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## **The Life of Winston Churchill:**

Soldier  
Correspondent  
Statesman  
Orator  
Author  
Inspirational Leader

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***The Churchill Centre** is the international focus for study of Winston Churchill, his life and times. Our members, aged from ten to over ninety, work together to preserve Winston Churchill's memory and legacy. Our aim is that future generations never forget his contributions to the political philosophy, culture and literature of the Great Democracies and his contributions to statesmanship.*

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# Birth 1874



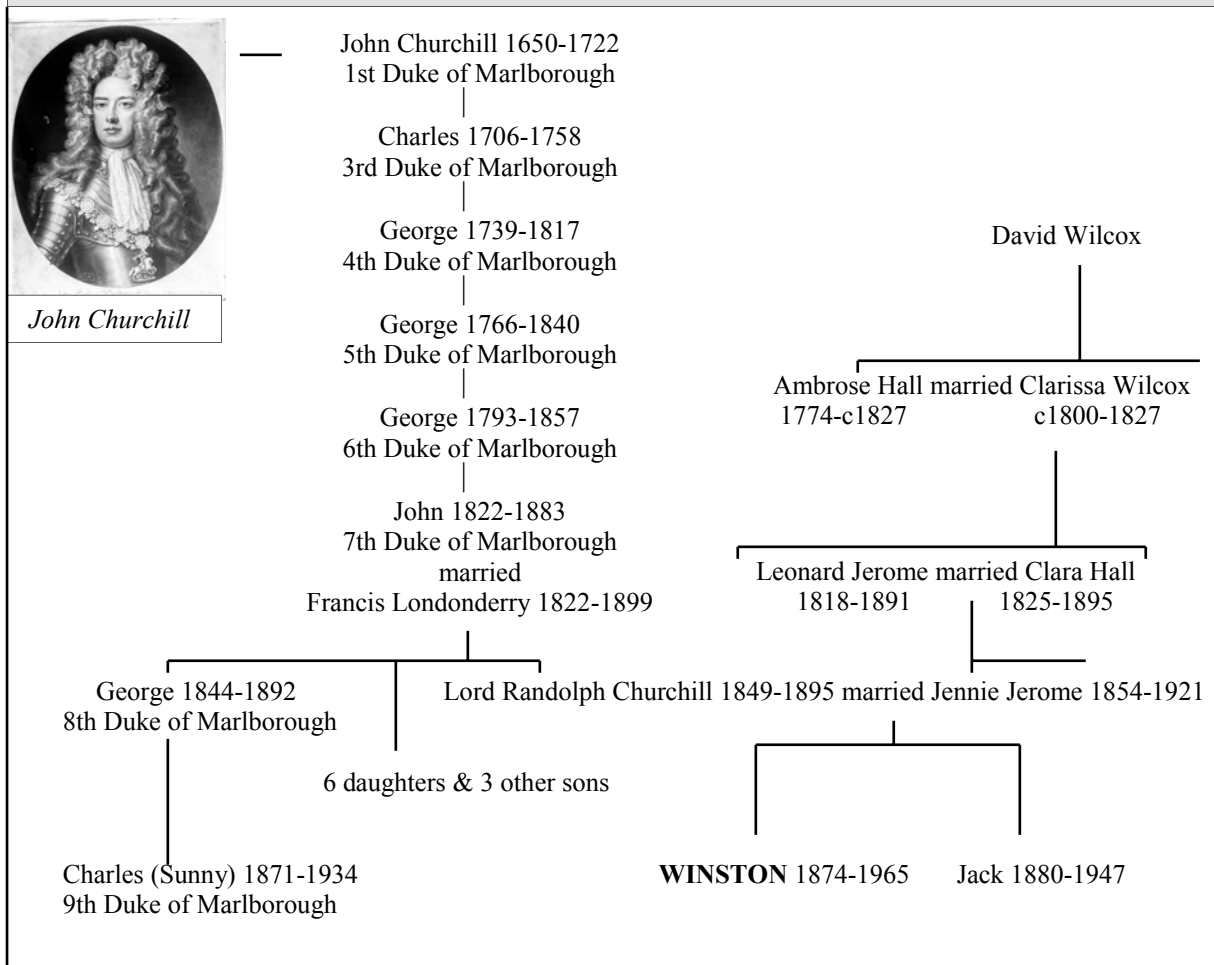
Winston. as a baby.

Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill's ancestors were both British and American. Winston's father was the British Lord Randolph Churchill, the youngest son of John, the 7th Duke of Marlborough. Lord Randolph's ancestor John Churchill made history by winning many successful military campaigns in Europe for Queen Anne almost 200 years earlier. His mother was the American Jennie Jerome. The Jeromes fought for the independence of the American colonies in George Washington's armies. Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill was born on November 30, 1874, at the Duke of Marlborough's large palace, Blenheim.

## Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill's family tree



John Churchill



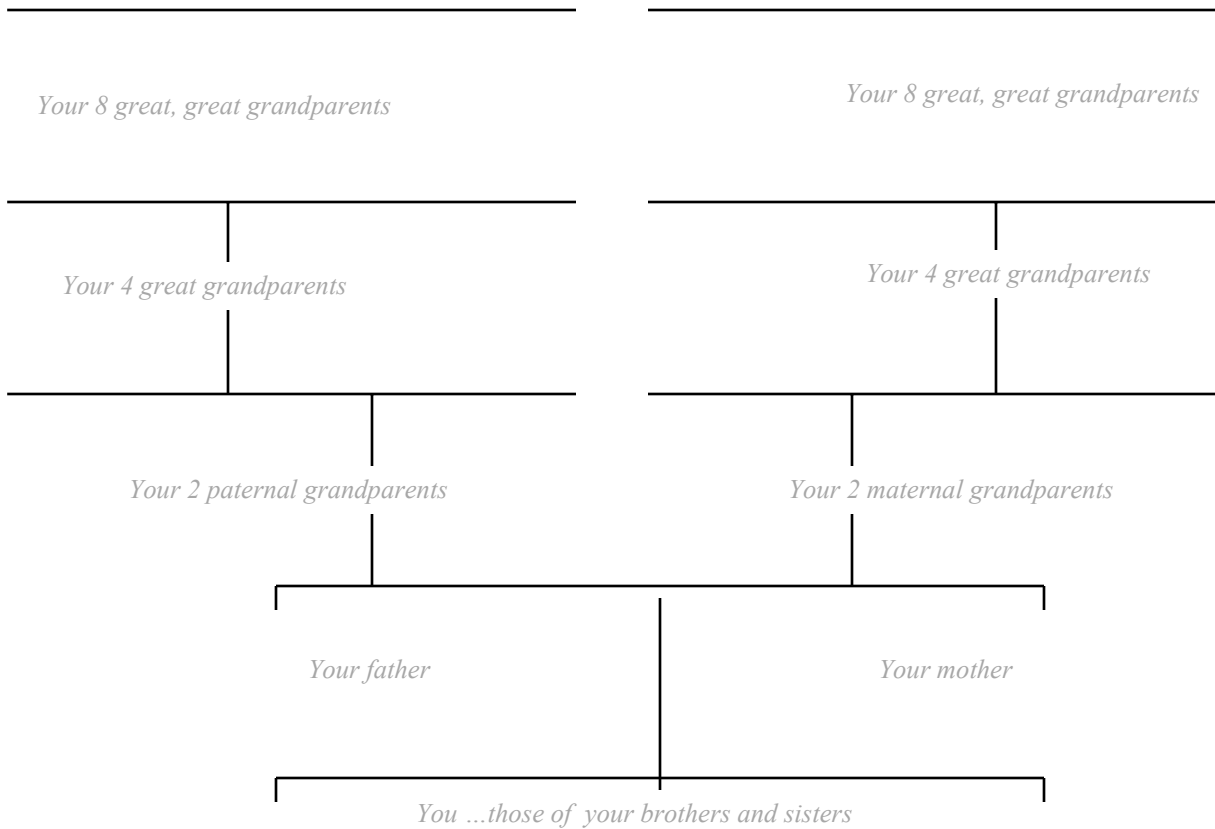
Your family has a history of its own. A good way to record your family's history is by using a family tree. Starting at the bottom and going upwards, fill in your family's story. The bottom brackets would be where you would fill in your name and those of your brothers and sisters. The next bracket up is where your parents belong. Above your parents would be your grandparents. Next would be your great grandparents. Then your great, great grandparents would be above them! How far can you go?

\* Are you unsure of any past family members and their names? Ask your parents and grandparents as they would be a good source for information.



*Winston's parents Lord and Lady Randolph Churchill.*

## *The \_\_\_\_\_ Family*



## Childhood 1875-



*Young Winston Churchill.*

Winston Churchill was a child during the late 1800s. At that time there weren't any radios, televisions or electronic devices which children today are accustomed to having. The telephone was not invented when Churchill was born. Children during the late 1800's spent their time reading books and playing with toys such as toy soldiers. Young Winston would also ride on his donkey.

One book that Winston fondly read was *Treasure Island*.



*Mrs. Everest*

Lady Randolph hired Mrs. Elizabeth Everest as a nanny to care for Winston. Winston fondly called Mrs. Everest "Woomany." Later Winston Churchill would say that "My nurse was my confidante. Mrs. Everest it was who looked after me and tended all my wants. It was to her that I poured out all my many troubles..."

## Schooling 1882-1888

Winston attended St. George's School, Ascot, from 1882 through 1884. Of school Winston would write, "It appears that I was to go away from home for many weeks at a stretch in order to do lessons under masters..."

After all I was only seven, and I had been so happy in my nursery with all my toys. I had such wonderful toys: a real steam engine, a magic lantern, and a collection of soldiers already nearly a thousand strong. Now it was to be all lessons..."

From 1884-1888, Winston attended The Misses Thompson's Preparatory School where he learned things that interested him such as French, history, poetry, riding a horse and swimming.

