Winston Churchill at the Liberation Parade in Lille, France, on 28 October 1918
with his brother 'Jack', his longtime assistant Eddie Marsh,
and a 30-year-old Lieutenant Colonel Bernard Montgomery
During the past year, we have acquired a treasure trove of more than 500 original press photographs of Winston S. Churchill, spanning a half century of Churchill’s life, from before the First World War through his final years. We have curated the 125 most compelling among these photographs for this catalogue.

Words, not images, are our customary stock-in-trade, but there are compelling reasons why this bookseller is issuing a catalogue of photographs.

Through the images herein we glimpse the vigorous ambitions of the young Cabinet minister, the isolation of his wilderness years, his leadership during the war years, his solitary role as leader of the opposition, his valedictory second premiership, and his final decade, when Churchill passed “into a living national memorial” of the time he had lived in the Nation, Empire, and free world he had served.

Churchill’s long career coincided with the evolution and ascendancy of photojournalism. He witnessed its early years, remarking “It is the misfortune of a good many Members to encounter in our daily walk an increasing number of persons armed with cameras to take pictures for the illustrated Press which is so rapidly developing” (letter of 26 June 1911 to Alfred Lyttelton). During the war years he was a frequent subject of photojournalism’s golden age – with often noteworthy and occasionally iconic results.

Soon after the development of photography in the mid-19th century, newspapers began to look for ways to supplement the written word with this new technology. For decades highly labor-intensive wood engravings were the primary means of reproducing a photographic image for newspapers. In March 1880 – just half a decade after Churchill’s birth – The Daily Graphic of New York became the first paper to publish a halftone reproduction of a photograph. The development of this new photographic reproduction process allowed for papers to begin to easily and quickly publish photographs.

These newly illustrated newspapers were an immediate success with the public, and a new profession, photojournalism, was born. Only the largest newspapers had the resources necessary for in-house photographers, so quickly established to meet the demand. Naturally, there was great incentive for each news agency to be the first to have available a photograph of a major event. All modes of transportation – including carrier pigeons – were used to speedily transport negatives to the agencies where they were developed and supplied to newspapers. This intense competition led to the Associated Press’s development of the most important photojournalistic invention since the halftone, the Wirephoto.

Experiments in remote transmission of photographs were well underway by the early 1920s and The Associated Press began its Wirephoto service in 1935. This allowed for “instantaneous” transmission of visual images. The technology involved transmitting a photographic image into electrical impulses, then into sound, and then back into light. A photograph was mounted on a rotating cylinder while a beam of light reflected the patterns of light and shadow into a photoelectric cell. That cell gave out electrical impulses to a special lamp that flickered with the fluctuations in current, the light focused on sensitized paper on another cylinder rotating synchronously with the transmitting cylinder. Falling on paper coated with light-sensitive silver salts, the light beam reproduced the light and shadow of the photograph, thus reproducing the image sent. The latent image was then developed and fixed. On the verso it was typical for copyright information to be stamped and a typed caption affixed.

The resulting gelatin silver print could then be stored in a newspaper’s archive and used repeatedly; some photographs in this catalogue have multiple published dates spanning decades. Until 1954 – the year before Churchill relinquished the premiership for the second and final time – nearly all press photographs were made using wirephoto transmission process were not phased out entirely until the 1970s.

As newspapers began to collect photographs from staff photographers, news agencies, and third-party photographers, newspapers established expansive archives called “photo morgues.” Within these archives physical copies of all photographs published or deemed of potential future use were filed away. These archives often grew to hold more than a million images. Most newspapers’ filing processes included stamping the verso of each image with the copyright holder, publication notes, typed captions (implied by news agencies), hand-written notes, and clippings of the image’s appearance in print. During wartime, censor information was occasionally also included. As a result, photo morgues serve as vast, rich archives of primary historical sources.

In addition to their historical importance, photo editing techniques of the early 20th century often made original press photos unique and aesthetically fascinating visual objects. Before Photoshop made such edits possible at the click of a button, newspapers’ photo departments often would take brush, paint, pencil, and marker to the surface of photographs. These additions ranged from the mere adjustment to the total re-contextualization of a photo. With the addition of such hand-applied edits, these photographs become not only repositories of historical memory and technological artifacts, but also striking pieces of vernacular art.

In recent decades, as newspapers declined and publications increasingly turned to digital production, the contents of most photo morgues have been made available for acquisition by libraries, archives, museums, and, occasionally, private parties such as Churchill Book Collector.

The photographs in this catalogue are a decades-spanning sample of 20th century newspaper press photography focused on an individual integral to much of that century’s momentous history. Indeed, few of the 20th century’s statesmen lent themselves to the medium with such engaging frequency and photojournalic acuity as Winston Churchill.

The photographs come from a variety of sources, from standard news agencies to direct from the studios of noted photographers. The hand-applied edits range from mere contrast adjustments to extensive alteration of figures and backgrounds. One remarkable photo, of Winston Churchill’s and Clement Atlee’s faces pasted onto the bodies of two sparring boxers, reminds us that photos mischievously edited for humor have existed for longer than we might assume. (See rear cover and Item #95 within.)

In this collection of press photographs, we see Churchill as a family man, his arm around Clementine in the midst of the Battle of Britain, and with his children and grandchildren. We see Churchill as a war leader, inspiring the men, women, and machinery of war.

We see Churchill the statesman with expected figures of note (George VI, Queen Elizabeth II, FDR, Stalin, Truman, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Eisenhower) and with figures more unexpected (the son of “the Mahdi of Allah”, the Captain of Newcastle United, Rota the lion, and a Nazi leader).

We see Churchill the orator giving speeches on the hustings and on the radio, in front of audiences ranging from the cows of Epping to the people of the United States, in settings as varied as the back of a wagon and Westminster Hall.

And in the photos of Churchill’s final years we are reminded of the inescapable and inexorable toll of physical mortality, which disregards the longevity of words or deeds.

