

"We shall endure to the end!"

Spoken by Winston Churchill



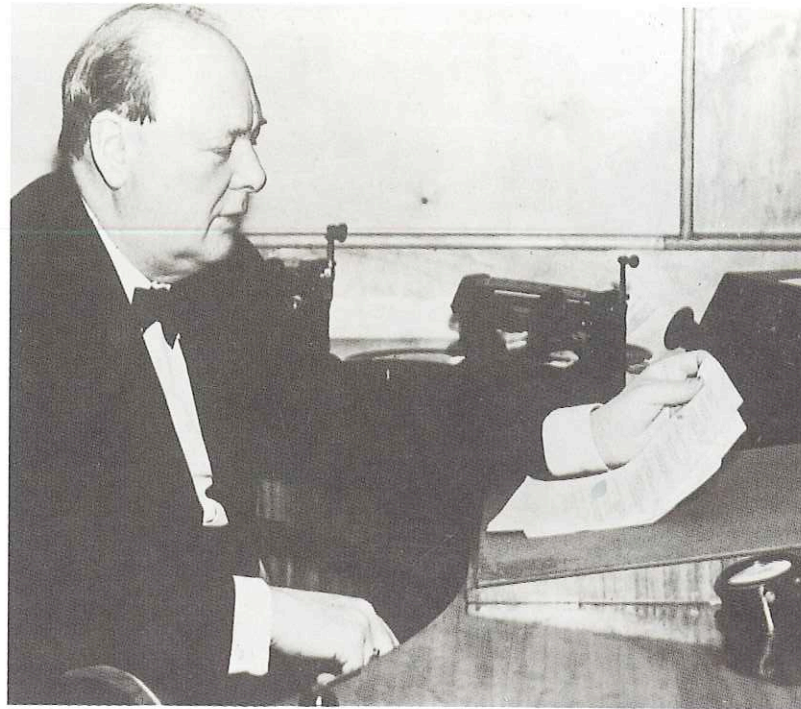
Commentator: June 16, 1941. A radio speech to America on receiving the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws of the University of Rochester in New York.

Winston Churchill: For more than a year, we British have stood alone, uplifted by your sympathy and respect, sustained by our own unconquerable will-power and by the increasing growth and hopes of your massive aid.

In these British islands that look so small upon the map, we stand the faithful guardians of the rights and dearest hopes of a dozen states and nations, now gripped and tormented in a base and cruel servitude. Whatever happens, we shall endure to the end!

But what is the explanation of the enslavement of Europe by the German Nazi regime? How did they do it? It is but a few years ago since one united gesture by the peoples great and small, who now lie broken in the dust, would have warded off from mankind the fearful ordeal it has had to undergo. But there was no unity! There was no vision! The nations were pulled down one by one while the others gaped and chatter. One by one each in his turn they let themselves be caught. One after another they were filled by brutal violence or poisoned by subtle intrigue.

Now the old lion with the lion cubs at the side stands alone against hunters



from within who are armed with deadly weapons and impelled by desperate and destructive rage. Is the tragedy to repeat itself once more?

Ah, no, this is not the end of the tale. The stars in their courses proclaim the deliverance of mankind. Not so easily shall the onward progress of the peoples be barred. Not so easily shall the lights of freedom die. But, but, time is short. Every month that passes adds to the length and to the perils of the journey that will have to be made. United we stand! Divided we fall!

Divided the dark ages return. United we can save and guide the world.

Fact File

Winston Churchill

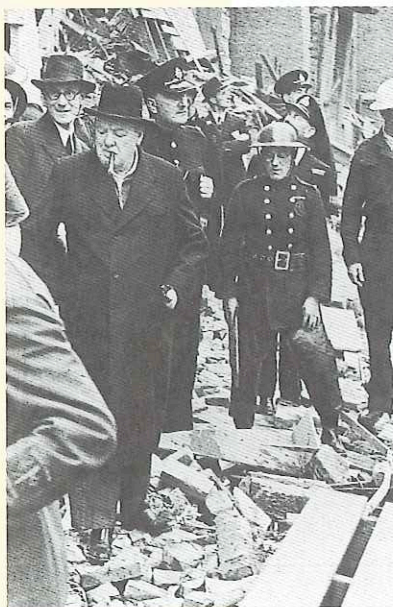
Winston Churchill was born at Blenheim Palace in 1874, the elder son of Lord Randolph Churchill. During the Boer War he was a war correspondent and made a dramatic escape from imprisonment in Pretoria. In 1900 he was elected Conservative Member of Parliament for Oldham.

Churchill was the Prime Minister of Great Britain in 1940-45 and in 1951-55. He was renowned for his strong leadership and his commitment to 'total war'. When he became Prime Minister in May 1940 he gave the much quoted 'blood, tears, toil, and sweat' speech to the House of Commons.

Churchill had a close relationship with US President Roosevelt and in August 1941 concluded the Atlantic Charter with him. In February 1945 he met Stalin and Roosevelt at Yalta and agreed on the final plans for victory.

On 8 May 1945 he announced the unconditional surrender of Germany.

In 1953 Churchill received the Nobel Prize for Literature. He died in 1965.



Winston Churchill inspecting the ruins after a night's bombing.



8th June, 1946

TO-DAY, AS WE CELEBRATE VICTORY, I send this personal message to you and all other boys and girls at school. For you have shared in the hardships and dangers of a total war and you have shared no less in the triumph of the Allied Nations.

I know you will always feel proud to belong to a country which was capable of such supreme effort; proud, too, of parents and elder brothers and sisters who by their courage, endurance and enterprise brought victory. May these qualities be yours as you grow up and join in the common effort to establish among the nations of the world unity and peace.

George R.I

Message from King George VI given to every schoolchild in Britain for the victory celebration of 8 June 1946.

10 Free Writing Task

Write a story based on one of the characters in this chapter. Choose a person from

- one of the factual texts, **or**
- from one of the pictures, **or**
- from one of the fictional texts.