## Harrow 1888-1892

On April 17, 1888, Winston entered Harrow School, a boy's school near London. Winston found his years at Harrow challenging. He was not thought of as a good student. Winston wrote, "I was on the whole considerably discouraged by my school days." However, Winston's ability to memorize lines was clearly apparent while at Harrow. Winston entered a competition and won a school prize for reciting from memory 1,200 lines from Macaulay's, long poem *Lays of Ancient Rome*.



Harrow students wearing straw hats.

Winston Churchill would return to Harrow many times during his life. Once in December 1940 while Britain was in the midst of fighting Germany during World War II, Prime Minister Winston Churchill visited Harrow School where this song was sung to honor the great leader:

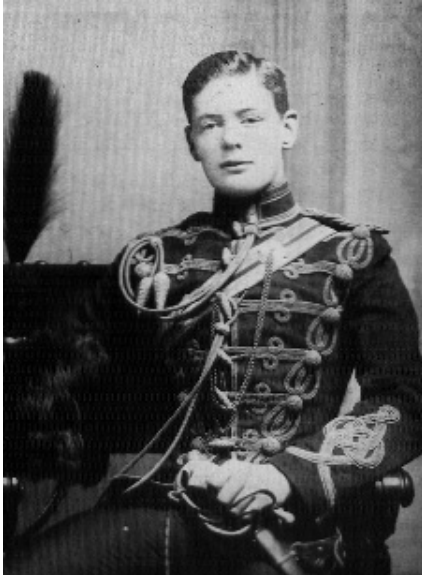
*Nor less we praise in sterner days  
The Leader of our Nation,  
And CHURCHILL's name shall win acclaim  
From each new generation.  
While in this fight to guard the Right  
Our country you defend, Sir.  
Here grim and gay we mean to stay,  
And stick it to the end, Sir.*

**Test your memory!** Memorize the paragraph below from Churchill's 1941 speech. Then try to recite the paragraph to a friend without making a single mistake!

June 16, 1941- a radio speech by Winston Churchill to the people of the United States

*... A wonderful story is unfolding before our eyes. How it will end we are not allowed to know. But on both sides of the Atlantic we all feel, I repeat, all, that we are a part of it, that our future and that of many generations is at stake. We are sure that the character of human society will be shaped by the resolves we take and the deeds we do. We need not bewail the fact that we have been called upon to face such solemn responsibilities. We may be proud, and even rejoice amid our tribulations, that we have been born at this cardinal time for so great an age and so splendid an opportunity of service here below.*

## Sandhurst 1893-1894



1895: Winston in the fourth Hussars.

When Winston Churchill entered the Royal Military College (now Academy) Sandhurst few could foresee that he would become one of Great Britain's greatest war leaders. Winston Churchill had failed the Sandhurst entrance examination twice before passing on his third try. At Sandhurst Churchill had a new start. "I was no longer handicapped by past neglect of Latin, French or Mathematics. We had now to learn fresh things and we all started equal. Tactics, Fortification, Topography [mapmaking], Military Law and Military Fortification, formed the whole curriculum. In addition were Drill, Gymnastics and Riding." Churchill found his work at Sandhurst exciting. He drew contoured maps of the hills in the area, designed paper plans for the advanced guards and rear guards, and even thought up simple tactical schemes. He learned how to blow up masonry bridges and make substitute bridges out of wood. He graduated from Sandhurst with honors, eighth in his class of one hundred and fifty.

## Churchill & Technology

"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few..." In this famous line, Winston Churchill thanked the pilots of the Royal Air Force, also known as the RAF, for their bravery fighting the German Luftwaffe in the Battle of Britain during World War II. At this time the use of airplanes in war was still thought of as a new technology. Winston Churchill was a forward thinking man who promoted technological developments for the military. During World War I, Churchill promoted the development of the tank. A British Royal Commission credited Churchill "it was primarily due to the receptivity, courage and driving force of the Rt. Honorable Winston Spencer Churchill that... the Tank was converted into a practical shape." Later Churchill would also promote the development and use of radar and the breaking of the German codes from the Enigma machine.



1919: Winston Churchill - Secretary of State for War and Air.