Which brings us full circle to the notion of why a bookseller trades in photographs.

As we have written before, published work has limitations inherent to the very acts of drafting and editing, of expert input, careful consideration, and diligent preparation. Published words, however luminous and illuminating, can find themselves separated from the vitality and immediacy of a moment or perspective.

Photographs are something different. More ephemeral, more candid, more distinctly in and of the moment. Able to impart a vital sense of things that no acclaimed book or carefully crafted speech – however Churchillian in mastery – can quite capture. So even though Churchill left us a wealth of published works, there is more yet to see and to feel from photographs. We are pleased to share with you the shutter-speed snaps of history and visual chronicler’s art contained within this archive of original press photographs of Winston S. Churchill.
An original press photograph of Winston S. Churchill and his wife, Clementine, leaving the Whitechapel Labour Exchange on its opening day, 1 February 1910

Copyright Barratt’s Photo Press Ltd., published by The Daily Telegraph

London, 12 September 1998

This press photograph captures Winston S. Churchill and his wife, Clementine, on 1 February 1910, the opening day of state-funded British Labour Exchanges. This copy is a later printing (likely 1950s) of an earlier photograph. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 6 x 8 inches (15.3 x 20.3 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scuffing with only light edge wear, a white line above Clementine’s head that appears to be original to the photo’s developing out, and light overall scuffing. This photograph belonged to the working archives of The Daily Telegraph and features original, hand-applied retouching to the Churchills’ clothing. The verso bears a copyright stamp of “Barratt’s Photo Press Ltd.”, a published stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated 25 JUL 1958, a published stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated 12 SEP 1958, extensive handwritten printing notations and a handwritten caption, and a fragment of a newspaper clipping of the caption as it was published reading, “Back in 1910, they are seen leaving Whitechapel Labour Exchange; and...”

In 1910 Churchill - then in his mid 30s - was a young lion of the Liberal Party, vexing the British establishment and helping lay the foundations of the modern welfare state. In 1904, he had quit the Conservative Party and joined the Liberals, beginning a dynamic chapter in his political career that saw him champion progressive causes and be branded a traitor to his class. One such cause was labour. On 19 May 1909 Churchill introduced his Labour Exchanges Bill in the House of Commons. The bill proposed the opening of state-funded Labour Exchanges that would aid the unemployed in finding work. In his speech Churchill explained, “Modern industry is national. The facilities of transport and communications knit the country together as no other country has ever been knitted before. Only labour has not profited by this improved organisation.” (Gilbert, Vol. II, p.309) The first exchanges opened on 1 February 1910; Churchill visited all seventeen London exchanges on the opening day. Churchill was President of the Board of Trade when this image was captured; two weeks later he was appointed Home Secretary.

This photograph captures Winston and Clementine less than a year and a half into the marriage that would last until Winston’s death in 1965. Clementine Churchill, nee Clementine Hozier, first met Winston at a ball in 1904, where he made a poor impression. In March 1908 she was placed next to Winston at a dinner party, where he apparently made a better impression; they married on 12 September 1908. Their marriage brought five children: Diana (b. 1909); Randolph (b. 1911); Sarah (b. 1914); Marigold (b. 1918); and Mary (b. 1922). Clementine brought “a shrewd political intelligence. She supplied balance to Churchill at two levels: her more equitable nature ensured that she moderated the depth of his depressions, and her good judgment helped to ward off political mistakes.” (ODNB) Their marriage appears to have been a truly effective and intimate partnership. “Throughout their married life, even if separated for only a few days, Clementine and Winston wrote spontaneous and informal letters to one another, intimately affectionate in tone, using their pet names Pug and Kat and reinforced with appropriate animal drawings.” (ODNB) [CBC #005210]
This press photograph captures Winston S. Churchill, his brother, ‘Jack’, his longtime assistant Eddie Marsh, and 30-year-old Lieutenant Colonel Bernard Montgomery on 28 October 1918 in Lille, France, whose recently liberated citizens were honoring British troops. This press copy was apparently made for The Daily Telegraph from negatives held by the Imperial War Museum for Churchill’s obituary coverage in 1965. The gelatin silver print on glossy photo paper measures 7.875 x 9.75 inches (20 x 24.8 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is crisp and clean with only light edge wear, some softening to the corners, and light scuffing visible only under raking light. This copy belonged to the working archives of The Daily Telegraph and features their Art Department’s original, hand-applied retouching to some of the figures’ clothing, as well as original crop marks. The verso bears a copyright stamp of the ‘Imperial War Museum’, a published stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated 25 JAN 1965, handwritten printing notations and two captions – one typed and hand-corrected, one from the newspaper as it was published. Both captions read “After the liberation of Lille in 1918 Churchill was a spectator of the 47th Division’s march past. So, too, was Bernard Montgomery”. Montgomery is identified on the left as “Lt.-Col.” in the newsprint caption and as “GSO1 of the division” in the hand-corrected caption.

This is a striking image, for quality, composition, and associations. The 30-year-old Lieutenant Colonel in the lower left of the image with his hands clasped behind him would, thanks to wartime appointments a quarter of a century later under Prime Minister Winston Churchill, become Field Marshal Bernard Law Montgomery, 1st Viscount Montgomery of Alamein (1887-1976). “It was the First World War that changed Montgomery from a bumptious, querulous infantry subaltern, constantly at odds with authority” into an officer who would become “the outstanding British field commander of the twentieth century.” (ODNB)

A mustachioed John “Jack” Churchill (1880-1947), Winston’s younger brother, is on the far left, partially obscured by Montgomery. Jack and Winston were close and kept up “a constant flow of letters” throughout the First World War. Jack had served alongside his war correspondent brother in the Boer War between 1899 and 1900 and fought with distinction in the First World War. Reaching the rank of Major, he was awarded the Croix de Guerre and the Légion d’Honneur, as well as the British Distinguished Service Order.

