Churchill Devoted Entire Life To Service Of Great Britain

Duke Of Marlborough Founds Line; Huge Blenheim Palace Family Seat

New York Times News Service

Winston Churchill, descended from John Churchill, first Duke of Marlborough (1650-1722), a great captain of history who never fought a battle he did not win nor besieged a city he did not take.

In his four-volume biography of Marlborough, Churchill drew a brilliant portrait of this great out devious character. The statesman and moralman of the world of the 20th century cast a keen but understanding eye on the statesman and amoral man of the world of the 18th century.

Marlborough's most celebrated military victory was over the French at Blenheim, Bavaria, Aug. 13, 1704. A grateful Queen Anne had built, for him a residence at Woodstock, near Oxford.

This ponderous and gloomy pile, Blenheim Palace, has depressed a long succession of Marlborough women, including Winston Churchill's mother. Marlborough left no male heir; his title passed in the female line through his daughters — first Henriette and then Anne, wife of Charles, Lord Spencer. Winston Churchill's full name was Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill.

Down the years the Spencer Churchill family made certain contribution to British history. But no firm tone was set until the appearance of Lord Randolph Churchill (1849-1886). He was the second surviving son of the seventh Duke of Marlborough and the father of Winston Churchill.

Lord Randolph was chancellor of the exchequer in 1886 and a rugged debater in Commons.

Mother American

Lord Randolph's political career lay far ahead of him at the moment when, at the age of 24, he met the future mother of Winston Churchill. He was attending the royal yacht squadron regatta at Cowes in August, 1873, when he first saw Jennie Jerome of New York at a ball. A brunette beauty of 19 with sparkling dark eyes, she was a daughter of Leonard Walter Jerome, a New York financier and turfman.

Randloph proposed a day or two after the meeting. He was accepted. To his father he wrote, that "she is nice, as lovable, and amiable and charming in every way as she is beautiful, and by her education and bringing-up she is in every way qualified to fill any position."

Winston Churchill wrote in his biography of his father:

"On April 15, 1874, the marriage was celebrated at the British Embassy in Paris and after a time — not too prolonged — upon the continent, Lord Randolph returned in triumph with his bride to receive the dutiful laudations of the borough of Woodstock and enjoy the leafy glories of Blenheim in the spring."

On Dec. 3, 1874, the Times of London printed the following among its birth announcements:

"On 30th November at Blenheim Palace, the Lady Randolph Churchill, prematurely, of a son."

Winston Churchill was already a young man in a hurry.

Learned Little

At Blenheim, the child played soldier in the vast and drafty halls. He was undersized, sometimes shy, sometimes overassertive. He seemed to be able to learn nothing at school. He adored his brilliant father, who, however, was convinced by his son's school failures that the boy was retarded.

"My mother made a brilliant impression upon my childhood life," he said in his memoirs.

The boy became deeply attached to his nanny, Mrs. Everest. As he put it, "my nurse was my confidant and nearest and most intimate friend."

When he became one of the grand figures of his age, it was Mrs. Everest's picture that was over his desk.

At 7 Winston was sent to a school at Ascot. He was a sore trial to his masters. He would neither learn nor behave and he was caned regularly. Caught stealing sugar from the pantry, he received the usual birching. This was repeated when, in revenge, he kicked the headmaster's silk hat to pieces. Sent to another school at Brighton, he discovered books and read everything he could get his hands on. In 1888 he entered Harrow.

Gradually the more perceptive of his teachers began to sense that Winston was far from stupid. Nonetheless, he never got out of the lower form.

"However, by being so long in the lowest form, I gained an immense advantage over the cleverer boys," he recalled. "They all went on to learn Latin and Greek and splendid things like that. But I was taught English. I got into my bones the essential structure of an ordinary English sentence — which is a noble thing."

He was finally admitted, in June, 1893, to the Royal Military College, now the Royal Military Academy, at Sandhurst. Once there, he did well. He stood eighth in his class of 150 at the end of the course.

Two years later he was commissioned a lieutenant and joined the Fourth Hussars at Aldershot.

His eye lighted on Cuba and the fighting between the independence forces and the Spanish. He got an assignment to report on the Cuban fighting for the Daily Graphic. He was to get 5 pounds an article.

After he returned to Britain his regiment was ordered to India and he went into garrison at Bangalore. But he became restless. Through a family friend, he found his way to the headquarters of the Malakand field force on the northwest frontier, where there was action.