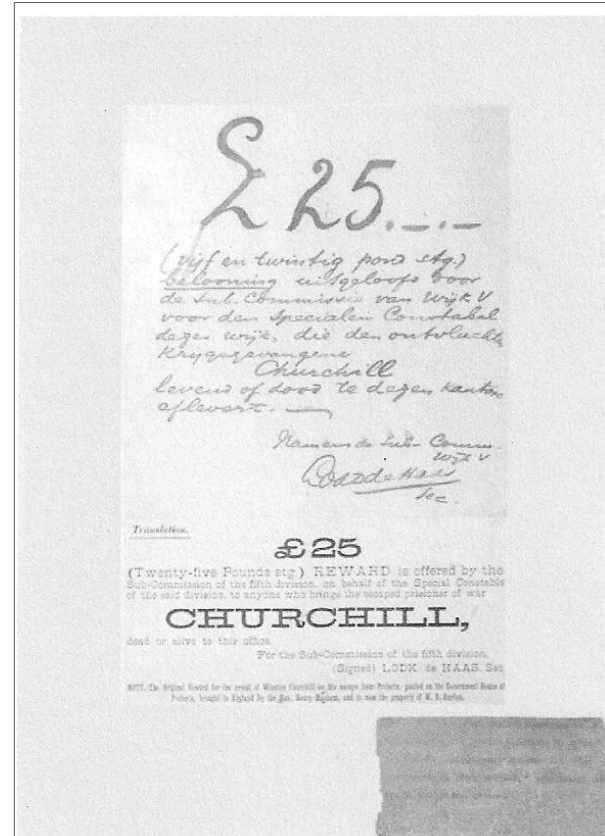
## The Boer War 1899

In 1899, Winston Churchill headed to South Africa as a newspaper correspondent for the *Morning Post* to cover the Boer War between British and Dutch settlers. Unfortunately, he was present at an ambush of an armored train and captured by enemy Boer soldiers. On November 18, 1899, Churchill along with the other prisoners arrived in Pretoria at the prison called the State Model Schools. On the night of December 12th, when the prison guards turned their backs on Churchill, he took the opportunity to climb over the prison wall. Wearing a brown flannel suit with £75 (the equivalent of \$375) and four slabs of chocolate in his pocket, Churchill walked on leisurely through the night in hopes of finding the Delagoa Bay Railway. So began his great escape and journey to freedom.

Churchill jumped onto a train and hid among soft sacks covered in coal dust. Leaving the train before daybreak, Churchill continued on his escape. With luck, Winston Churchill happened upon the home of Mr. John Howard, manager of the Transvaal Collieries. Upon knocking on his door, Mr. Howard's response to Winston Churchill plea for help was "Thank God you have come here! It is the only house for twenty miles where you would not have been handed over. But we are all British here, and we will see you through."

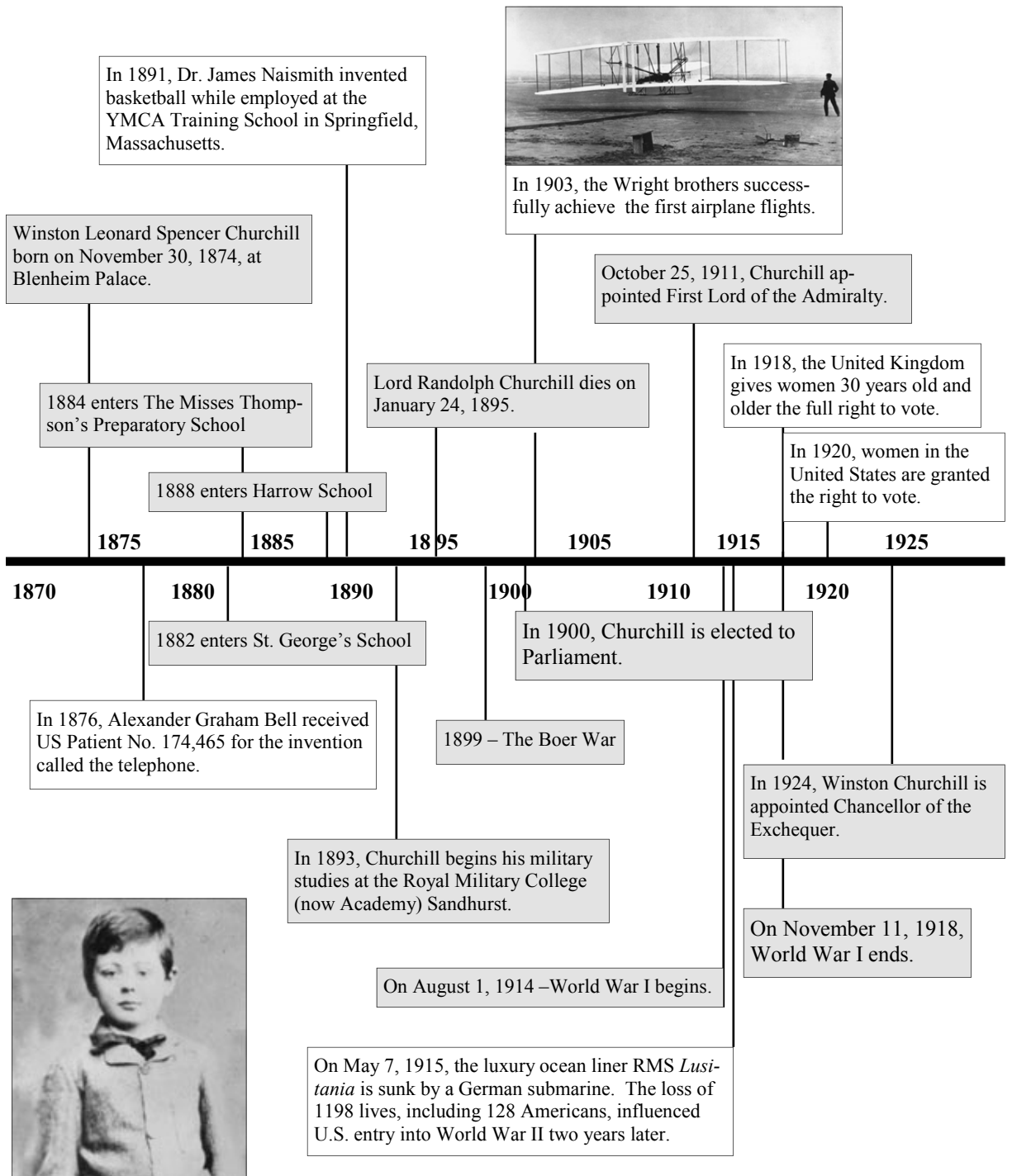
Mr. Howard first hid Churchill in a coal mine then transported him to safety by having Churchill squeeze into a hole at the end of a train car loaded with bales of wool.