The brilliant, Cambridge-educated Sir Edward Howard “Eddie” Marsh (1872-1953) is above and to the right of Churchill in civilian clothes. Marsh was Churchill’s close friend and long-time assistant. Churchill’s choice of Marsh as his Private Secretary in 1905 became the basis of a lifelong friendship. Marsh “remained at his side in every Cabinet post he held for the next twenty-five years.” (Gilbert, VIII, p.794)

By October 1918, Winston Churchill had served both in the Cabinet and on the front, nearly losing his political life in the former and his corporeal life in the latter. Churchill was First Lord of the Admiralty from 1911 until 1915, but was scapegoated for the Dardanelles and Gallipoli disasters and forced to resign. He spent part of his political exile as a lieutenant colonel leading a battalion in the trenches. By the war’s end, he was exonerated and rejoined the Government, initially as Minister of Munitions, in which capacity he was serving when this image was captured. Churchill had left England for France with Eddie Marsh on 25 October for a five-day tour of liberated areas. On 27 October, his brother Jack joined him and they reached Lille at noon. “Lille had been liberated only ten days before… The citizens of Lille asked to honour the British army, and a march past of British troops was planned for October 28. Sir William Birdwood took the salute in the Grand Place, and Churchill was asked to be present in the saluting stand.” (Gilbert, Vol.IV, p.155) [CBC #005576]

$450 USD
An original press photograph of Winston S. Churchill campaigning in March 1924 during a by-election which he lost, his last Parliamentary defeat before returning to Parliament and to the Conservative Party after two decades as a Liberal

Copyright Topical Press Agency
London, 1924

This original press photo captures Winston S. Churchill giving a speech during the 1924 Westminster Abbey by-election - his last Parliamentary defeat before returning to Parliament and to the Conservative Party after two decades as a Liberal. The gelatin silver print on glossy photo paper measures 8 x 10 in (20.3 x 25.4 cm). Condition is good. The paper is crisp with some minor scratching and bruising, significant edge wear, and original crop markings. Some losses along the edges could be matted without affecting the image. The verso bears the copyright stamp of "Topical Press Agency," and several handwritten notations including the year the photo was taken, 1924, and an additional date of 29/12/1938.

This is a striking original press photo of Winston Churchill on the hustings at the time of his defeat in the March 1924 by-election in the Abbey Division of Westminster - the last of three electoral defeats he suffered in an 18-month period as he made the transition back to the Conservative Party after two decades as a Liberal. In 1904, Churchill had quit the Conservative Party and joined the Liberals, beginning a dynamic chapter in his political career that saw him champion progressive causes and be branded a traitor to his class. In 1922, Churchill lost his seat in a 6-way contest, in which he placed 4th. His party was decisively beaten at the polls and crippling margins. Running as a Liberal Free-Trader, Churchill lost a West Leicester by-election in December 1923.

By the time of the March 1924 Abbey Division of Westminster by-election, Conservative Party leaders were courting Churchill's return to the fold. Nonetheless, the local Westminster Conservative Association chose a different candidate, leaving Churchill to stand as an Anti-Socialist Independent. The hard-fought race commanded national attention and divided Conservatives. On March 18, Churchill addressed his final meeting, in the Victoria Palace, during which, The Times reported, "The candidate was subjected to much interruption." Polling took place on March 19. Initially, Churchill was reported as the winner, but after a recount he had lost by a margin of 41 votes.

Not until 29 October did Churchill finally win his way back to the House of Commons, winning as a "Constitutionalist" the constituency he would hold for the next 40 years. On 7 November Churchill was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer in Stanley Baldwin's Conservative government, returning to the Conservative party he would, at turns, vehemently oppose (India, appeasement, etc.), be ostracized by, serve as party leader for more than a decade, and twice lead as Prime Minister.

[CBC #003542]

$300 USD

An original press photograph of Winston S. Churchill, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, on holiday in Deauville, France on 1 August 1927

Supplied by Topical Press Agency, published by Evening Standard
London, 2 August 1927

This original press photograph shows Winston S. Churchill, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, on holiday in Deauville, France in 1927. This press photo once belonged to the Evening Standard's working archive. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 7.25 x 9.5 in (18.4 x 24.1 cm). Condition is good plus. The paper is crisp and clean with pin holes in the margins of the upper corners, a loss to the margin of the lower left corner, a hint of some silvering to the dark areas of the image, and some light bruising and scuffing visible only under raking light. This press photo once belonged to the Evening Standard's working archive. The verso bears the copyright stamp of "Topical Press Agency," a stamp reading "Original to be returned to Topical Press Agency," and an additional date and handwritten caption over which is pasted a typed caption. The caption is titled: "PROMINENT SOCIETY AT DEAUVILLE DURING AUGUST HOLIDAY" and reads "Mr. Winston Churchill, Lady Stanley, Duchess of Sutherland, Lady Betty Butler at Deauville."

This photograph captures Winston Churchill, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, on holiday in Deauville, France as the guest of the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland in August of 1927. When this image was captured, despite the vicissitudes of his Chancellorship, Churchill at 52 years old, was at a peak of influence and power. He did not know that the long decade of his wilderness years lay ahead. After resigning his Chancellorship following the electoral defeat of his Government in mid-1929, Churchill would spend almost the entirety of the 1930s out of power and out of favor, frequently at odds with both his Party leadership and prevailing public sentiment. Nor could he know that the premiership would finally be his almost thirteen years after this image was captured in a Britain struggling desperately to survive and in a world almost unrecognizable to that of the summer of 1927.

Churchill's 1927 summer holiday occurred months following his third Budget Speech of 11 April, of which Stanley Baldwin wrote "The scene was quite sufficient to show that Mr Churchill as a star turn has a power of attraction which nobody in the House of Commons can excel." (Gilbert Vol. V, 244) Churchill began his speech "We are met this afternoon under the shadow of the disasters of last year." The British General Strike of 1926 began on May 4 of that year and presented a major national crisis. By some estimates, 1.5 to 1.75 million workers were involved. In addition to the revenue lost from the strike the nation was still suffering under the burden of Britain's war debt to the US.