Book Written

After writing a book—it was his first—that was less than gently critical of the "expedition" it required, he turned to fiction. The result was his only novel, "Savrola. A tale of the Revolution in Laurania."

Savrola is a dashing young man—an unabashed liberal who is nonetheless a traditionalist at heart. He bears a striking resemblance to Churchill's conception of himself.

Having acquired a taste for battle, Churchill sought more. this time in Egypt. He was classed as a supernumerary officer and he was also a correspondent for the Morning Post.

Having agreed to foot his own hospital and burial expenses, he was assigned to the 21st Lancers in time for the Battle of Omdurman on Sept. 2, 1898. He was up early that day.

"Talk of fun! Where will you beat this! On horseback at daybreak, within shot of an advancing enemy and seeing everything."

He charged with his lancers, pistol in hand (a shoulder injury prevented his wielding a sabre), and went through the slashing, stabbing struggle.

The British victory virtually ended the war. Hhe returned to India, where he served briefly. He then resigned his commission and determined to enter politics.

The year was 1899, when he applied to the Conservative party for a Commons seat to contest. He was assigned to contest a vacancy in Oldham, a dreary Manchester industrial suburb. He lost—the first of five defeats as against 19 victories—but he was not disheartened.

War Arrives

It took another war for Churchill to fix himself firmly in British politics. This was the Boer War, fought when the Boers in South Africa ordered British troops away from their frontiers and the British refused.

"The Boer ultimatum had not ticked out on the tape machine for an hour when Oliver Borthwick (editor of the Morning Post) came to offer me an appointment as principal war correspondent. 250 pounds a month, all expenses paid," he wrote.

Churchill had scarcely reached Natal when he suffered the ignominy of being captured on an armored train and put, a prisoner of war, in the state model school in Pretoria. After four weeks, however, he escaped by climbing a wall.

Escape Made

After a couple of days in a coal mine, the bedraggled correspondent got onto another fright train where he hid between two bales of wool until it reached neutral Portuguese East Africa and the city of Lourenco Marques, whence, after getting help from the British consul, he went to Durban.

An astonishing act is greeated him. "I reached Durban to find myself a popular hero. I was received as if I had won a great victory . . . Sheaves of telegrams from all parts of the world poured in on me."

He was on hand for the relief of Ladysmith, the battles in the Orange Free State and hard skirmishing in the Transvaal. He returned to London in the late summer of 1900.

His plan was to re-enter politics, but first there was a quick lecture trip in the United States under the sponsorship of Mark Twain.

In the election of 1900 a total of 11 parliamentary constituencies offered Churchill a chance to contest them but with typical stubbornness he chose Oldham, the scene of his earlier defeat. The campaign in Oldham became so raucous that it attracted national attention.

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL is shown above in uniform with medals about 1907, and in a top hat on his wedding day in 1908. He married the former Clementine Hozier. (Wirephoto by The Associated Press)

However, despite Churchill's martial allure, he just scraped in. And at the age of 26 he entered the House of Commons, Jan. 23, 1901, part of the 134-vote majority of the Conservative party.

Debate Entered

New members were not supposed to speak until they had been on hand at least a month but Churchill got the speaker's eye and was on his feet four days after he had been sworn in. The Boer War was still on—it was not to end until June, 1902—and reference to it in debate gave Churchill a chance to speak.

The brisk give-and-take of Commons was the breath of life to Churchill.

One of Churchill's most vigorous and durable feuds was with the American-born Lady Astor. There is a story that the exchange between them once became so sulphurous that Lady Astor burst out:

"If you were my husband, I'd put poison in your coffee."

"If you were my wife, I'd drink it," Churchill shot back.

He never a blind follower. Churchill progressively became a problem to his party leaders. His views were somewhat advanced on his social reform. His position as a Conservative grew untenable.

In a dramatic scene May 31, 1903, Churchill entered the house, glanced at the Conservative bench, bowed to the speaker and "crossed the floor" amid Tory catcalls to join the Liberal party amid their cheers.

His reward came in the election of 1905, when the Liberals swept into power with a 356-seat majority and he was appointed under secretary for the colonies. Two years later, at the age of 32, he was made a privy councillor.

In 1908 things went badly for him over the issue of woman suffrage. He opposed it; his opponent was for it. Churchill lost.

Churchill bounced back by winning a by-election in Dundee. Churchill received a full cabinet post, president of the board of trade.