Upon reaching Durban, South Africa, Winston Churchill found himself a hero.

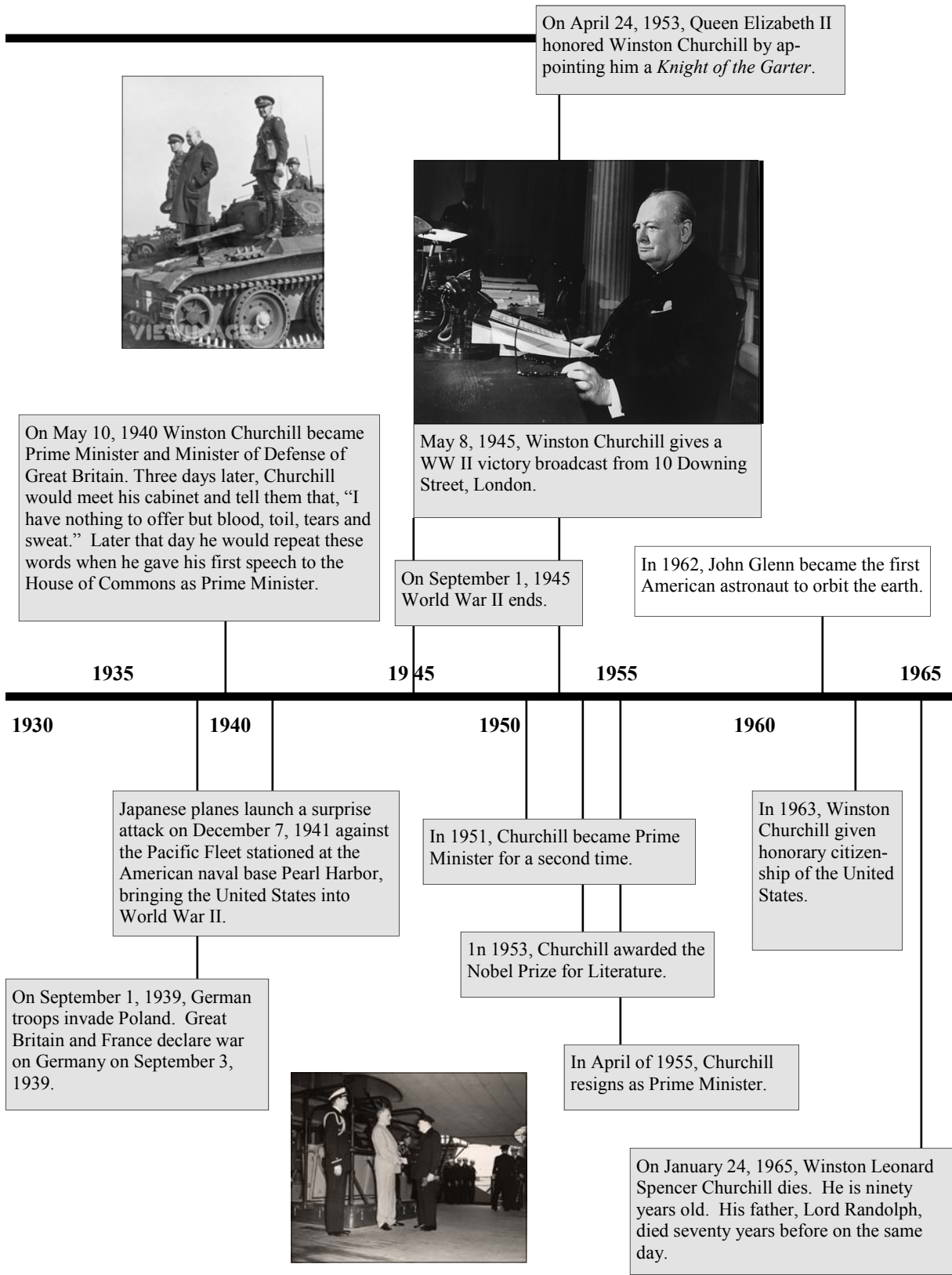


The poster above advertises the twenty-five pound reward for the recapture of Churchill. Although Churchill could not speak Afrikaans, the language spoken by the Boers, he managed to make it to safety.