The solution included extra taxes on goods ranging from matches to tobacco imported wine coupled with lowering taxes on industries to promote production. However, by early summer Churchill's de-rating scheme was met with skepticism in both the public and in the government. During a 29 June Cabinet discussion he scribbled on a piece of paper, "A wave of negativism. People don't want anything done in any direction. 'fed-upism'" (Gilbert, Vol. V, 245). Such negativism was reflected in the reporting on Churchill's summer holidays. One London paper identified Churchill as the "Terror of the Tax-Payers." A caption of a photograph of Churchill covering his head with a beach towel read "perhaps he was trying to conceal his identity from the assembled tax-payers, as he feared some vengeance might be wreaked on him!" It was during his holidays this summer, in France, at Chartwell, and in Amsterdam, that Churchill began work on the autobiography of his childhood and early careers as a soldier and war correspondent that would be published in 1930 as My Early Life.

[CBC #005329]

$320 USD
An original press photograph of then-Chancellor of the Exchequer Winston S. Churchill accompanied by General Sir Alexander Godley inspecting the newly formed Experimental Mechanised Force on 31 August 1927

*Copyright by Keystone View Co., published by the Evening Standard*

London, 1 September 1927

This original press photograph shows Winston S. Churchill and General Sir Alexander Godley inspecting the tanks of the newly formed Experimental Mechanised Force on 31 August 1927. This press photo once belonged the Evening Standard’s working archive. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 8 in (with an uncut piece of paper affixed to the verso folded behind the image extending an additional .75 in) x 10.5 in (20.3 x 26.7 cm). Condition is very good minus. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scuffing with some loss to the lower right corner and some light wear along the edges. The photo has a raised grid to its surface as if it was stored on a rack. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “Keystone View Co.”, a stamp from the library of the Evening Standard dated 1 SEP, 1927, and the remnants of a typed caption. This photograph is housed in a removable, archival mylar sleeve within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.

Churchill was a soldier before he was a politician and maintained a lifelong informed fascination with the minutiae and machinery of combat. The man who began his career as a cavalry officer and participated in the ‘last great cavalry charge in British history’ would later help design the tank, pilot aircraft, direct use of some of the earliest computers (for WWII code breaking), and ultimately preside as Prime Minister over the first British nuclear weapons test. During the Second World War he showed keen interest in – and critical support for – the struggle for technological mastery that would prove as critical to winning the war as men, material, and logistics.

The tank was of particular note. As First Lord of the Admiralty during the First World War Churchill advocated development and application of the tank as a decisive offensive battlefield weapon. The tank would, of course, revolutionize offensive warfare during the Second World War. In May 1927 the Experimental Mechanised Force was formed to investigate and develop techniques and equipment for armored warfare. It was reportedly the world’s first armored formation of its kind and for two years participated in exercises demonstrating its capabilities against traditional infantry and cavalry.

On 31 August 1927 Churchill, accompanied by his sixteen-year-old son Randolph, visited the Experimental Mechanised Force for a demonstration. As the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Churchill arbitrated the funding that would be available for the Mechanised Force in the following year. Churchill was transported in a six-wheeled vehicle and shown about by General Sir Alexander John Godley, formerly the general officer commanding the New Zealand Forces in WWI. “The whole of the mechanized force was drawn up in long lines and presented a striking appearance. It included tanks, ‘Tankettes,’ armoured cars, self-propelled guns, ‘Dragon’ tractors, with gun wagons behind, half-truck lorries, and six-wheelers used for the transport of troops… the men in neat khaki were drawn up in front of their machines, and Mr Churchill was obviously impressed by their smartness.” *(Hull Daily Mail, 31 August 1927)* A demonstration was carried out with all of the drivers and crew members wearing gas masks as mustard gas was spread over the field. Civilians watched from a nearby hilltop. Later the machinery engaged in a mock battle against cavalry, field artillery, and infantry.

Thirteen years later in a world barely recognizable to that of 1927, Winston Churchill would serve as Prime Minister of an imperiled Britain while the German Wehrmacht gave its own compelling demonstration of the efficacy of armored warfare in the blitzkrieg that brought about the fall of France. [CBC #005244]

$450 USD
This original press photograph shows Winston S. Churchill with his wife, Clementine Churchill, on stage at the announcement of his Parliamentary victory in Epping on 31 May 1929. This press photo is from the archives of the Topical Press Agency of London. The image, measuring 6 x 8.125 inches (15.2 x 20.6 cm), is a gelatin silver print on glossy photo paper. Condition is very good plus, as near fine as one can ask from a nearly century-old photo. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of creasing or bruising with sharp corners and minor scuffing visible only under raking light. The image is crisp with good contrast. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “The Topical Press Agency Ltd.”, some handwritten notations, and a typed caption. The caption is titled, “THE GENERAL ELECTION DECLARATION OF THE POLL FOR THE EPPING DIVISION OF ESSEX VICTORY FOR MR. CHURCHILL” and reads, “Photo shows:- Mr. Sharpe [sic], the Liberal candidate, congratulating Mr. Churchill (left) on his victory after the declaration of the poll at Epping, Essex, to-day.” This photograph is housed in a removable, archival mylar sleeve within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.

This photograph depicts Churchill shaking the hand of his opponent, Gilbert Granville Sharp (1894-1968), upon the announcement of his victory at Epping in the General Election of 1929, a seat that he held for four consecutive decades over the course of his long political career. The 1924 General Election was both Churchill’s first victory at Epping and against Sharp, with nearly double the number of votes. In 1929 Churchill officially rejoined the Conservative party and was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer by Stanley Baldwin. The General Election of 1919 saw Churchill and Sharp again running against each other; this time Churchill’s victory was far narrower. Sharp and Churchill would face off a last time in the General Election of 1935 when Churchill would again prevail.