Wedding Marked

It so happened that the Countess of Airlie who had made herself useful to Churchill in Dundee had a very attractive granddaughter, Clementine Ogilvy Hozier. Miss Hozier was a daughter of Sir Henry Montague Hozier and Lady Henrietta Blanche Hozier, daughter of the seventh Earl of Airlie.

Churchill and Miss Hozier were married at St. Margaret's, Westminister, Sept. 12, 1908. He had been a full cabinet minister since April and the wedding was a considerable social event. King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra and members of the cabinet sent presents.

Churchill called his wife Clemmie and she was standing at his side at the window of their home on his 90th birthday.

In 1910, Churchill was made home secretary. This was one of the key cabinet offices—often a step toward the prime ministership.

On Oct. 23, 1911, Churchill became first lord of the admiralty, the cabinet head of the navy. Having been acquainted with Britain's naval problems, he took steps to spur the modernization of her ships and organization. His prescience was responsible for the fact that naval units were at their posts and battle-ready when World War I opened.

As a naval strategist, he was convinced that the considerable British sea power reserve could be utilized to relieve pressure on the main ground war fronts on the continent while at the same time finding and exploiting the flanks of the central powers.

Modernization Of Navy Pushed By First Lord

Low Point Hit

The possibility of action in the Mediterranean, so stimulating to Nelson and Napoleon, caught Churchill's imagination, too. The operation that seemed to offer the greatest possibilities was the forcing of the Dardanelles, which unites the Aegean with the sea of Marmora and controls the approaches to Istanbul, then called Constantinople, and entrance into the Black Sea. The European side of the strait is formed by the Gallipoli Peninsula, a tongue of land 63 miles long. Its possession assures control of the Dardanelles.

The Dardanelles nearly ended Churchill's political career. On March 18, 1915, a combined British and French fleet attempted to force the Dardanelles with disastrous results and heavy losses in ships and lives.

A munitions shortage and general dissatisfaction with the conduct of the war forced formation of a coalition government. Churchill was succeeded at the admiralty by Arthur Balfour, a Conservative. It was probably the lowest point in his career. He was subsequently cleared by a board of inquiry of sole responsibility for the Dardanelles failure but that was much later and the damage had been done.

Churchill remained in the government as chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, a sinecure. Within five months he resigned from the cabinet.

He thereupon got a major's commission and went to the front in France for a refresher course with a battalion of the Grenadier Guards.

Russia Rises

After the general election of 1918 Lloyd George reorganized his cabinet and Churchill became secretary for war.

Meantime, the specter that had been haunting Europe materialized in Imperial Russia when Lenin's Communists seized power in November, 1917. Once the outlines of the new regime became evident, Churchill grew alarmed. Trustful of the common man though he was, he was not prepared to trust Lenin's version of the same abstraction.

Politics gave Churchill a breathing spell in 1922. Lloyd George was toppled by the Conservatives. For the first time since 1900 Churchill was without a seat in Commons. He contested the Leicester West Division in 1923, but lost. He ran as an independent in 1924 but lost by 43 votes out of 22,778 cast.

Meantime, he was edging his way back toward the Conservative party. Churchill believed that the Liberal party had become so infiltrated by socialists that it could no longer afford him a spiritual home. Later in 1924 Churchill stood in the general election from the Epping division of Essex as a Constitutionalist. There was a Conservative sweep and Churchill won. He did not expect to be asked to join the government. However, the prime minister called him to his office and said:

"Will you take the chancellor?"

Thinking it was the general utility post of chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, Churchill said:

"Of the duchy?"

"No," Baldwin replied, "chancellor of the exchequer."

Pound Restored

Churchill restored the pound to its prewar value, Britain had gone off the gold standard as a war measure. Churchill's act temporarily strengthened Britain's credit but it hurt the country's export trade.

Churchill presented five budget s in all. The advice that he followed was from highly orthodoox financial and economic sources.

Churchill ran and won in Epping as a conservative in 1929, 1931 and 1935.

He was never again without a Commons seat until his retirement in 1964. After the election of 1935 he was returned from the nearly Woodford division in 1945, 1950, 1951, 1955 and 1959.

During this period it was generally assumed that Britain would not be menaced by a major war for years to come. However, by 1932 Hitler was a rising power in Germany, calling for rearmament to reverse the terms of the Versailles Treaty. Churchill said in Commons that year:

"The demand is that Germany should be allowed to rearm. Do not let the government delude themselves by supposing that which Germany is asking for is equal status . . ."