Winston Churchill lived to be ninety years of age. During his lifetime many changes occurred politically, socially and technologically. This timeline shows not only the highlights of Churchill's life but events and things that contributed to the changing society that he grew up in.







## Politics 1900-1955

*Winston Churchill would serve in Great Britain's Parliament for fifty-five years. His deep sense of commitment to his country would be honored when on April 24, 1953, Britain's monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, appointed him a Knight of the Garter.*



*Prime Minister Winston Churchill at 10 Downing Street, August 1940.*

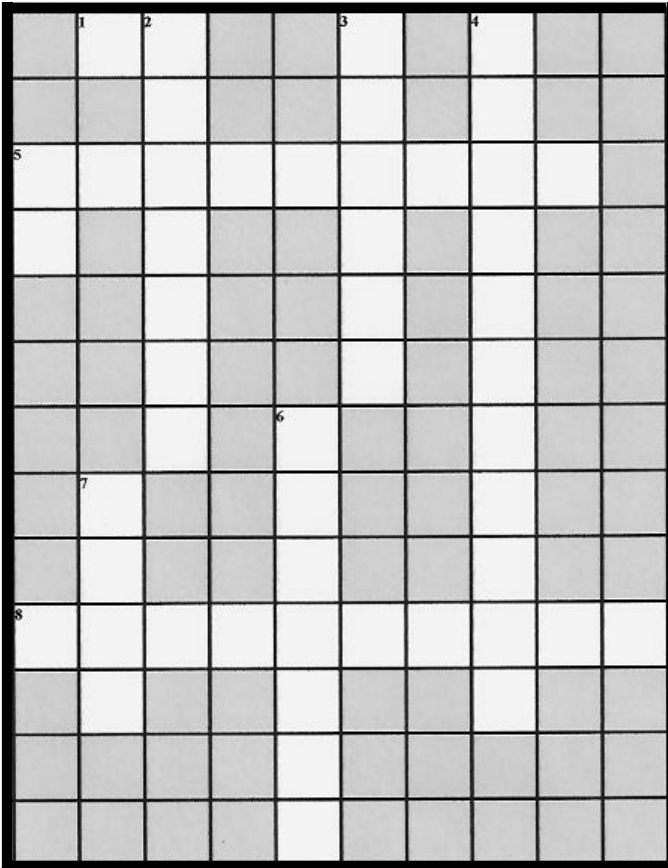
Winston Churchill's long political career began in October 1900, when he was elected to take the seat for Oldham as Member of Parliament or MP in the House of Commons. Later, Churchill represented, as MP, the areas of Manchester Northwest (1906-08); Dundee (1908-22); and Woodford (1924-64). Between 1906 and 1940, Churchill served in the British Cabinet in charge of Board and Trade, Home Office, Admiralty (twice), and the Munitions, War and Air Ministries. From 1924 to 1929 he headed the Treasury as Chancellor of the Exchequer, a position once held by his father.

Churchill's career had its ups and downs. During World War I, as First Lord of the Admiralty, he was blamed for a failed attempt to seize the Dardanelles and Gallipoli Peninsula, which guarded the connection between the Mediterranean and Black Seas. Success would have aided Russia, while providing an alternative to the terrible slaughter in western Europe. The episode would haunt Churchill's political career for years to come. He learned, he said, never to undertake a key operation of war without full authority to carry it out.

Winston Churchill is forever remembered for his contributions as Prime Minister (PM) during World War II. On May 10, 1940, with the Germans attacking western Europe, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain resigned and King George VI asked Churchill to become Prime Minister and form a government. Churchill formed a coalition with the Labour, Liberal and Conservative parties. He later wrote, "I felt as if I were walking with Destiny, and that all my past life had been but a preparation for this hour and for this trial." Developing the "Grand Alliance" with Russia and America, he became a symbol for victory among the oppressed and conquered peoples. In 1945, with the war in Europe over but the war with Japan still being fought, the Labour party defeated the Conservatives in an election. Churchill was no longer Prime Minister. However, he was easily reelected to his seat and became Leader of the Opposition.

After World War II, Churchill lobbied for peace. At Fulton, Missouri in 1946, Churchill warned of the "Iron Curtain" in Europe and urged Anglo-American preparedness. In 1951, the Conservatives triumphed again and Churchill returned as Prime Minister. Worried over the possibility of nuclear war, he urged "a meeting at the summit" with the new leaders of Russia while maintaining peace through strength. Ironically, the first postwar summit conference was held a few months after he retired as Prime Minister in April 1955. He would remain an MP for nine more years.

