

# BRITAIN'S GRAND OLD MAN IN WAR AND PEACE



**IN UNIFORM AND OUT** — Sir Winston Churchill, who will be 80 on November 30th, still is fond of wearing uniforms. At left he is shown as Lord Warden of the Cinque

Ports of England. He also wore this uniform at the Coronation. At right he leaves 10 Downing Street, home of the British Prime Minister.—(CP from UK Information)

Millions remember Winston Churchill for his V-sign at the time of the blitz. At right he gives the sign while wearing the uniform of a honorary air commodore of the Royal

Auxiliary Air Force. At left he wears the cap and gown as an honorary doctor of letters of Cambridge University, awarded in 1948.—(CP from UK Information)

## Approaches 80th Birthday Jaunty And Unpredictable

**By James F. King**

LONDON, (AP) — Sir Winston Churchill approaches his 80th birthday next Tuesday restless, impish and unpredictable.

Age has dealt gently with The Old Man and if he has any immediate intention of retiring as Prime Minister he has not confided it to his closest political associates.

He enjoys keeping them guessing along with everyone else.

Lady Churchill, his doctor and a few intimate cronies have tried to slow him down where the passing years have failed.

They have a difficult patient. He shuffles when he walks—but then he always did; he slouches and groans a lot—but then he always has. He is stubborn—but he always was.

**EDEN GETTING ON, TOO**

Britons are chuckling over this story going the rounds:

A group of Conservative friends hunted diplomatically to The Old Man that perhaps he should take it easier and give Foreign Secretary Eden his chance now to succeed him as Prime Minister.

Churchill listened patiently and

then grumbled with a twinkle in his eyes:

"Maybe you are right. After all Anthony can't live forever."

Eden is 57.

Churchill looks like an old man and he is an old man, but he doggedly refuses to accept any allowances on his count. He can still hold his own in the daily skirmishing in the House of Commons.

Britain has had only two older Prime Ministers—both in the 19th century. Lord Palmerston died in office at 81; William Ewart Gladstone formed his last government at 82.

**ABLE TO RELAX**

Mixed with Churchill's boundless energy is terrific recuperative powers—and a wonderful ability to relax.

Sir Winston likes comfort and good living in the Victorian style. He is happiest at Chartwell, his country home in Kent where he has had his bedroom arranged for use as an office. Normally a late riser, he usually does a couple of hours of paper work while in bed. A true son of the Victorian era, he still prefers a nightgown to pajamas.

A ritual is a nap after lunch.

"I have found," he explains, "I could add nearly two hours to my working day by going to bed for an hour after luncheon."

Around Chartwell at weekends, he potters in his garden and sits for hours watching the goldfish in an outdoor pool he helped build himself. He still holds a card in the bricklayers union. When in the mood, he gets out his brush and easel for painting in oils.

Churchill still enjoys small, intimate dinner parties with old friends with whom he can reminisce far into the night.

**COLORFUL CAREER**

He can think back on previous birthday anniversaries that tell a story of a career hard to equal:

1895—His 21st, as an unofficial military observer in Cuba watching the fighting between the Spanish and the Cuban rebels...

1899—His 25th, as a prisoner of the Boers in South Africa plotting his escape, which later succeeded.

1900—Campaigning in his first bid for Parliament—and winning.

1915—His 41st, in the trenches in France as second-in-command of a Grenadier Guards unit...

1940—As Prime Minister hearing the German radio boast "the Luft-



**ACTIVE SPORTSMAN** — Even at the age of 74, when this photo was taken, Sir Winston Churchill went hunting with Old Surrey and Burstow Hunt which met at Chartwell Farm, near his Westerham home.

waffe celebrated Churchill's birthday by a bombing attack on England...

1944—A family party at 10 Downing Street with victory in sight.

1945—A family party at Chartwell as leader of the Opposition...

1953—A combination birthday and bon voyage party on the eve of flying to Bermuda for a conference with President Eisenhower and the French premier...

**MAY ACCEPT VILLA**

Some time ago a friend offered Churchill a villa in the south of France for his retiring years. That offer still stands.

When the day comes that he retires from politics—if he ever does—the warm climate of the French Riviera is bound to be inviting—along with the scenic landscape appealing to his instincts as a painter. But Chartwell always will be "home."

Churchill is a comparatively wealthy man—money he earned himself largely through his writings and the bulk of it has been accumulated since the war. His memoirs of the Second World War are

estimated to have netted him close to \$1,000,000.

Sir Winston's features are also extremely mobile. According to Artist Graham Sutherland, commissioned by the combined Houses of Parliament to paint Prime Minister Churchill's 80th birthday portrait, every thought that passes through Sir Winston's mind is reflected in his face.

Which will it be—statesman, warrior, artist, wit—when the full-length portrait is unveiled at Churchill's 80th birthday party in Westminster Hall on Nov. 30?

The artist himself has some doubts, for Churchill himself was not adverse to giving Sutherland a hand with the brush during the sittings. And the world, too, may wonder which of the many Churchills will be remembered longest.

**ONLY ONE CHURCHILL**

But for 60 million Britons there can be no doubt. There is only one Churchill, as far as they are concerned—the bulldog warrior, growling, chomping a cigar, his fat fingers held up in the Victory sign.