In 1945, Epping was subdivided and Churchill stood for the new (and politically more tenable) Woodford Division. Churchill’s re-election by Woodford in February 1950 was decisive; his vote tally was double that of his challenger. Woodford would subsequently re-elect Churchill in 1955 and 1959 and he would serve Woodford as M.P. until October 1964.

The general election of 1929 was a personal victory for Churchill but a loss for his Party, which fell to Labor, costing Baldwin the premiership and Churchill his Cabinet post as Chancellor of the Exchequer. Though he did not know it, Churchill was entering his decade of “wilderness years” which he would spend out of power and out of favor, not returning to the Cabinet until the outbreak of war in September 1939.

Two years after this photo was taken Churchill would muse on his Parliamentary career, “This is certainly as much as should satisfy anyone, and makes me earnestly hope that I have now found a resting-place amid the glades of Epping which will last me as long as I am concerned with mundane affairs.” (“Some Election Memories”, Strand Magazine, September 1931). Of course, it would not be long before the affairs of the world would draw Churchill out of his “resting-place” and into his far from “mundane” role as Britain’s indispensable, iconic wartime Prime Minister. [CBC #005025]

This original press photograph shows Chartwell, the beloved home of Winston S. Churchill, taken on 14 February 1930 shortly after Churchill himself finished laying the brickwork. The gelatin silver print on heavy matte photo paper measures 8 x 10 in (20.3 x 25.4 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is crisp with some minor soiling, visible mainly in the blank sky, a single pin hole, and some light edge wear. This is an original press photo from the archives of the Evening Standard and features original, handwritten retouching to the side of the house and the foliage. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “Topical Press Agency”, a stamp from the library of the Evening Standard dated 5 FEB, 1930, an additional stamp reading 14 FEB 1930, handwriting printing notations, and a partially missing clipping of the caption as it was published. The caption is titled, “THE HOUSE THAT WINSTON BUILT” and the still-legible portions read, “Mr. Churchill...bricklayer have resulted in the completion of this house...his own occupation at week-ends.”

Perhaps no physical place - not Blenheim Palace where Churchill was born, the Houses of Parliament where he served for six decades, 10 Downing Street where he twice resided as prime minister, or St. Paul’s Cathedral where his Queen and leaders from around the world mourned his death - would more deeply affect Churchill’s life and legacy.” (Gilbert, A Life, p.450) In 1913, as he was supervising the rebuilding and decorating of Chartwell, Churchill wrote to Clementine (who was “worried about the expense of so large a house”) “Chartwell is to be our home.” (A Life, p.458) In a 1928 letter to Baldwin Churchill wrote “I have had a delightful month building a cottage and dictating a book: 200 bricks and 2000 words a day.” (A Life, p.486)

After a photograph of the future Prime Minister laying bricks was published in London newspapers, Churchill was contacted by an organizer of the Amalgamated Union of Building Trades Workers and invited to join the union. On 10 October 1928 Churchill was inducted in the AUBTW and issued a membership card reading “Winston S. Churchill, Westerham, Kent. Occupation, bricklayer.” After the press picked up the story a flurry of criticism was directed at the AUBTW for allowing Baldwin’s Chancellor of the Exchequer to play act as a member of the working class. Shortly after, Churchill would be formally expelled from the union on the grounds that he had not given any information on the length of his employment as bricklayer.

Chartwell would prove Churchill’s vital sanctuary during the “wilderness years” of the 1920s. And of course Chartwell served Churchill as “my factory” as he turned out an incredible volume of writing. Even during the darkest days of the Second World War, Chartwell was a place of refuge and renewal. After the Second World War, Churchill feared his income was insufficient to maintain Chartwell.

Churchill’s friend, Lord Camrose, assembled a consortium of 17 benefactors to buy Chartwell and allowed Churchill to reside there for the rest of his life for a nominal rent and after given to the National Trust as a permanent memorial. Churchill would not leave Chartwell for the final time until mid-October 1964. True to the intentions of Lord Camrose, Chartwell, with its more than 80 acres of woodland and farmland, remains a National Trust property, fulfilling of Churchill’s paintings and belongings, inhabited by his memory and spirit. [CBC # 005412]
An original press photograph copy of Winston S. Churchill and General John French on horseback during the Great Autumn Manoeuvres of September 1910, an image later published in the 1937 first edition of *Great Contemporaries*

*Supplied by Central News*

London, 6 June 1931

This original press photo is a 1931 printing of a 1910 image of Winston S. Churchill and then-General John French, who commanded the British Expeditionary Force during the First World War. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 10 x 8 inches (25.4 x 20.3 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scratches with some edge wear, a crease and closed tear to the upper left corner, and a short closed tear to the upper right edge. The verso bears a stamp reading "Photo Supplied Central News", an *Evening Standard* library stamp dated 6 JUN 1931, and (erroneous) hand written notations reading, "Winston Churchill & Gen. French (taken about 1912-16)."

In 1937 Winston Churchill, then in the midst of his "wilderness years" preceding the Second World War, published *Great Contemporaries*, a book of essays profiling 21 memorable personalities. Among these was Sir John French, and this same image is reproduced at the start of Churchill’s essay. John French, 1st Earl of Ypres (1852-1925) served nearly a year and a half as the Commander-in-Chief of the British Expeditionary Force at the start of WWI. Like Churchill, French began as a cavalryman and served in the Second Boer War, at the beginning of which French was "head of the cavalry arm" of the expeditionary force. French then disapproved of Churchill; “I was that hybrid combination of subaltern officer and widely-followed war-correspondent which was not unnaturally obnoxious to the military mind.” (*GC*, p.80)

Churchill did not meet French until 1908 when, as a Cabinet Minister, he attended cavalry manoeuvres in Wiltshire where began “a friendship which continued sure and warm through all the violent ups and downs the next ten years were to bring.” As pre-WWI tensions mounted, their “collaboration in grave matters became the core of an active happy personal friendship.” (*GC*, p.80) By 1910 Churchill was a rising political figure and attended the Great Autumn Manoeuvres, a massive British Army skirmish in Salisbury led by French. The manoeuvres included 48,000 troops, 14,000 horses, and the first instance of military scouting by plane. Newspapers reported a remarkable meeting of old and new technologies of war when in the midst of the skirmish a biplane descended and was set upon by the cavalry, who overtook it before it could ascend. Certainly, horse-mounted cavalry getting the better of aircraft did not augur the grim future of warfare.