Winston Churchill lost his first election in July 1899 when he ran for the seat in Oldham. But not giving up, he ran again in 1900 and successfully was elected MP for Oldham. Work your way to completing the below crossword using some of the key words from Great Britain's electoral system. If at first you do not succeed in completing this puzzle, reread the "Politics" page for help!



**Crossword Clues:**

**Across**

- 1. Abbreviation for Prime Minister
- 5. People who serve with PM in the cabinet
- 8. Place of government

**Down**

- 2. King George VI or Queen Elizabeth II
- 3. People who vote
- 4. Failed military mission of WWI
- 5. Abbreviation for Member of Parliament
- 6. In 1924 he was chosen for a \_\_\_ position
- 7. Position for an elected area

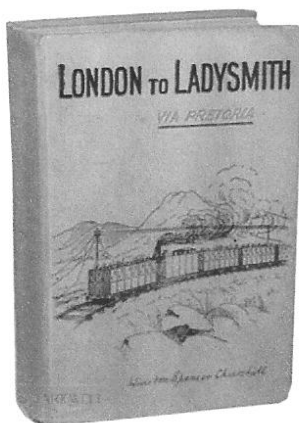
*The government of the United Kingdom, of which Great Britain is a part, is both a parliamentary democracy and a constitutional monarchy. Parliament is made up of two houses: the elected House of Commons and the hereditary or appointed House of Lords. The King or Queen performs ceremonial duties as head of state, while the leader of the government is the Prime Minister.*

## Churchill's Books 1898-1958



Winston Churchill, a gifted writer, was a master of the English language. He wrote forty-three books that filled seventy-two volumes. Throughout his life, Winston Churchill found the writing of books and articles a means of supporting himself and his family. Churchill's first book about an uprising in India, *The Story of the Malakand Field Force*, was published in 1898. About writing, Winston Churchill wrote "It was great fun writing a book. One lived with it. It became a companion." Many of Winston Churchill's forty-three books are about events of historical importance. To this day, Winston Churchill's reprinted books can still be purchased!

Winston Churchill was bestowed the great honor of winning *The Nobel Prize for Literature* in 1953.



Many books written *by* Winston Churchill can still be purchased. The books *London to Ladysmith via Pretoria* and his rare *The People's Rights* can both be found used. Other books such as *The River War* have been reprinted. These books might also be available at your library.

Many, many books have been written *about* Winston Churchill and are available at libraries and in book stores!

Winston Churchill's last book was published in 1959.

***Test Your Deductive Skills...***

In many of his books, Winston Churchill's wrote about his personal experiences or topics that had special meaning to him. He wrote only one novel, *Savrola*, when he was twenty-four years old.

***Test your skill of deduction.*** Using a pencil or pen draw a line to match the titles on the left side of the page to the correct description of the book on the right side of the page. (The correct answers are found at the end of this booklet.)

***A History of the English-Speaking Peoples***

... this book is Winston Churchill's first biographical work.

***The Second World War***

... this book is named after a popular leader in an imaginary Mediterranean republic. At the beginning of the book, the republic is ruled by a brutal president. At the end of the book, this "leader" returns prosperity and peace to the republic.

***My Early Life***

... this book is his personal account describing the details of his childhood and his formative years.

***Savrola***

... this book sees this war from Churchill's point of view. In this book Winston Churchill discusses the conflict with Germany and his relationship with the countries of the United States, Russia, and France.

***Lord Randolph Churchill***

... this book describes a war between the British and the Dervish Empire in Sudan. In this book Churchill describes fighting along the Nile River with its hot, desert climate.

***The River War***

... this book is the last great work by Churchill. Winston Churchill felt that this book "aims... to present a personal view on the processes whereby English-speaking peoples throughout the world have achieved their distinctive position and character"

## World War II 1939-1945



When Germany's dictator Adolf Hitler invaded the country of Poland on September 1, 1939, many people were surprised by Hitler's boldness. But Winston Churchill was not. Since 1933 he had warned the leaders and people of Great Britain about Hitler's relentless aggression but few believed him.

The time period of fall 1939 to spring 1940 has been referred to as the Phony War since the major battles and bloodshed of World War II had not yet begun. Things changed suddenly for the worse on May 10, 1940, when Hitler's troops invaded Luxembourg, Holland and Belgium in a single day. On that day, Winston Churchill became Prime Minister of Great Britain. Soon France was also invaded and falling back before the German armies.

Soon British troops were driven out of Europe and retreated to Great Britain. France surrendered to Germany and its people fell under strict German rule. Great Britain was left alone to face the awesome power of Germany. Winston Churchill, the orator, rallied the people of Great Britain to fight Hitler's aggression. Churchill never gave up and he helped the people of Great Britain to be brave against the German Nazi regime. One of the ways Churchill encouraged people was to display the "V for victory" sign of two fingers raised.