He went on to predict that their demands would "shake their foundations . . . every country in the world."

Two years later Churchill attacked the limited funds allowed for increasing Britain's air power.

German Warned

Nor did he confine his warnings to his countrymen. In 1937 he had an interview with Ribbentrop, the German ambassador to the Court of St. James". Ribbentrop told him that Germany wanted a free hand in eastern Europe. She must have living space for her increasing population. At that Germany would be free to act. Germany asked of the British Commonwealth and Empire was not to interfere. Churchill made clear his belief that Britain would give such assurances. To this Ribbentrop replied:

"In that case, war is inevitable."

Churchill retorted:

"When you talk of war, which, no doubt, would be a general war, you must not underrate England. She is a curious race and few foreigners can understand her mind. Do not judge by the attitude of the present administration. Once a great cause is presented to the people all kinds of unexpected actions might be taken by this very government and by the British nation."

In 1938 British and French appeasement of Hitler resulted in the partition of Czechoslovakia. Churchill was distraught.

Again in April 1939, with Europe on the brink of war, he sounded one of his final and most eloquent warnings.

"The danger is now very near. A great part of Europe is to a very large extent mobilized. Millions of men are being prepared for war. Everywhere the frontier defenses are manned. Everywhere it is felt that some new stroke is impending. If it should fall, can there be any doubt but that we shall be involved? . . .

War Begins

"Surely then, when we aspire to lead all Europe back from the verge of the abyss on to the uplands of law and peace, we must ourselves set the highest example. We must keep nothing back."

The world war began Sept. 1, 1939. Churchill was named first lord of the admiralty, a post he assumed on Sept. 3.

When the early passive phases of the war ended in the spring of 1940, and the Germans invaded the Netherlands, Belgium and France, Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain submitted his resignation.

In his recollections of May 10, Churchill wrote:

"Presently a message arrived summoning me to (Buckingham) Palace. It only takes two minutes to drive from the admiralty along the Mall . . .

"I was taken immediately to the king. His majesty received me most graciously and bade me sit down. He looked at me searchingly and quizzically for some moments, and then said: 'I suppose you don't know why I have sent for you?' Adopting his mood, I replied: 'Sir, I simply couldn't imagine why.' He laughed and said: 'I want to ask you to form a government.' I said I would certainly do so."

That is how Churchill became prime minister.

PRIME MINISTER Winston Churchill gets chuckle from Russian Premier Joseph Stalin as he selects a big cigar from case. It was a break in the 1945 Big Three Conference at Yalta, Russian Crimea. Franklin D. Roosevelt was third conferee.

'Blood, Sweat' Speech Inspired British Effort

New York Times News Service

NEW YORK — "You have sat here too long for any good you have been doing. Depart, I say, and let us have done with you. In the name of God, go!" The date was May 8, 1940. The words were those Oliver Cromwell used in dismissing the long Parliament in 1653. The man who repeated them, with an accusing finger pointed at Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, was a fellow Conservative, Leopold Amery. The occasion was a bitter debate in Commons over Britain's mounting peril in the faltering, bumbling conduct of the war with Hitler's Germany.

Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill, the 66-year-old first lord of the admiralty, was named prime minister to prosecute the war he had for so long foreseen, and for which his life, up to that point, might be said to have been but a prelude to the greatness of leadership that carried Britain and her allies to triumph in 1945.

He struck the note of his leadership in his first report to Commons on May 13 as the Nazi panzer divisions were heading into France. It was a note he sustained with his countrymen throughout the war — candor that kindled national unity, inspirited the faltering, inspired the brave, forged the will to fight, fashioned the certainty of victory.

"I would say to the House, as I said to those who have joined this government: 'I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat.'

Strife Seen

"We have before us an ordeal of the most grievious kind. We have before us many, many long months of struggle and of suffering.

"You ask, what is our policy? I will say: It is to wage war, by sea, land and air, with all our might and with all the strength that God can give us: To wage war against a monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark, lamentable catalogue of human crime. That is our policy.

"You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word: Victory, victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory, however long and hard the road may be; for without victory, there is no survival . . . At this time I feel entitled to claim the aid of all, and I say, 'come, then let us go forward together.' "

The man through whose mind these confident thoughts flowed knew also that his nation was now virtually alone and at the mercy of Germany and Italy. Indeed, Britain was not to win her first solid victory until the Battle of El Alamein ended Nov. 4, 1942. But to his herculean tasks he brought herculean energy, herculean determination, herculean tact. With them he fashioned the grand alliance of 26 nations. With them he became a giant of his epoch.