At the outbreak of WWI, French was associated with a series of battlefield failures and political interventions culminating in the failure of his command at the Battle of Loos, which led to his forced resignation as C-in-C of the BEF on 6 December 1915. In May, Churchill had been scapegoated for the Dardanelles disaster and forced to resign from his position as First Lord of the Admiralty. By November, Churchill made the extraordinary decision to fight on the front line. Churchill had, by his own admission, been “a severe critic of the battle of Loos” and knew French “had been hurt” by Churchill’s “strenuous disapproval” in the War Council. Nonetheless, when Churchill arrived in France, he was ordered to French’s headquarters, where he records French “treated me as if I were still First Lord of the Admiralty.” French “offered him the choice of a staff appointment or command of a brigade in the field.” (Roberts, *Walking With Destiny*, p.231) Churchill chose command in the field.

A month later, Churchill spent the final day of French’s command with him. “He brought me back from the front, and we drove together during all the daylight hours, from army to army and from corps to corps. He went into the various headquarters and said good-bye to his Generals. I waited, an unofficial personage, in the car. We lunched... in a ruined cottage. His pain in giving up his great command was acute. He would much rather have given up his life.” (*GC*, p.90) [CBC #005264]

$250 USD
This original 1935 press photograph portrait of Winston S. Churchill was taken by the important London photography studio Elliott & Fry. The gelatin silver print on glossy photo paper measures 6.125 x 4.25 inches (15.6 x 10.8 cm). Condition is very good minus. The paper is crisp and clean with some light wear and bruising to the corners, a hint of silvering, and minor scuffing visible only under raking light. This press photo belonged to the archives of The Daily Telegraph. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “Elliott & Fry, Ltd.”, a partially illegible received stamp of The Daily Telegraph from 1935, and some handwritten notations.

The National Portrait Gallery calls Elliott & Fry “one of the most important in the history of studio portraiture in London.” The studio was opened in 1863 by Joseph John Elliott (1835-1903) and Clarence Edmund Fry (1840-1897) who quickly built a thriving business capturing a bevy of Victorian luminaries from Darwin to Kipling to Ruskin. During the Blitz of WWII the 63 Baker Street studio, the firm’s headquarters since 1922, was bombed. Consequently, most of the early negatives, printed on highly flammable nitrate film, were destroyed. Today the National Portrait Gallery holds the few negatives that remain. Although the NPG holds copies of a number of Elliott & Fry portraits of Winston Churchill, this image is not among them.

When this photograph was taken in 1935 Churchill was in the midst of his “Wilderness Years” of the 1930s, out of power and out of favor, warning about the dangers of a rising Nazi Germany, often at odds with both his party leadership and prevailing public sentiment. While he retained his Epping seat in the 1935 General election, when his Conservative Party took the premiership Churchill was not invited to join the Cabinet and his long political arc seemed in irredeemable decline. By September 1939 he had rejoined the Cabinet and by May 1940 he was Prime Minister. [CBC #005200]
CHURCHILL SPEAKS TO THE FARMERS – An original press photograph of Winston S. Churchill giving a speech from the back of a farm wagon in Epping after his nomination on 4 November 1935

Keystone
Epping, 4 November 1935

This original press photograph shows Winston S. Churchill with his wife, Clementine, using a farm wagon as a makeshift stage for a campaign speech on 4 November 1935 in Churchill’s Epping constituency. The gelatin silver image measures 8.25 x 6 inches (20.9 x 15.2 cm). The paper is crisp, clean, and bright, though with modest creasing to the left edge, pin holes at the corners, and four .125 inch (.32 cm) circular holes punched along the top edge (affecting only the second story shopfronts in the background). This photo features the circular ink stamp of Keystone press agency, the original typed Keystone caption, and the copyright stamp of “A.B. Text & Bilder”, a Swedish press agency. A reasonable assumption is that the photograph was captured by Keystone, who thereafter provided it to A.B. Text & Bilder. The original typed caption is titled “MR WINSTON CHURCHILL SPEAKS TO THE FARMERS.”, is dated “2.11.35”, and reads: “Mr. Winston Churchill, National Conservative candidate for Epping, addressed farmers and agricultural workers from a farm wagon in the market place at Epping today, after handing in his nominations.”

This is a fascinating study in twentieth century evolution of life on the hustings. This photograph depicts Churchill at his nomination at Epping in the General Election of 1935, a seat that he held for four consecutive decades over the course of his long political career. Churchill’s career spanned the drastic social, political, and technological evolutions of the first half of the twentieth century. He recalled “When I first began [campaigning] had to be done in a two-horse landau, spanned the drastic social, political, and technological evolutions of the first half of the twentieth century. He recalled “When I first began [campaigning] had to be done in a two-horse landau, spanning the drastic social, political, and technological evolutions of the first half of the twentieth century.”

For Churchill, most of the 1930s were “wilderness years” spent out of power and out of favor, warning against the growing Nazi threat and often at odds with both his Party leadership and prevailing public sentiment. When this image was captured, Churchill was approaching 62 years old, having passed into his 60s with his own future as uncertain as that of his nation. In the summer of 1936 Churchill holidayed in France, painting in the countryside and meeting with friends and politicians in Paris. Before returning to England he made a visit to Aix-en-Provence to view French Army manoeuvres. On 12 September 1936 he met with General Gamelin (1872-1958), with whom he is pictured here.