### Test your oratory powers by reciting these memorable Churchill lines!

*Harrow School – October 29, 1941... I am addressing myself to the School — surely from this period of ten months this is the lesson: never give in, never give in, never, never, never, never — in nothing, great or small, large or petty — never give in except to convictions of honour and good sense. Never yield to force; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy. We stood all alone a year ago, and to many countries it seemed that our account was closed, we were finished. All this tradition of ours, our songs, our School history, this part of the history of this country, were gone and finished and liquidated.*

*Very different is the mood today. Britain, other nations thought, had drawn a sponge across her slate. But instead our country stood in the gap. There was no flinching and no thought of giving in; and by what seemed almost a miracle to those outside these Islands, though we ourselves never doubted it, we now find ourselves in a position where I say that we can be sure that we have only to persevere to conquer.*

## World War II 1939-1945

### ***World War II – BREAKING THE CODE***

Intercepting and decoding secret messages sent by the German High Command to their armies, airforce and submarines in the war zone was important work. If it was your job to discover which important World War II person was in danger could you do it! See if you can decode the following names. The first name has been completed for you.

Hint replace: 5=A, 7=E, 3=I, 4=O, X=M, Z=R, J=L, Q=C, Y=P ... all other letters are correct the way they appear

G7N7Z5J 7IS7NH4W7Z     General Eisenhower

YZ3X7 X3N3ST7Z QHUZQH3JJ     \_\_\_\_\_

K3NG G74ZG7 V3     \_\_\_\_\_

J4S7F ST5J3N     \_\_\_\_\_

YZ7S3D7NT Z44S7V7JT     \_\_\_\_\_

5D4JF H3TJ7Z     \_\_\_\_\_



**Breaking the code...** The German intelligence operatives used the Enigma machine, such as the machine featured in the photo on the left, as a means to communicate in code to their fellow German commanders. Breaking the code shortened World War II and in doing so saved many lives. Churchill called the British, French and Polish code-breakers “my geese who laid the golden eggs and never cackled.” The intelligence obtained from the code was called *Ultra*.

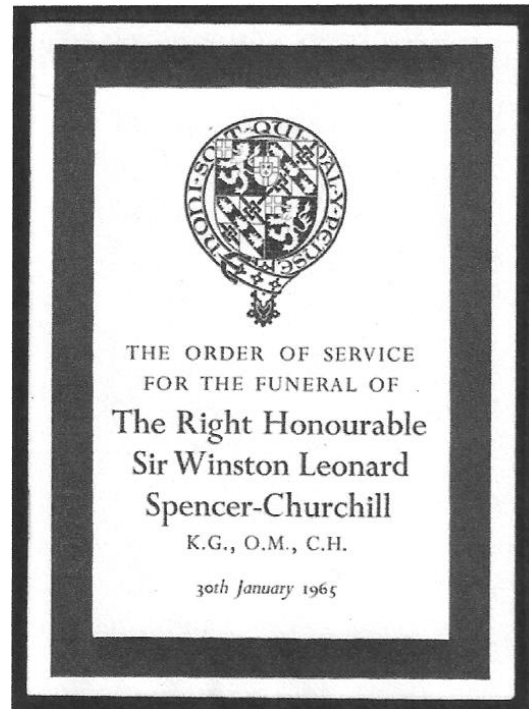
Winston Churchill is credited for supporting the code-breaking operation and for the careful use of the intelligence it provided. The government of Great Britain did not want the German High Command to know that they could decode secret German messages. This was important so that many more lives could be saved in the future.



January 24, 1965

In June of 1963, President John F. Kennedy made Winston Churchill an honorary citizen of the United States, a very rare honor. A year and a half later, Winston Churchill died on the morning of January 24, 1965, surrounded by family members. According to his family, Churchill had predicted that he would die on the anniversary of his father's death. This became reality when Winston Churchill died seventy years to the day after his father Lord Randolph passed away.

To honor Winston Churchill a State Funeral was held in London on January 30th. Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill was buried in a churchyard at Bladon. His simple grave is close to Blenheim Palace, the place of his birth. Winston Churchill rests next to his parents Lord Randolph Churchill and Lady Randolph Churchill, the once Jennie Jerome.



*After victory in Europe Winston Churchill was awarded many honors and honorary degrees. In this photo American President Harry Truman is seen on stage with Churchill at Westminster College in Fulton Missouri. Here Churchill gave a speech asking America and Britain to unite against a foreseeable threat, Soviet Russia.*

*The Churchill Centre* encourages you to study more about the life of Winston Churchill, which is well chronicled for his defense of democratic freedom, his contributions to political thought, and his world statesmanship. Many books have been written describing Churchill's personal life. Books can be found that detail Winston Churchill's marriage to Clementine Hozier and how together they had five children: Diana, Randolph, Sarah, Marigold and Mary. Various books chronicle Churchill's travels, including his summit conferences with world leaders and his World War II travels. Winston Churchill had hobbies and wrote a book about one, *Painting as a Pastime*. In this book Churchill wrote "Just to paint is great fun. The colors are lovely to look at and delicious to squeeze out."

For additional information about Winston Churchill please visit your local library, bookstore or The Churchill Centre at: [www.winstonchurchill.org](http://www.winstonchurchill.org) .