Council Named

He was both arrogant and humble, courteous and rude. None could question his courage, yet he was unashamed of tears when deeply moved. He was resourceful, inventive, a master at improvisation, a genius at handling detail.

On becoming prime minister Churchill brought Liberal and Labor members into his cabinet to create a war council. She With Parliament's approval, he established a Ministry of Defense with himself as its head. In effect, Churchill became commander in chief.

Only 16 days after speaking to Parliament, Churchill was confronted with Dunkirk. The British Expeditionary Force was being driven into the sea.

On May 28 Churchill informed the House that King Leopold of the Belgians had surrendered. His melancholy news was followed a week later by his announcement the bulk of the British Expeditionary Force, driven into the sea, had been brought safely home. Many hailed this as a miracle.

Soldiers Flee

More than 1,000 ships from small to large, he told the House, "carried over 335,000 men, French and British, out of the jaws of death and shame, to their native land and to the tasks which lie ahead."

London, meanwhile, had become the seat of eight governments in exile: Belgium, The Netherlands, Free France, Norway, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Greece and Yugoslavia. The government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg was in Canada.

With these governments, Churchill busied himself welding the grand alliance, often putting the damper on petty squabbles and adjudicating trivial rivalries and smoothing the easily ruffled feathers of Charles de Gaulle, the Free French leader.

As the war became global after the entry of the Soviet Union and the United States, China and Japan, Churchill's travels in keeping the alliance glued together were ceaseless.

On Aug. 9, 1942, Churchill and Roosevelt had their first rendezvous in Placentia Bay, Newfoundland.

Out of that meeting at sea came the Atlantic Charter, a statement of principles that was later, in substance, to be incorporated in the aims of the United Nations.

On the day of Pearl Harbor, the Japanese also landed on the Malayian coast and bombed Singapore and Hong Kong and before they were driven back, they were to sink the Prince of Wales and the Repulse, to overrun Malaya, Thailand and Burma and to cost Churchill challenges in Parliament on his leadership.

As the American front, a British — American force under Dwight D. Eisenhower landed Nov. 7, 1942 at Casablanca, Algiers and Oran.

A jubilant but cautious Churchill proclaimed the good news at the Mansion House Nov. 10. "We have victory — a remarkable and definite victory. The bright gleam has caught the helmets of our soldiers and warmed and cheered all our hearts. Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

It was indeed the end of the beginning. From this point on allied pressure on the axis was relentlessly applied on land and sea and in the air.

Allied fortunes improved. Using Sicily as a stepping stone, U.S. and British troops liberated Italy and regained a foothold in Europe.

The following June the supreme effort, the culmination of all the planning that had gone before, came when the greatest amphibious force ever assembled swarmed ashore on the Normandy beaches and began the long, slow march through France, Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany to the Elbe, where it met the Soviet Army advancing from the east.

On May 8, Churchill broadcast the news of Germany's unconditional surrender. He warned that Japan "remains unsubdued."

Churchill had been informed that an atomic device had been detonated in New Mexico. He saw in the weapon a means to speed the end to the war in the Far East and to eliminate the necessity of asking favors from Stalin.

With the ultimate weapon at hand, Churchill wrote in his memoirs, he had never any doubt that Truman would use it "nor have I ever doubted since that he was right."

"To quell the Japanese resistance man by man and conquer the country yard by yard might well require the loss of a million American lives and half that number of British — or more if we could get them there: For we were resolved to share the agony. Now all this nightmare picture vanished."

Election Lost

Just before Potsdam an election had been scheduled. Churchill hoped to keep his government in office at least until Japan had been defeated, but the Labor Party, now that the peril in Europe was over, was impatient for a test of domestic strength.

The campaign was not Churchill's most admirable. filled as it was by invective against his wartime Laborite wartime colleagues. This dismayed many of his admirers.

On election day, July 25, he returned to London for the results, satisfied that "the British people would wish me to continue my work."

But "the power to shape the future" was denied Churchill, and so it was for almost six years.

AT HIS famous residence — No. 10 Downing Street — Prime Minister Winston Churchill held the car door for Queen Elizabeth II. Occasion was a retirement dinner in 1955 for Churchill who was soon to be replaced by Anthony Eden (Associated Press Wirephoto)