Gamelin was a lifelong soldier, commissioned in 1893 after graduating first in his class from Saint-Cyr. Two decades before this meeting with Churchill, Gamelin commanded a brigade during the Battle of the Somme and was now Inspector-General of the Army, in Aix-en-Provence on 12 September 1936. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 7 x 10 inches (17.8 x 25.4 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scratches with some edge wear and two pin holes confined to the margins, a horizontal crease along the bottom of the photograph, and some fingerprints which appear to be original to the photo's developing out. This photograph belongs to the working archives of the Evening Standard and features their art department's extensive hand-applied retouching to the figures' clothing and a complete painting over and shaping of Gamelin's right hand. The verso bears a copyright stamp from "Photopress", a library stamp of the Evening Standard dated 14 SEP 1936, an additional date stamp of 12 SEP 1936, a clipping of the caption as it was published, and an original typed caption with a small amount of loss to the paper and type. The typed caption is dated "12.9.36" and titled “MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL WATCHES FRENCH ARMY MANOEUVRES.” The caption text reads, “MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL has been a keen observer of the FRENCH ARMY manoeuvres, during his visit to FRANCE. Picture shows: GENERAL GAMELIN explaining things to MR. CHURC... who looks keenly interested during the proceedings.”

Nonetheless, Churchill was keenly alert to French vulnerability. The following month he expressed these concerns to Parliament, “We all know that the French are pacific. They are quite as pacific as we are... But the French seem much nearer to the danger than we are. There is no strip of salt water to guard their land and their liberties.”

An original press photograph of Winston S. Churchill observing French Army manoeuvres on 12 September 1936 with Inspector-General of the French Army Maurice Gamelin, who would command French Land Forces during the Nazi invasion three years later

Supplied by Photopress, published by the Evening Standard
London, 12 September 1936

This original press photograph captures Winston Churchill and General Maurice Gamelin, Inspector-General of the French Army, in Aix-en-Provence on 12 September 1936. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 7 x 10 inches (17.8 x 25.4 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scratches with some edge wear and two pin holes confined to the margins, a horizontal crease along the bottom of the photograph, and some fingerprints which appear to be original to the photo's developing out. This photograph belongs to the working archives of the Evening Standard and features their art department's extensive hand-applied retouching to the figures' clothing and a complete painting over and shaping of Gamelin's right hand. The verso bears a copyright stamp from "Photopress", a library stamp of the Evening Standard dated 14 SEP 1936, an additional date stamp of 12 SEP 1936, a clipping of the caption as it was published, and an original typed caption with a small amount of loss to the paper and type. The typed caption is dated "12.9.36" and titled “MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL WATCHES FRENCH ARMY MANOEUVRES.” The caption text reads, “MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL has been a keen observer of the FRENCH ARMY manoeuvres, during his visit to FRANCE. Picture shows: GENERAL GAMELIN explaining things to MR. CHURC... who looks keenly interested during the proceedings.”

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(COMPLETE SPEECHES p.568) Churchill became Prime Minister on 10 May 1940, just in time to lead Britain during the fall of France and evacuation of Dunkirk. Gamelin's strategic decisions are open to criticism, but his patriotism and courage were manifest in his fate: he commanded the French Land Forces during the Nazi invasion of France until he was superseded and interned in May 1940. He was tried by the Vichy government and deported to Buchenwald, from which he was freed by Allied forces in May 1945. [CBC 0005265]

$300 USD

$160 USD
An original press photograph of the improbable spectacle of Winston S. Churchill with Ernst Bohle, the leader of the Organization of the Nazi Party Abroad, smiling together at the end of their 1 October 1937 meeting at Churchill's London residence

Keystone View Company
London, 6 October 1937

This original press photo captures the improbable spectacle of Winston Churchill and Ernst Bohle - the leader of the Organization of the Nazi Party Abroad - smiling together outside of Churchill’s London residence on 1 October 1937. This press photo belonged to the archives of The Daily Telegraph. The image, measuring 10 x 8 inches (25.4 x 20.3 cm), is a gelatin silver print on heavy matte photo paper. Condition is very good. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scratches with light wear along the edges confined to the margins. Not unsuitably, The Daily Telegraph Art department hand-applied paint to isolate Churchill. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “Keystone View Company”, two received stamps of The Daily Telegraph dated OCT 1937, and a typed caption titled “BRITISH-BORN LEADER OF FOREIGN NAZIS MEETS WINSTON CHURCHILL”. The caption is dated “1.10.37”, and reads, “HERR ERNST BOHLE, the leader of the Organisation of Nazis Abroad who arrived in London yesterday, today visited Mr. WINSTON CHURCHILL at the latter’s flat in Victoria to “put things straight with regard to his recent attacks on the foreign organisation of the Nazi party.” This photograph is housed in a removable, archival mylar sleeve within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.

When this photograph was taken Churchill was still in his “Wilderness Years”, he spent most of the 1930s out of power and out of favor, warning about the dangers of a rising Nazi Germany, often at odds with both his party leadership and prevailing public sentiment. Churchill’s pen was often his primary means of communicating with the public. On 20 August 1937 Churchill published an article titled “A Plain Word to the Nazis” in the Evening Standard in which he called on Parliament to increase scrutiny and surveillance of Germans living in Britain and to deport them if necessary. He wrote, “A Nazi minister and department have actually been set up in Berlin within the present year to promote and concert the action of Nazi Germans living abroad.”