This is the Churchill whose "fight them on the beaches" speech could stir a nation to resist invasion and

yet curiously enough, bring comfort to those who had suffered losses—so that "a thousand years from now, men will say, 'This was their finest hour.'"

It was his finest hour, too, and remembering, thousands of humble folk are expressing their gratitude by contributing to an 80th Birthday Presentation Fund, which will be used for charity. Typical is this message enclosed with a smiling note.

"A 71-year-old pensioner sends her mile with a hundred thousand thanks for all Sir Winston has done."

But the war years have receded, and now politicians are saying that having strutted his hour on stage, Sir Winston should retire, make way for younger men of ability. Indeed, he is likened to an actor who wears out the audience's patience in fumbling for an exit cue.

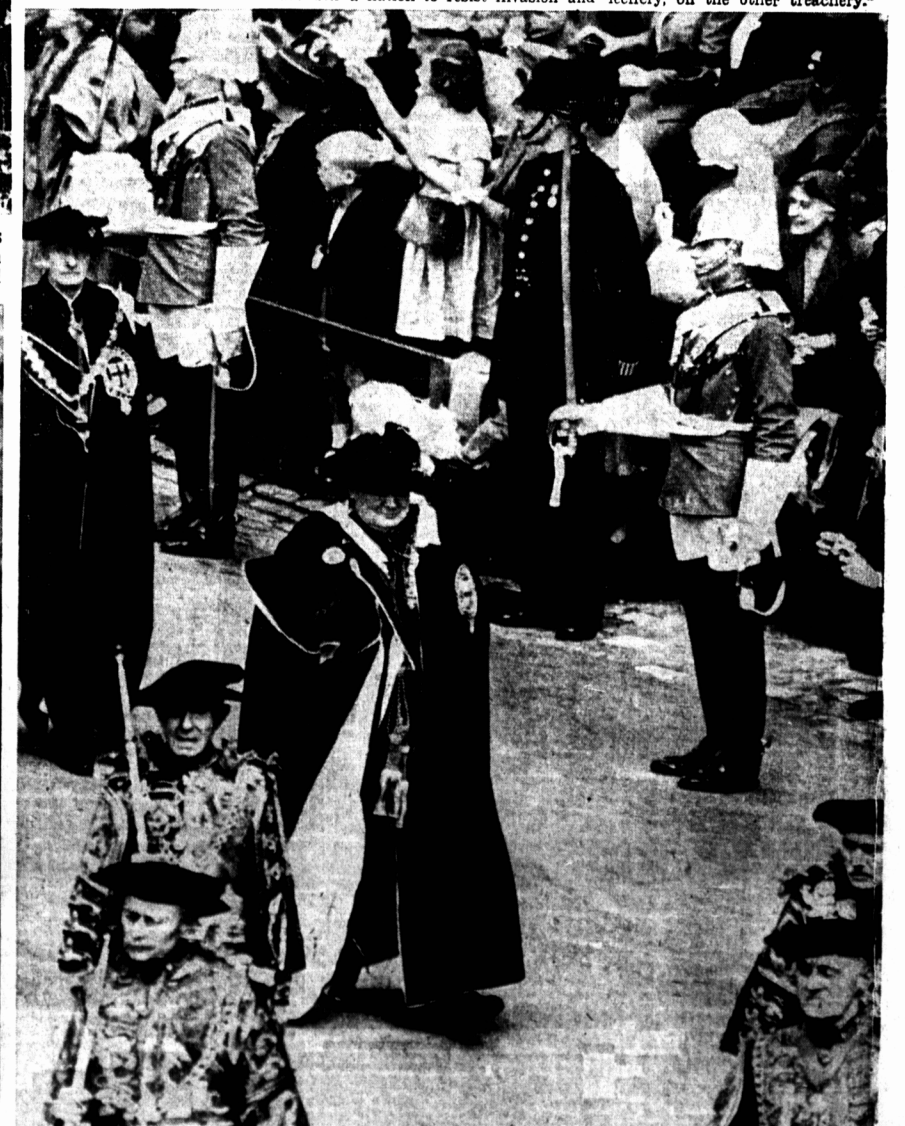
For taunts of this sort Sir Winston reserves his most withering scorn. Recently, picking up a copy of the tabloid Daily Mirror in which the headline "Churchill Must Go" faced a cheesecake photo of a bathing beauty, Sir Winston cried: "Just look at it—on one side lechery, on the other treachery."



**WAS HUSSAR** — This picture shows Sir Winston as a young soldier, wearing the uniform of the 4th Hussars. He joined the regiment in 1895. During the following four years he saw active service in many parts of the world. He distinguished himself as a cavalry subaltern on India's Northwest Frontier and in the great charge at Omdurman in the Sudan in 1898.—(CP from UK Information)



**AS A BOY** — As a young boy Sir Winston had a fondness for sailor suits in common with most boys raised in the Victorian era. Today, approaching his 80th birthday, he still is vigorous and unpredictable and if he has any immediate intention of retiring as Prime Minister of Great Britain he has not confided it to his closest political associates.—(CP from UK Information)



**KNIGHTHOOD** — When Prime Minister Churchill was raised to knighthood he received one of the highest honors Britain can bestow. This picture shows Sir Winston, who will be 80 this month, walking in the garter procession to St. George's chapel where he was made a Knight of the Garter, the first commoner to be so honored since 1925.—(CP from UK Information)