILL IN THE NEWS

➤ Finest Hours

by **Adam Gopnik**

What is Churchill's true legacy? Surely not that one should stand foursquare on all occasions and at all moments against something called appeasement. "The word 'appeasement' is not popular, but appeasement has its place in all policy," he said in 1950. "Make sure you put it in the right place. Appease the weak, defy the strong." He argued that "appeasement from strength is magnanimous and noble and might be the surest and perhaps the only path to world peace." And he remarked on the painful irony: "When nations or individuals get strong they are often truculent and bullying, but when they are weak they become better-mannered. But this is the reverse of what is healthy and wise." Churchill's simplest aphorism, "To jaw-jaw is always better than to war-war," was the essence of his position, as it was of any sane

statesman raised in nineteenth-century balance-of-power politics. In the long history of the British Empire, there were endless people to make deals with and endless deals to be made, often with yesterday's terrorist or last week's enemy.

Churchill's real legacy lies elsewhere. He is, with de Gaulle, the greatest instance in modern times of the romantic-conservative temperament in power. The curious thing is that this temperament can at moments be more practical than its liberal opposite, or than its pragmatic-conservative twin, since it rightly concedes the primacy of ideas and passions, rather than interests and practicalities, in men's minds. Churchill was a student of history, but one whose reading allowed him to grasp when a new thing in history happened.

What is most impressive about his legacy, perhaps, is that he is one of the rare charismatic moderns who seem to have never toyed with extra-parliamentary movements or anti-liberal ideals. During all the years, and despite all the difficulties—in decades when the idea of Parliament as a fraud and a folly, a slow-footed relic of a dying age, was a standard faith of intellectuals on left and right alike—he remained a creature of rules and traditions who happily kissed the Queen's hand and accepted the people's verdict without complaint. Throughout the war, as Hitler retreated into his many bunkers and Stalin stormed and even Roosevelt concentrated power more and more in his single hand, Churchill accepted votes of confidence, endured fatuous parliamentary criticism, and meekly left office after triumphing in the most improbable of victories. A romantic visionary in constitutional spectacles can often see things as they are. ♦

Read more

http://www.newyorker.com/arts/critics/atlarge/2010/08/30/100830crat_atlarge_gopnik?currentPage=7#ixzz0yTZnLML3

➤ Cartoon clue to Sir Winston Churchill's stay in Binley Woods

Aug 2 2010 by Duncan Gibbons



IT'S a mystery which has intrigued villagers for years – did Sir Winston Churchill ever stay in Binley Woods?

Legend says the great statesman slept at a house in Rugby Road after thick fog prevented him returning to London. It is said he had been on an election trail in the 40s or 50s with local Tories Norman and May Ashman, who offered him a bed when the weather turned foul.

Now a cartoon drawing has been discovered in the house which could finally clear up the confusion.

It shows a caricature of the former Prime Minister smoking one of his famous cigars in the back garden of the property.

Signed by artist H R Husbands, it was found when the house was recently sold to new owners.

Christopher Hartshorn, of Elizabeth Davenport estate agents, in Coventry, said: “During an election campaign while Mr Ashman lived there, Winston Churchill spent the night at the house after a ‘peasouper’ fog prevented his return home.

Winston Churchill joins Twitter, Facebook and builds an iPhone app

'Greatest Briton' will be tweeting, the former Prime Minister's estate has announced.

By [Matt Warman](#), Consumer Technology Editor
Published: 5:51PM BST 17 Sep 2010

The Estate of Sir Winston Churchill has launched its own iPhone app. Photo: CORBIS
The Estate of Sir Winston Churchill has launched its own iPhone app and is to use social media to bring the former Prime Minister's "wit and wisdom" to a wider audience, it has been announced. Facebook and Twitter profiles have been set up and will launch on Friday, and an iPhone app will go on sale for £1.19, with all proceeds going to the Churchill Estate.

Randolph Churchill, Sir Winston's great-grandson, said that the application was "the first accurate guide to the best of his sayings. It shows just how relevant his thoughts remain".

The new forays into social media are based on the work of historian and Churchill expert Richard Langworth. "There is not a day when Sir Winston is not quoted in one way or another, whether by presidents, prime ministers, newspapers on the web or by people in their everyday lives," said Randolph Churchill. "This app is also the most superb opportunity to make sure the record is correct."

Called "Churchillisms: The Official Wit and Wisdom of Winston Churchill", the iPhone App includes photographs, more than 250 quotations and excerpts from speeches. A website has also been set up at churchillisms.com and the twitter profile can be found at twitter.com/wchurchill2010.

[Buy 'Churchillisms: The Official Wit and Wisdom of Winston Churchill' iPhone App from the iTunes store](#)

RAF set to use famous Winston Churchill speech in new song

[Aug 25 2010](#)

ONE of Winston Churchill's most stirring speeches will be set to music as the RAF aims for the charts.

The wartime leader's tribute to The Few - the aircrew who successfully fought off the Luftwaffe in the Battle of Britain - will appear on a new album by the Central Band of the RAF.

Members of the band signed a record contract today on the wing of a Spitfire fighter plane at the RAF Museum in London.

The album, which will be released this autumn, will also include versions of the Dambusters March and Those Magnificent Men In Their Flying Machines.

Victory in the Battle of Britain, which began on July 10 1940 and ended on October 31 that year, helped wreck Hitler's invasion plans and laid the foundations for Allied victory five years later.

It was celebrated in Churchill's speech of August 20 1940, when he told MPs: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Last Friday, a Hurricane and a Spitfire flew over London to mark 70 years to the day since Churchill made the speech.

Record label Decca are hoping the album will repeat the success of last year when Dame Vera Lynn hit the top spot with We'll Meet Again - The Very Best of Vera Lynn.

The firm's managing director Mark Wilkinson said: "The album features music dedicated to the heroes of yesterday, today and tomorrow, and we expect the RAF to be propelled right to the top of the charts."



Winston Churchill

July 4, 2010

Blarney Stone worth the risk

...Kissing the Blarney Stone is a goofy thing to do, but I did it in 2008, and I'm glad. Those who kiss the stone are supposed to be granted the gift of eloquence ... in other words, to be filled with Blarney.

The stone is part of the outside wall of Blarney Castle, which dates to the 15th century. You have to climb a worn, narrow set of spiral stone steps to the very top, lie down on your back, hold onto two iron bars, and let a big Irishman hold onto your legs as you lower yourself down through a hole — head-down and backwards — then pucker up.

Between 300,000 and 400,000 people pay to do that each year. Past kissers of the "Stone of Eloquence" have included Winston Churchill, Bing Crosby and Stan Laurel. If anybody was ever eloquent, it was Sir Winston Churchill.

"To my knowledge, no one has ever caught anything from kissing the stone," Blarney Castle owner Sir Charles Colthurst told The Irish Times in a wonderfully Blarney-filled interview. "I had an esteemed expert clarify that you cannot catch any disease from kissing the stone."

Winston Churchill visited in 1912. We'll just stick to the facts this time. He kissed the Stone. He became the greatest orator of the twentieth century. You can fill in the gaps...

Danville native Kevin Cullen is a former Commercial-News reporter. Reach him at irishhiker@aol.com.

UNTIL NEXT ISSUE: