

Chartwell Bulletin #84, Churchill Quiz, Second Quarter 2015.

Each Churchill Quiz includes four questions in six categories: Contemporaries, Literary matters, Miscellaneous, Personal details, Statesmanship, and War . The easier questions first.

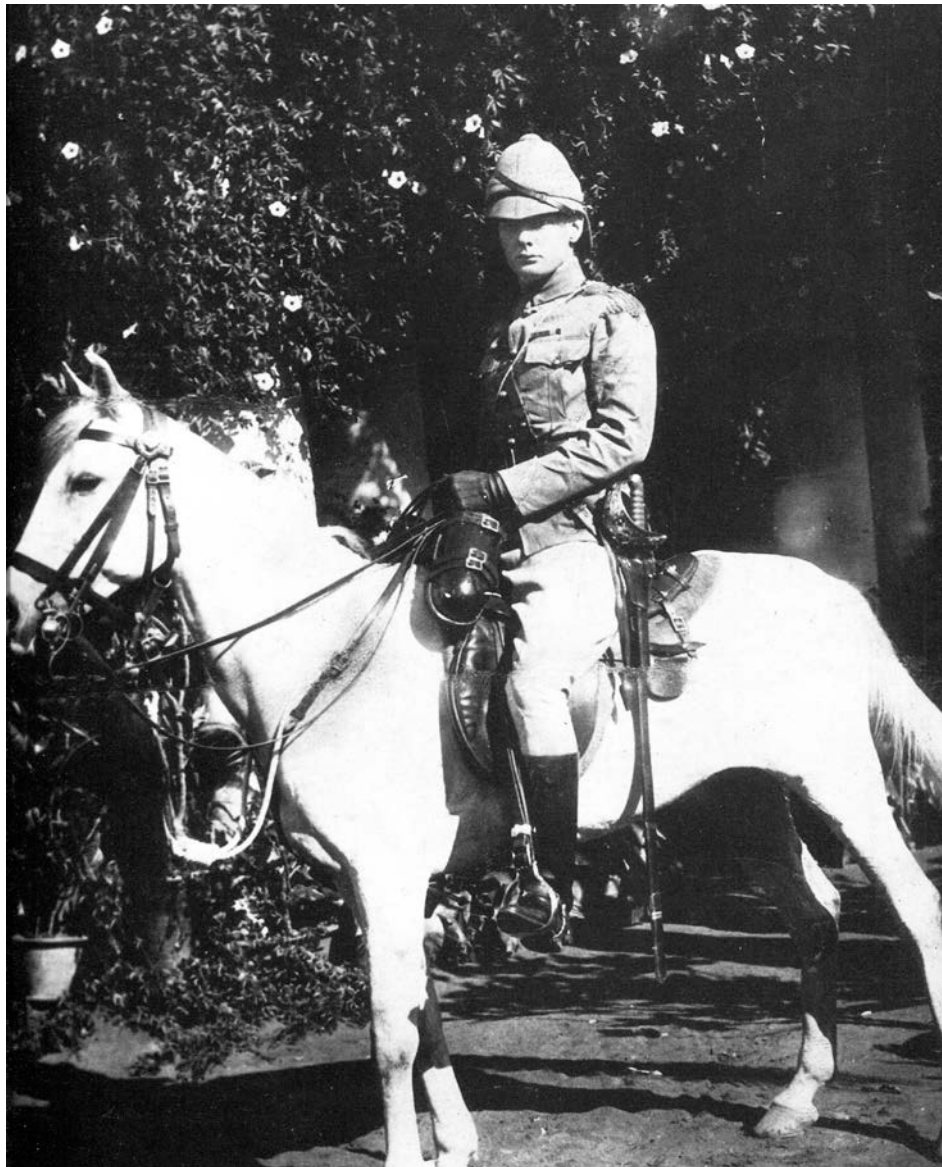
For information on sources, or for any other questions, send an email to the *Chartwell Bulletin Churchill Quiz* editor, Jim Lancaster:

jimlydtom@gmail.com

START OF THE QUIZ

Question 1

In which decade was this photo taken?



[See the answer to question 1](#)

[Return to question 1](#)

ANSWER to Question 1

The 1890s — Winston in the uniform of the Queen's Own Fourth Hussars, in Bangalore, in 1897.

[Go to question 2](#)

Question 2

George Cornwallis-West, in a letter to Lady Randolph Churchill, dated 6 October 1899, wrote:

“I saw [him] today in St. James’s Street, don’t tell him I said so, but he looked just like a young dissenting parson, hat brushed the wrong way, and, at the back of his head, an awful old black coat and tie”

Who was Cornwallis-West referring to?

[See the answer to question 2](#)

Return to question 2

Answer to question 2

Young Winston Churchill, 24 years old at the time. A few months later, on July 28, 1900, George Cornwallis-West married Winston's mother Jennie in St. Paul's.



George Cornwallis-West and Winston's mother Jennie. George Cornwallis-West, born 14 November 1874, was only two weeks older than Winston, and 20 years younger than Jennie.

Go to question 3

Question 3

Which of Churchill's books ends with these words:

“There is an England which stretches far beyond the well-drilled masses who are assembled by party machinery to salute with appropriate acclamation the utterances of their recognised fuglemen; an England of wise men who gaze without self-deception at the failings and follies of both political parties; of brave and earnest men who find in neither faction fair scope for the effort that is in them; of ‘poor men’ who increasingly doubt the sincerity of party philanthropy. It was to that England that Lord Randolph Churchill appealed; it was that England he so nearly won; it is by that England he will be justly judged”.

[See the answer to question 3](#)

Return to question 3
Answer to question 3

Lord Randolph Churchill, Volume II, first published in 1906.

LORD
RANDOLPH CHURCHILL

BY
WINSTON SPENCER CHURCHILL, M.P.

AUTHOR OF
'THE STORY OF THE MALAKAND FIELD FORCE, 1897'
'THE RIVER WAR' 'LONDON TO LADYSMITH VIA PRETORIA' ETC.

IN TWO VOLUMES

VOL. II

London
MACMILLAN AND CO. LIMITED
NEW YORK: THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

1906

[All rights reserved]

Question 4

Violet Bonham Carter, in her book *Winston Churchill As I Knew Him*, referred to a comment in the 19 February 1901 issue of *The Morning Post*:

“Rarely has a maiden speech been listened to by so crowded a House.”

Whose maiden speech?

[See the answer to question 4](#)

Return to question 4
Answer to question 4

Winston Churchill's

Churchill was only 26 years old when he made his maiden speech in the House of Commons on Monday February 18, 1901. *The Morning Post* added: "He had an audience to listen to his maiden speech which very few new members have commanded."



A caricature of Churchill by Spy, published at the time of his return from South Africa in July 1900. Even before his election to Parliament, he was recognised as a man of outstanding political promise.

Question 5

What event on 30 September 1938 made Clementine Churchill want to throw a brick through the windows of 10 Downing Street?

[See the answer to question 5](#)

Return to question 5
Answer to question 5

**Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's
betrayal of Czechoslovakia at Munich.**



Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, in the guise of an angel of peace, flies off to meet Hitler in September 1938, while the storm clouds of war gather in the background



Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, returning from his meeting with Hitler, waving a piece of paper and declaring that 'Peace in our time' had been safeguarded.

Churchill's response in the House of Commons on October 5, 1938:

I will begin by saying what everybody would like to ignore or forget but which must nevertheless be stated, namely, that we have suffered a total and unmitigated defeat...The utmost that he [the Prime Minister] has been able to gain for Czechoslovakia in the matters which were in dispute has been that the German dictator, instead of snatching the victuals from the table, has been content to have them served to him course by course

Churchill ended this October 5, 1938 speech about the Munich Agreement with these prophetic words:

"They [the British people] should know ... that we have sustained a defeat without a war... they should know that we have passed an awful milestone in our history, when the whole equilibrium of Europe has been deranged, and that the words have for the time been pronounced against the Western democracies: *Thou art weighed in the balance and found wanting*. And do not suppose that this is the end. This is only the beginning of the reckoning. This is only the first sip, the first foretaste of a bitter cup which will be proffered to us year by year

unless, by a supreme recovery of moral health and martial vigour, we arise again and take our stand for freedom as in the olden time.”

(editorial note: the words — *Thou art weighed in the balance and found wanting* — are from the *King James Bible*, the book of *Daniel*, chapter 5, verse 27)

Question 6



Winston and Clementine, in 1909, with their first baby.

What was the name of the baby.

[See the answer to question 6](#)

[Return to question 6](#)
[Answer to question 6](#)

Diana



Clementine with Diana in 1910

Question 7

To whom did Churchill send this cable on 2 April 2, 1945

“I deem it highly important that we should shake hands with the Russians as far East as possible.”?

[See the answer to question 7](#)

[Return to question 7](#)
[Answer to question 7](#)

Dwight Eisenhower



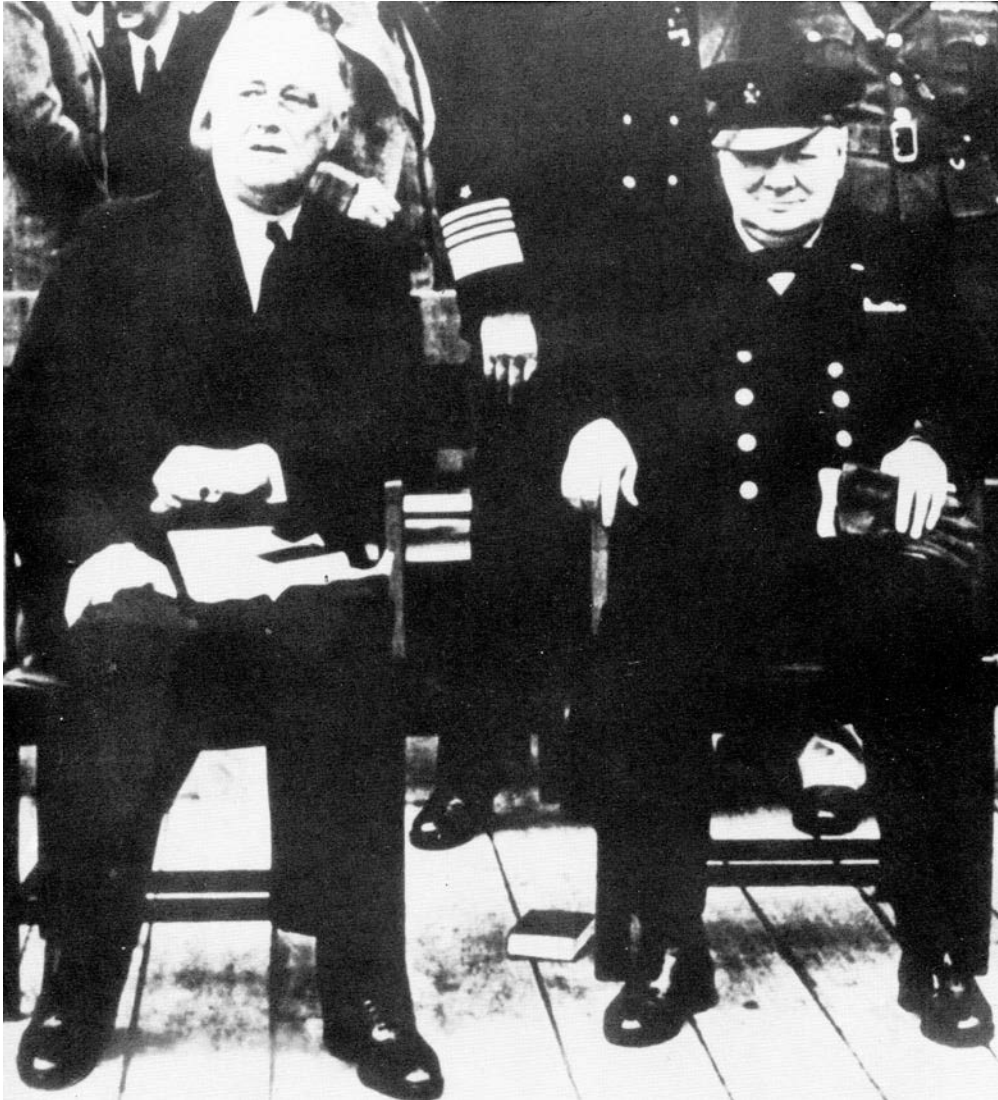
Question 8

What was the name of the document which emerged from the meeting between Churchill and Roosevelt in Placentia Bay, Newfoundland, in August 1941?

See the answer to question 8

Return to question 8
Answer to question 8

The Atlantic Charter



Churchill left Scapa Flow on August 4, 1941 for his meeting with President Roosevelt in Placentia Bay, Newfoundland.

Question 9

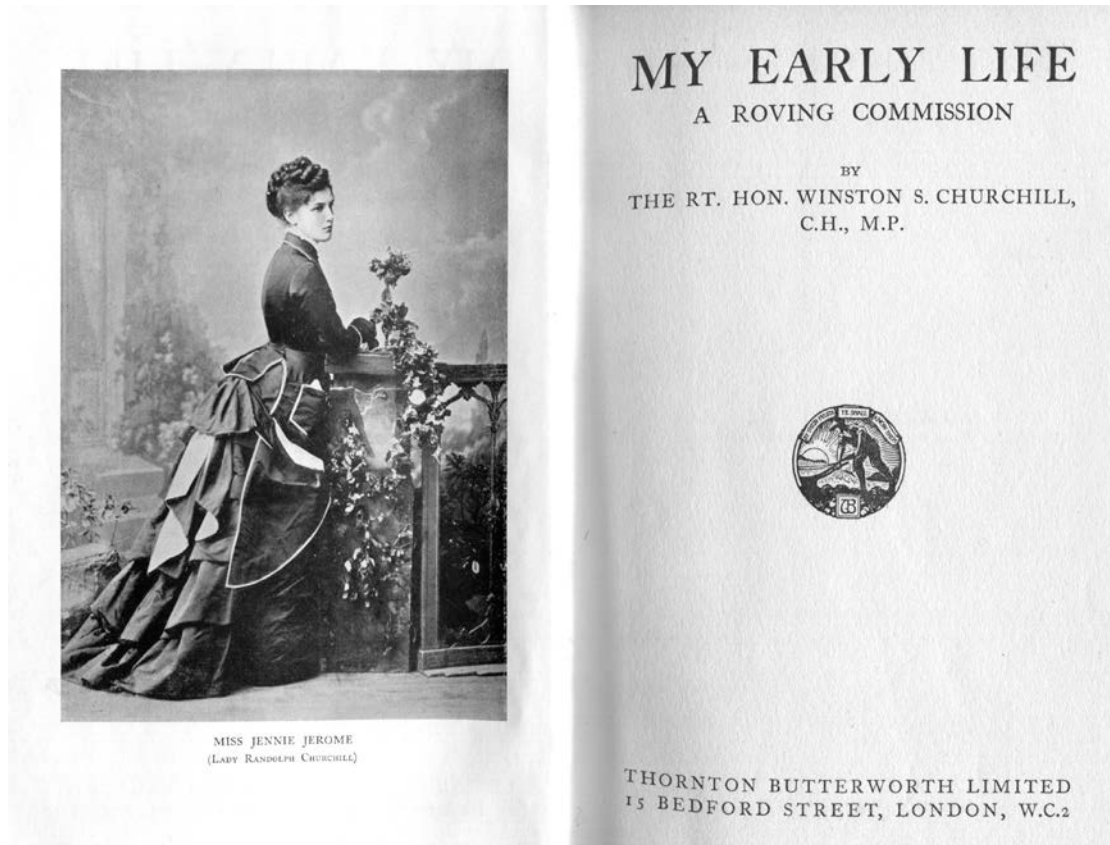
In which book did Churchill describe coming under fire for the first time — in Cuba in 1895:

“The 30th November was my 21st birthday, and on that day for the first time I heard shots fired in anger, and heard bullets strike flesh or whistle through the air.”

See the answer to question 9

Return to question 9
Answer to question 9

My Early Life (A Roving Commission in America)



*The First Edition of My Early Life
(A Roving Commission in America)*

Question 10

Which significant event prompted Churchill to write in *The Second World War*

“So we had won after all”?

[See the answer to question 10](#)

Return to question 10

Answer to question 10

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.



Three of the damaged battleships at Pearl Harbor
USS West Virginia, USS Tennessee and USS Arizona.

By noon, on that fateful day, 8 American battleships, 3 cruisers and 3 destroyers, totalling some 300,000 tons, had been immobilized. In addition, 96 of the 231 aircraft based on Hawaii had been destroyed; 3,400 people had been killed or wounded.

Churchill's confidence that 'we had won the war' was based primarily on the American declaration of war on Japan, reinforced by Hitler's declaration of war on the United States four days later, on December 11.

But it was also based on the recent news from Moscow. In the first week of December 1941, the beginning of a severe Russian winter, temperatures dropped to 35 degrees below zero. The German attack on Moscow was forced into a dramatic retreat:

Despite Hitler's order that his armies should hold on at all costs, on December 5 they were driven back slowly, painfully, but inexorably, two miles, five miles...eleven miles from the Russian capital...Not only did German soldiers have to light fires in pits under their tanks for as much as four hours, in order to thaw out their engines sufficiently to bring them into

action, but, in conflict with the Soviet T-34 tanks, the German anti-tank shells were useless. (editorial note: Martin Gilbert *Second World War*, page 270)

Question 11

Winston in a letter to Maxine Elliot on 8 February 1938:

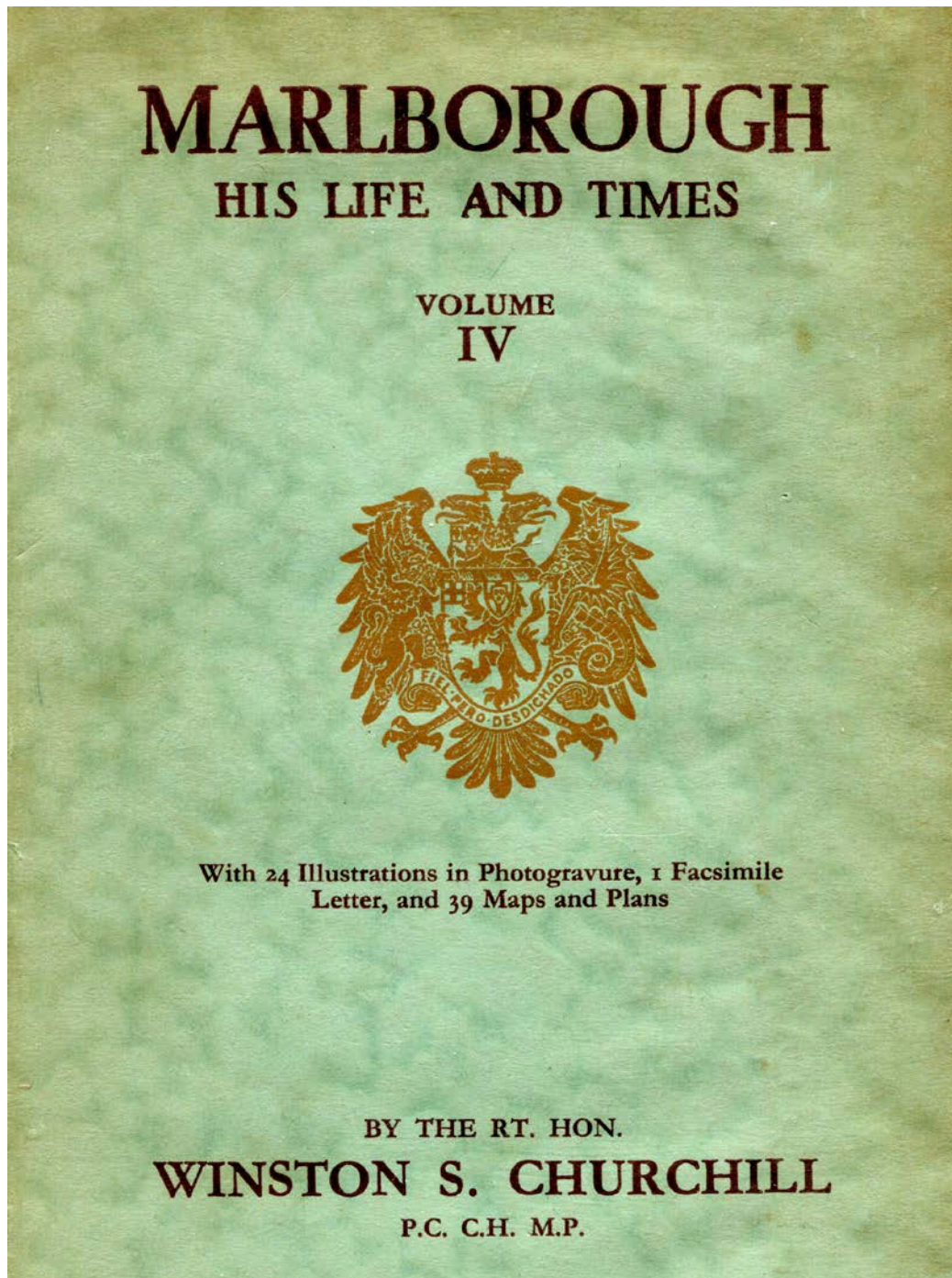
“I am toiling away at one of my books” Which book?

[See the answer to question 11](#)

Return to question 11

Answer to question 11

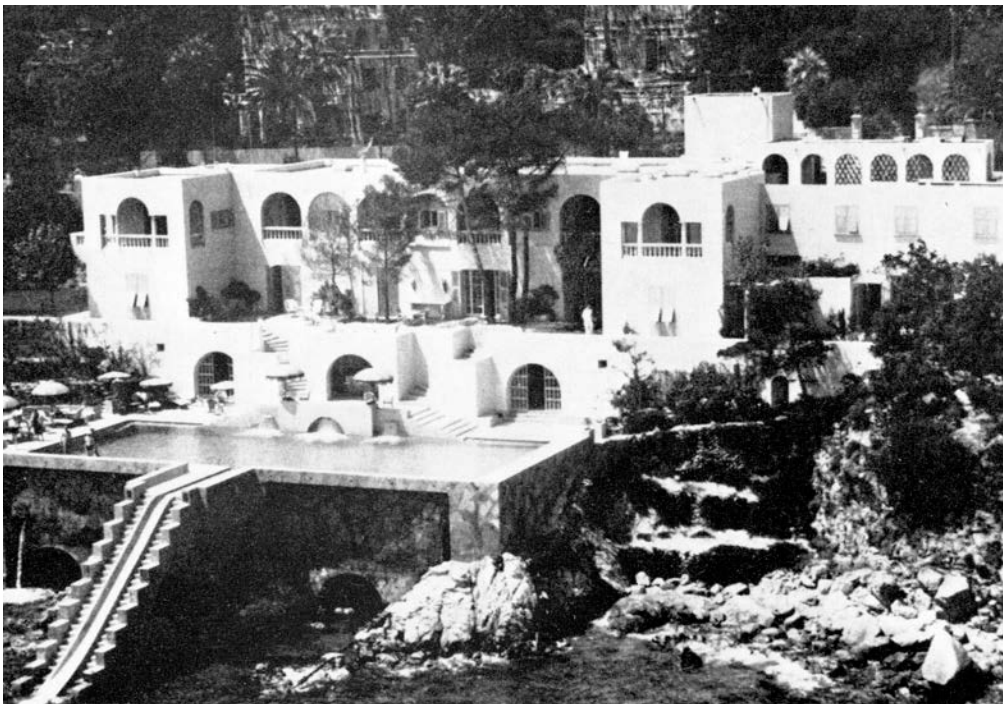
The fourth and last volume of
Marlborough, His Life and Times.



Churchill wrote much of the fourth, and last, volume of *Marlborough: His Life and Times*, when on holiday at the home of the wealthy American actress and businesswoman Maxine Elliott — the Château de l'Horizon near Cannes.



Maxine Elliott, circa 1917



The Château de l'Horizon near Cannes in the south of France

Maxine Elliott and Winston Churchill:

Winston's major literary project in 1938 was the fourth, and last, volume of *Marlborough: His Life and Times*. He did much of the writing at the home of Maxine Elliott — The Château de l'Horizon — near Cannes in the south of France. Winston was keen to finish this last *Marlborough* volume for two reasons: 1) the

darkening scene in Europe, and 2) because his contract for volume IV was worth £3,500..

With the help of Maxine's hospitality and her excellent cellar of old brandy, volume IV of *Marlborough* was published on September 3, 1938.

Maxine Elliott was born Jessie McDermott in Maine in 1868. She adopted the stage name of Maxine Elliott in 1908, the same year that she met the American financier J. P. Morgan, and opened her own theatre on Broadway — *The Maxine Elliott*.

She became a wealthy woman, leaving for Europe in 1914, where she organized a Belgian Relief campaign for feeding and clothing 350,000 refugees..

Extracts from some of Maxine's letters to Winston:

September 7, 1938 — “It is incredible to me that one man can possess the genius to write a book like this and at the same time pursue his ordinary life which is a thousand times fuller of grave duties and obligations than that of lesser men.”

January 29, 1939 — “ Never have I seen you in such good form; we rocked with laughter continually. Your *joie de vivre* is a wonderful gift and on a par with your other amazing gifts — in fact you are the most enormously gifted creature in the world, and it is like the sunshine leaving when you go away.”

July 6, 1939 [on hearing that Churchill might join the Cabinet in London] — Oh Winston dear, was there ever such a triumph for a public man! Press and public alike are hotly demanding its one man who has told them the frightening truth all these years, and now they run to him to try and pull their burning chestnuts out of the fire.”

September 20, 1939 [on hearing that Churchill had been given the Admiralty] — “You would have been gratified I know if you could have heard the gasp of relief from the French when you went back to the Admiralty. All sorts and conditions of people have even shaken hands over it, but I personally resent the Government that waited so long to

take advantage of your overwhelming superiority of brain and experience!”

Maxine Elliott died in Cannes on March 5, 1940.

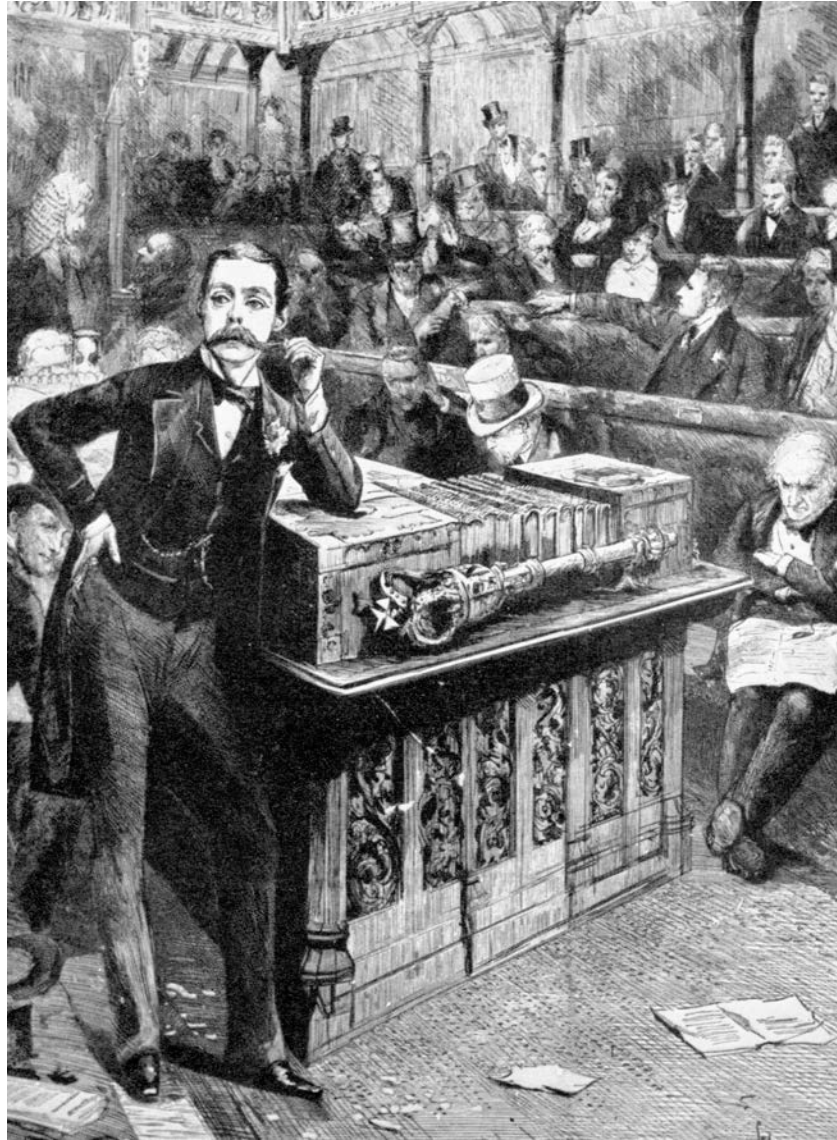
Question 12

Who wrote to Winston on 9 August 1893 saying that Winston was likely to become “a mere social wastrel, one of the hundreds of public school failures”?

[See the answer to question 12](#)

Return to question 12
Answer to question 12

His father, Lord Randolph Churchill



September 1886 — The new Leader of the House of Commons: and Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Gladstone, sitting opposite (editorial note: Gladstone — Chancellor, 1880-2, and Leader of the Commons, 1880-5)

One of Lord Randolph's biographers wrote:

There is something pathetic and infinitely sad in Lord Randolph's efforts to exert a beneficial effect on his son's character, efforts which only served to withdraw his true personality from him. Had he lived longer, all this would have changed; their relationship was changing by 1892, but it was not to be. The tragedy was mutual.

The situation remains the same throughout; the son desperately anxious to please, and worshipping the father; the father, very fond of the son, denying him his confidences and withdrawing into a cold aloofness whenever the son attempts to create a more intimate relationship.

Question 13

Churchill began his BBC broadcast, on 18 December 1939, about the Battle of the River Plate, with these words:

“The news which has come from Montevideo has been received with thankfulness in our island.”

What was the news?

[See the answer to question 13](#)

Return to question 13

Answer to question 13

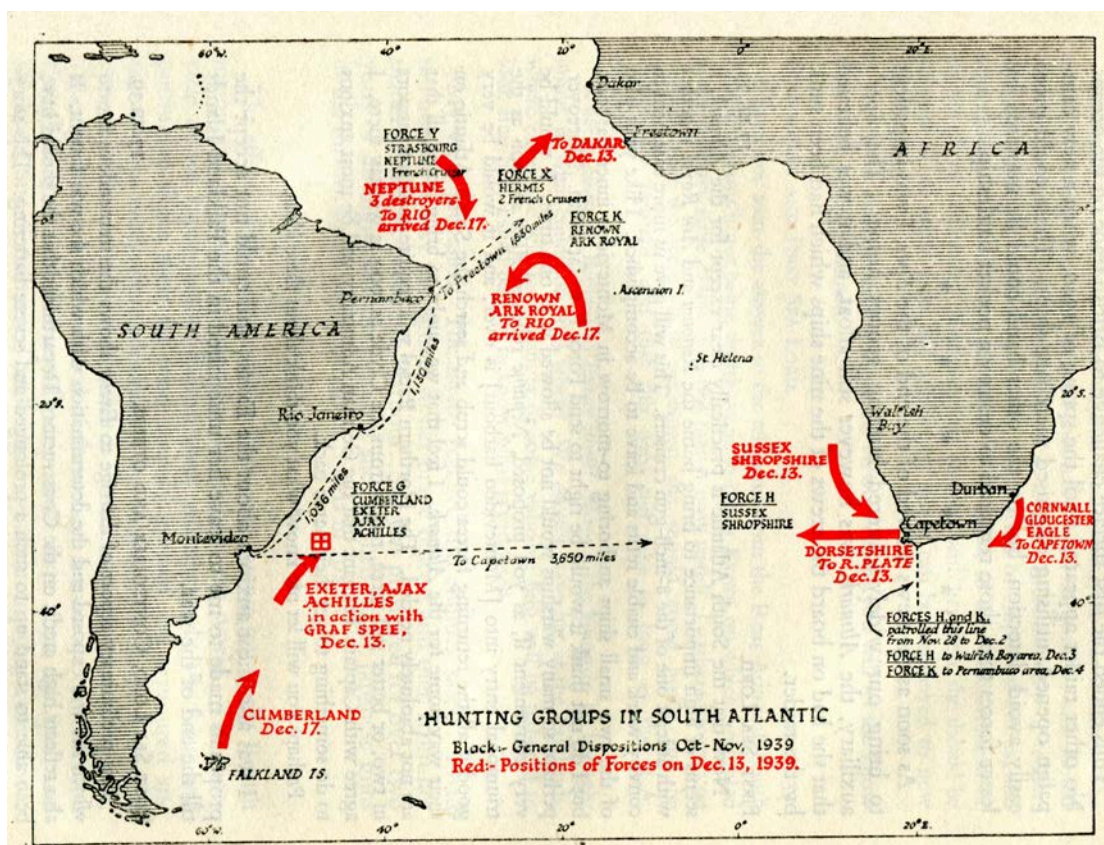
The sinking of the *Admiral Graf Spee* in the South Atlantic



After being engaged by HMS Exeter, HMS Ajax and HMS Achilles, the German heavy cruiser the *Admiral Graf Spee* was scuttled in Montevideo on 17 December 1939.

Most accounts refer to the *Graf Spee* being scuttled (sunk in relatively shallow water to avoid the ship falling into enemy hands). But, after being badly damaged by the three smaller British ships, the *Graf Spee* took refuge in Montevideo. Captain Hans Langsdorff of the *Graf Spee* then decided to blow his ship up outside the harbour. It exploded dramatically at 8.55pm on December 18, 1939. Two days later Captain Langsdorff committed suicide in Buenos Aires in Argentina.

Churchill has left us a dramatic account, in the first volume of his *The Second World War* — the chapter *The Action Off The River Plate*. His account includes several good maps, plus an overview map of the key naval actions in the South Atlantic:



The Second World War, vol 1, page 415 (Cassell edition)

The Battle of the River Plate gave intense joy to the First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill. His closing observation:

The effects of the action off the Plate gave intense joy to the British nation and enhanced our prestige throughout the world. The spectacle of the three smaller British ships unhesitatingly attacking and putting to flight their far more heavily gunned and armoured antagonist was everywhere admired.

Question 14

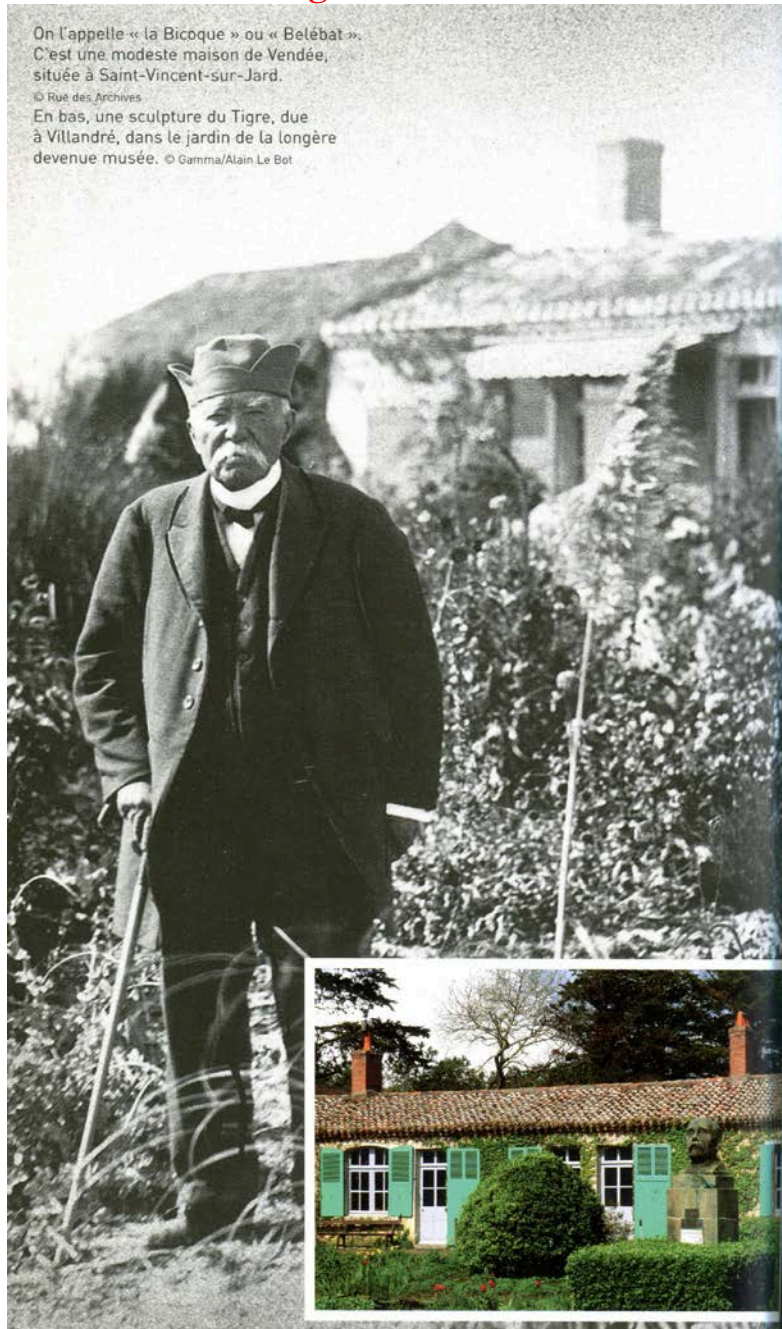
Of whom did WSC write in *Great Contemporaries*:

“The truth is that he embodied and expressed France. As much as any single human being can ever be a nation, he was France.”?

[See the answer to question 14](#)

[Return to question 14](#)
[Answer to question 14](#)

Georges Clemenceau



Georges Clemenceau (1841-1929). In 1865 Clemenceau left France to spend some time in America. He soon became fluent in English. Four years later, after teaching at a school for young ladies in Connecticut he married one of its pupils, Mary Plummer.

Churchill visited Clemenceau on several occasions during the First World War. He later wrote an excellent article about The Tiger (Clemenceau was also known as The Father of Victory) in his book *Great Contemporaries*.

An extract:

The only thing that mattered was to beat the Germans. Presently came the supreme crisis. The Germans were again on the Marne [the first week in September 1914] From the heights of Montmartre the horizon could be seen alive with the flashes of artillery. The Americans were pitch-forked in at Château-Thierry. I had important munition and aeroplane factories all around Paris. We had to prepare to move them and to improvise shelters farther south: so I was much in the French capital...(editorial note: On July 17, 1917, Churchill became Minister of Munitions)

Until the Germans collapsed, they seemed unconquerable; but so was Clemenceau. He uttered to me in his room at the Ministry of War words which he afterwards repeated in the tribune — “I will fight in front of Paris; I will fight in Paris; I will fight behind Paris.” Everyone knew this was no idle boast. Paris might have been reduced to the ruins of Ypres or Arras

It would not have affected Clemenceau’s resolution. He meant to sit on the safety valve, till he won or till his world blew up. He had no hope beyond the grave; he mocked at death; he was in his seventy-seventh year. Happy the nation which when its fate quivers in the balance can find such a tyrant and such a champion.

Question 15

Henry Asquith wrote, in his diary entry for June 29, 1921:

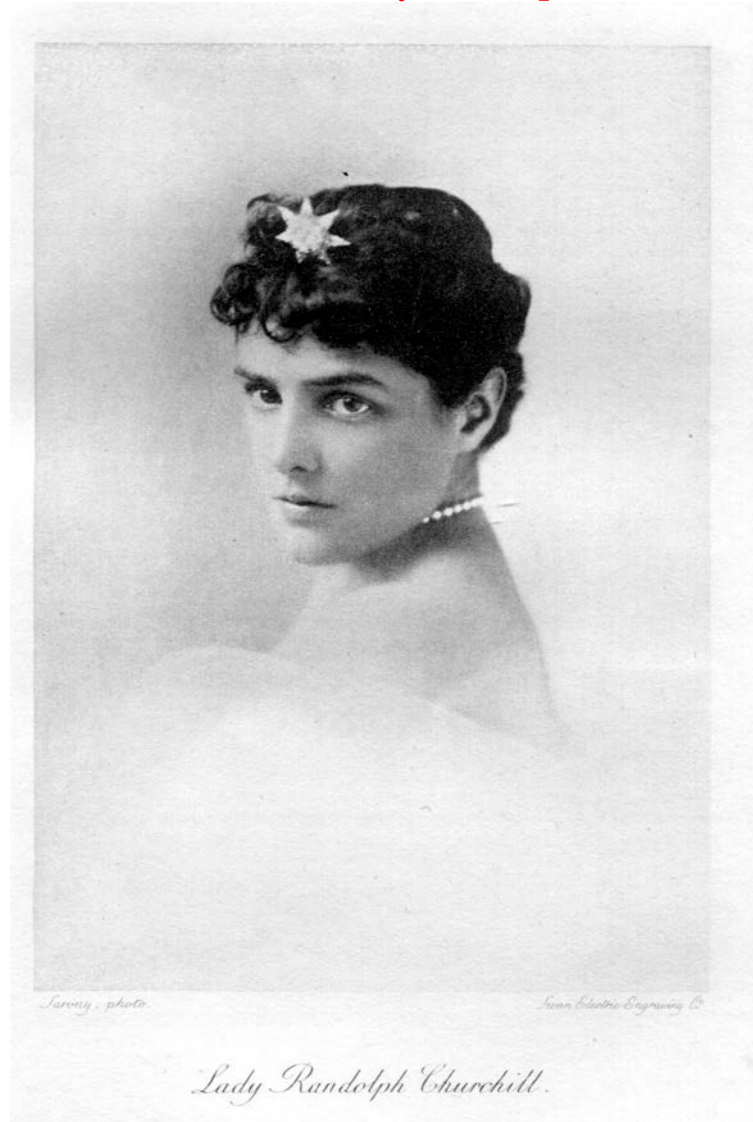
“She had succumbed this morning. I have written a letter to Winston ...She was verging on seventy, and had lived every inch of her life up to the edge. An amazing reservoir of vitality, and gay, unflinching courage. I call her the last of the Victorians.”

Whom was Asquith writing about?

[See the answer to question 15](#)

[Return to question 15](#)
[Answer to question 15](#)

Winston's mother, Lady Randolph Churchill



Jennie, when she married Lord Randolph Churchill on April 15, 1874, at the British Embassy in Paris. She was 20 years old at the time. She was born in Brooklyn, New York, on January 9, 1854.

Question 16

Why did WSC, in his 1937 tribute to Rudyard Kipling, say that, for Kipling, victory in 1918 “came in all its fullness and all its disillusion.”?

[See the answer to question 16](#)

Return to question 16
Answer to question 16

Because Kipling's only son John
died in 1915 at the Battle of Loos.



John Kipling, in the uniform of the Irish Guards

If any question why we died
Tell them, because our fathers lied

(Rudyard Kipling)

Question 17

Of whom did Churchill write, in *The World Crisis*:

He alone could have led Russia into the enchanted quagmire; he alone could have found the way back to the causeway. He saw; he turned; he perished. The strong illuminant that guided him was cut off at the moment when he had turned resolutely for home. The Russian people were left floundering in the bog. Their worst misfortune was his birth; their next worst—his death.

[See the answer to question 17](#)

[Return to question 17](#)

[Answer to question 17](#)

[Lenin \(22 April 1870-21 January 1924\)](#)



Question 18

On which occasion did Churchill say “We shape our buildings, and afterwards our buildings shape us.”?

[See the answer to question 18](#)

Return to question 18

Answer to question 18

In his speech on 28 October 1943 about the rebuilding of the House of Commons. The building had been destroyed by bombs on 10 May 1941.



Churchill & Brendan Bracken, Minister of Information, inspecting the ruins of the House of Commons which had been destroyed by bombs the previous night, May 10, 1941.. For the rest of the war the Commons met in Church House or the House of Lords.

On the night of 10-11 May 1941, a German air raid on London killed 1,436 people. The House of Commons debating chamber was

destroyed, and serious damage done to the British Museum, Westminster School, the Royal Mint, the Law Courts, the Public Record Office, the Mansion House, St. James's Palace, and more than 5,000 homes. In all, 12,000 people were made homeless.

Question 19

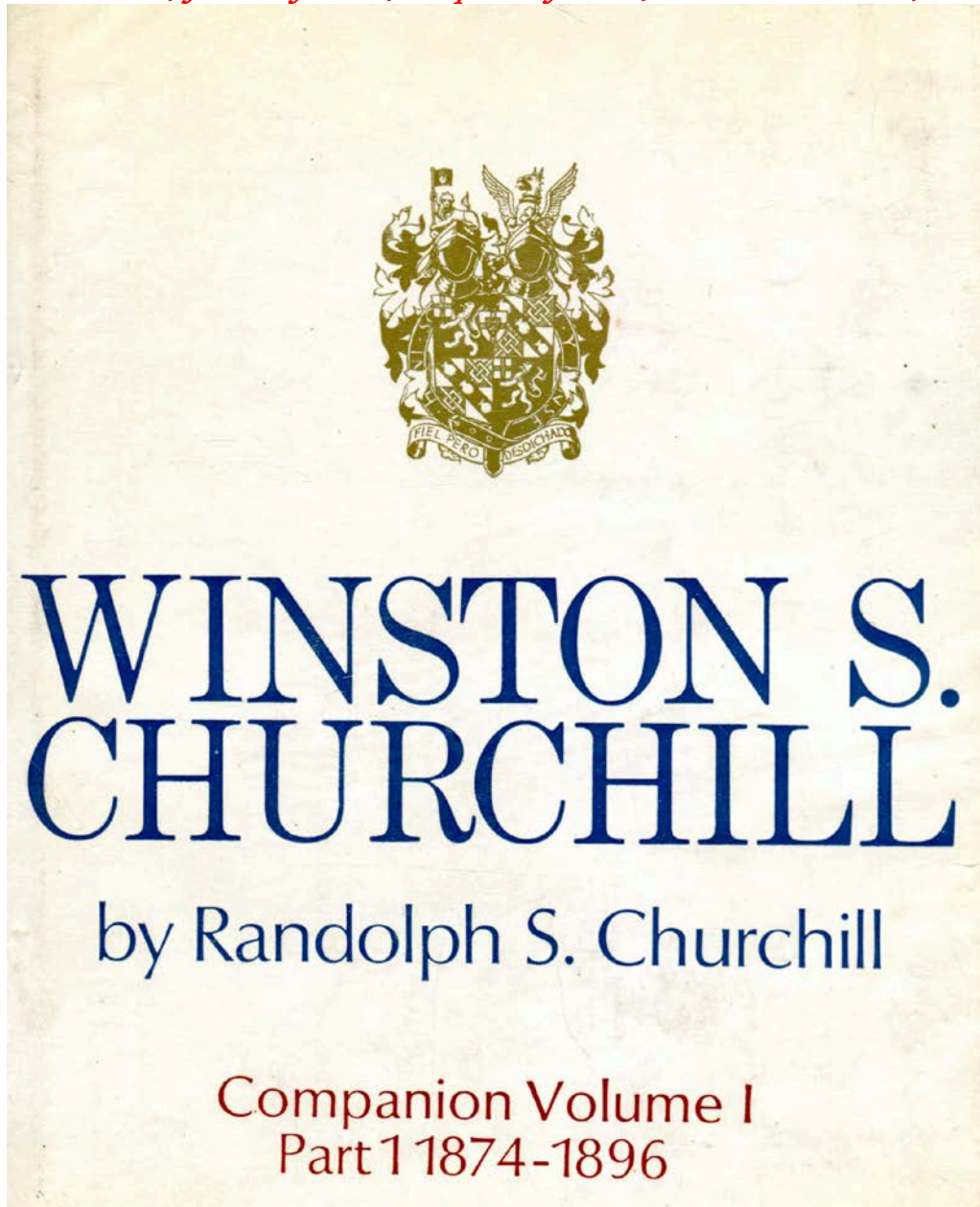
Name some of the pen names Winston used when writing for the school magazine, *The Harrovian*.

[See the answer to question 19](#)

Return to question 19

Answer to question 19

De Profundis, Junius Junior, Aequitas Junior, Norfolk Howard, Truth



There is an interesting selection of some of Winston's amusing letters to *The Harrovian* between pages 308 and 319 in Companion Volume I, Part I, edited by Randolph S. Churchill.

Question 20

During one of her meetings with Winston, Violet Asquith quoted some lines of poetry from William Blake.

How did Winston respond?

See the answer to question 20

Return to question 20
Answer to question 20

I never knew that that old Admiral had found time to write so much good poetry.

(editorial note: Churchill was confusing Admiral Robert Blake (1598-1657) with the poet William Blake (1757-1827))



Admiral Robert Blake



William Blake

Question 21

Why did Churchill conceive his major literary project *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples* in the early 1930s?

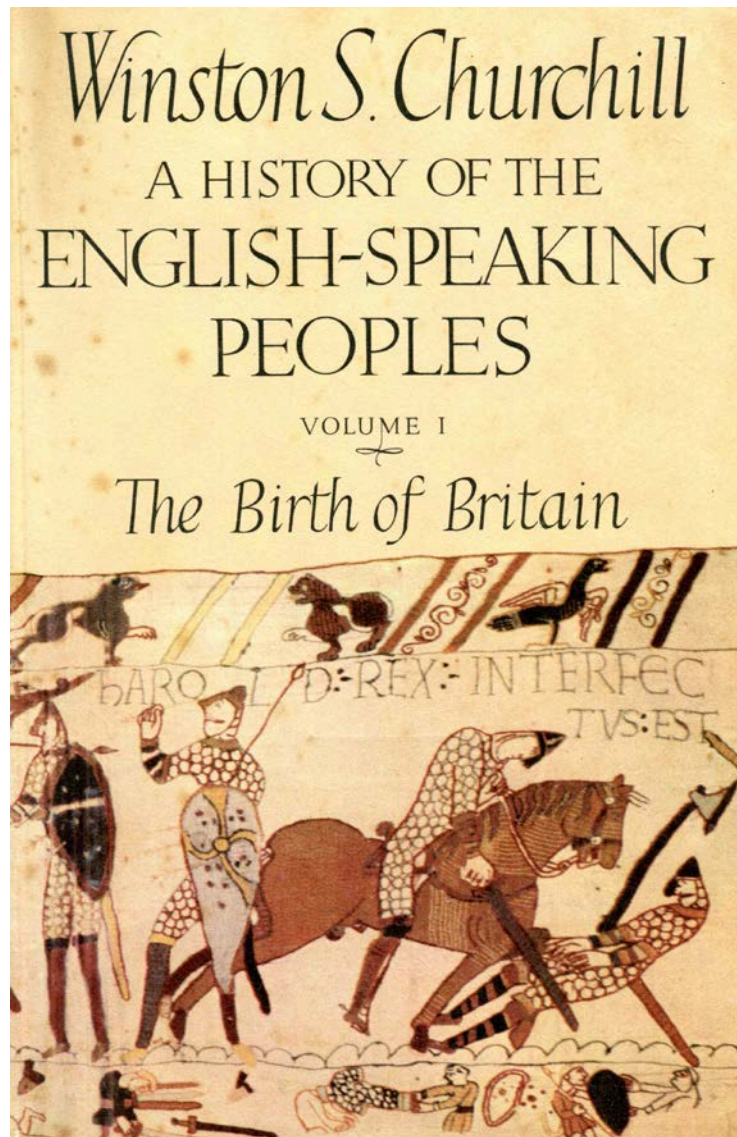
[See the answer to question 21](#)

Return to question 21

Answer to question 21

Because he was keen to strengthen the historic ties between Britain and America in preparation for the struggle with Germany which he knew was inevitable.

The four volumes were finally published between 1956 and 1958:



Winston S. Churchill
A HISTORY OF THE
ENGLISH-SPEAKING
PEOPLES

VOLUME II

The New World



Winston S. Churchill
A HISTORY OF THE
ENGLISH-SPEAKING
PEOPLES

VOLUME III

The Age of Revolution



Winston S. Churchill
A HISTORY OF THE
ENGLISH-SPEAKING
PEOPLES

VOLUME IV

The Great Democracies



Question 22

Churchill arriving at the Sanders Theater, Harvard, on 6 September 1943, to receive an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

Who is the gentleman on his left?



[See the answer to question 22](#)

Return to question 22

Answer to question 22

Dr. James B. Conant, (1893-1978)
President of Harvard (1933-1953)



Churchill mounting the rostrum for the ceremony

On April 12, 1941, as Chancellor of Bristol University, Churchill had conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws on Dr. Conant.

Biographical sketch of Dr. Conant:

Professor of Organic Chemistry, Harvard, 1928-33

Chairman, National Defence Research Committee, 1941-6

Steering Committee, Manhattan Project, 1942-5

US High Commissioner, later Ambassador, to Germany 1953-7

Honorary OBE

Fellow of the Royal Society, May 1941

On 31 March 1949, Churchill delivered a speech at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston. Beforehand, he was invited for tea with President and Mrs Conant.



With President James B. Conant after the ceremony



Dr. Churchill giving the Victory sign after the ceremony

An extract from Churchill's acceptance speech at Harvard on September 6, 1943:

If we [the British and American peoples] are together nothing is impossible. If we are divided all will fail. I therefore preach continually the doctrine of the fraternal association of our two peoples, not for any purpose of gaining invidious material advantages for either of them, not for territorial aggrandisement or the vain pomp of earthly domination, but for the sake of service to mankind and for the honour that comes to those who faithfully serve great causes.

Here let me say how proud we ought to be, young and old alike, to live in this tremendous, thrilling, formative epoch in the human story, and how fortunate it was for the world that when these great trials came upon it there was a generation that terror could not conquer and brutal violence could not enslave.

Question 23

Whom did Churchill, in 1938, call 'Herr Beans'?

[See the answer to question 23](#)

Return to question 23
Answer to question 23

Edvard Beneš



Edvard Beneš, second President of the Czechoslovak Republic 1935-38. He was opposed to Nazi Germany's claim to the German-speaking Sudetenland in 1938. President of the Czechoslovak National Committee in London, 1939-1945.

On hearing of Churchill's appointment, on September 3, 1939, as First Lord of the Admiralty, Beneš wrote to Churchill the following day, from his exile in Putney:

“May I thank you once more for all the great services you have rendered my unfortunate country during the last year... I hope that even in this great struggle my people and myself personally we shall have occasion to collaborate with you effectively.”

Question 24

In his speech on 18 June 1940 — ‘Their Finest Hour’, in the House of Commons and also as a world broadcast on the BBC — Churchill said:

For all of us, at this time, whatever our sphere, our station, our occupation or our duties, it will be a help to remember the famous lines:

**He nothing common did or mean,
Upon that memorable scene.**

Who wrote these lines?

[See the answer to question 24](#)

[Return to question 24](#)
[Answer to question 24](#)

Andrew Marvell (March 1621 - August 1678)



The two lines come from Marvell's
An Horatian Ode upon Cromwell's Return from Ireland.

The two lines refer to the beheading of
King Charles I in 1649

Churchill also quoted these lines after meeting King
Edward VIII on 11 December 1936, just before the
King's abdication.

END OF THE QUIZ

[Return to question 1](#)