This minister was Ernst Wilhelm Bohle (1903-1960), a British born Nazi Party member who in 1937 was appointed to lead the Organization of the Nazi Party Abroad. Churchill’s article touched a nerve. In a 31 August letter, Churchill’s literary agent, Emery Reves, wrote “Two days ago, the President of this Organization, Herr Bohle [and two ministers] delivered speeches, all three referring to your article and protesting against your accusations.” (WC and ER Correspondence 1937-1964, p.56) Bohle expressed admiration for British patriotism and that the British “should be among the first people to approve of our work in developing the same kind of patriotism for the Third Reich.” Churchill, displaying the earnest desire to avoid the war that he would fight with such ferocious resolve only a few years later, responded to Bohle, writing “I see Herr Bohle has expressed a wish to talk this over with me. I should be delighted... to do anything in the power of a private member to remove this new embarrassment to Anglo-German goodwill.”

They met on 1 October 1937. Bohle later recounted the meeting “in Winston’s home” lasting “more than an hour” during his trial in Nuremberg: “I had ample opportunity in this thoroughly cordial conversation to describe the activity of the Auslands-Organisation and to dispel his misgivings. At the end he accompanied me to my car and let himself be photographed with me, in order, as he said, to show the world that we were parting as friends.” (Nuremberg Trial Proceedings, 25 March 1946, morning session) On 7 October Reves wrote to Churchill “I have seen in Marseille, in a local paper, a picture of you together with Herr Bohle. Your expression shows that the conversation must have been a very amusing one.” (Correspondence, p. 661) Churchill’s amused look aside, two and a half years later Churchill would be Prime Minister of a Britain fighting desperately to survive the consequences of Nazi “patriotism”. [CBC #005201]

$500 USD
An original press photograph of Winston S. Churchill smiling and prophetically flanked by images of lions at Victoria station on 29 March 1938, just returned from an alliance-building trip to Paris in the wake of Nazi Germany’s annexation of Austria
Associated Press Photo
London, 30 March 1938

This original press photograph captures Winston Churchill on 29 March 1938, smiling at Victoria station, London, with suitably prophetic images of lions in the background. Churchill had just returned from an alliance-building effort in Paris following Nazi Germany’s annexation of Austria on 12 March. The gelatin silver print on heavy matte photo paper measures 9.5 x 7.5 in (24.1 x 19 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is crisp and free of scratches with only a smudge of what appears to be paint on the surface of the photo over Churchill’s left shoulder. The image is crisp and bright with high contrast. This press photo is from the archives of The Daily Telegraph. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “Associated Press Photo”, a received stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated 30 MAR 1938, and a typed caption. The caption is titled “WINSTON CHURCHILL BACK IN LONDON” and reads, “MR WINSTON CHURCHILL ARRIVED IN LONDON TODAY MARCH 29 AFTER A WEEKEND OF POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS IN PARIS.” The caption identifies Churchill “ARRIVING AT VICTORIA”.

Churchill had spent the past five years warning about the dangers of a rising Nazi Germany, often at odds with both his party leadership and prevailing public sentiment. Just two weeks before this image was captured, Anschluss, the annexation of Austria into Germany, was declared by Hitler. Churchill spent his trip meeting with French statesmen advocating allied Anglo-French resistance to Nazi territorial aggression. The British ambassador to France remarked that “Almost every facet of French political life has been presented to him at and between meals... At nearly all the conversations at which I was present Churchill strongly advocated a close Anglo-French alliance, with staff talks, military, naval and air; and also the joint attempt by France and Great Britain to galvanise the Central European and Balkan Powers to join together in resisting German pressure.” (Gilbert, Documents Vol XIII, p. 963-64) Instead, Churchill would become Prime Minister on 10 May 1940, just in time to lead his beleaguered nation during the fall of France to Nazi occupation and the evacuation of Dunkirk.

Despite the trials impending when this image was captured, Churchill’s smile is disarming and the fact that he is flanked by two posters featuring lions is presciently apropos. The lion has been ubiquitous in British heraldry for the better part of a thousand years. The association with Churchill’s rumbling oratory and implacably steadfast wartime leadership was perhaps inevitable. The iconic photographic portrait of Churchill taken on 30 December 1941 by Yousuf Karsh – among the most famous photographic images of the twentieth century - came to be known as “The Roaring Lion”. In February 1943, an actual lion would accompany the metaphor; in celebration of victories in North Africa the London Zoo gifted a male lion named Rota to the Prime Minister. Years later, in remarks on his 80th birthday in 1954, Churchill would remark on his legacy: “It was the nation and the race dwelling all round the globe that had the lion’s heart. I had the luck to be called upon to give the roar.” [CBC #005248]

$150 USD
This original press photograph captures Winston S. Churchill striding grimly in front of 10 Downing Street during the Czechoslovakia crisis on 11 September 1938. This gelatin silver print on heavy matte photo paper measures 11.65 x 7.5 in (29.5 x 19 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scratches, with some wear along the slightly irregularly trimmed edges. This photograph originally belonged to the working archives of The Daily Telegraph and features their Art Department's original, hand-applied retouching to Churchill's face and coat, as well as original crop markings. The verso bears the copyright stamp of "Keystone View Company," a published stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated 12 SEP 1938 (as well as an erroneous, crossed out "21 SEPT 1938" stamp), handwritten printing notations, and a typed caption reading "Mr. Winston Churchill arriving at the F.O. yd."

Churchill spent much of the 1930s warning about the dangers of a rising Nazi Germany. By 1938 Churchill's warnings became apparently prophetic as German troops prepared to invade Czechoslovakia. On 11 September, journalist William L. Shirer recorded in Prague: "All quiet here, but you can cut the tension with a knife. Reports that the Germans have massed two hundred thousand troops on the Austro-Czech border...[All awaiting Hitler's speech tomorrow]" Neither France nor Britain was prepared to defend Czechoslovakia. In September the Cabinet formed a "Situation in Czechoslovakia Committee" dedicated to assessing the British response to Germany's occupation. On the 9 September meeting of this committee Chamberlain made it known that he would seek direct negotiations with Hitler. After the next meeting of the committee the following day, the members found Churchill, irate, waiting for them. Home Secretary Samuel Hoare recalled, "When the talk ended and we left the Cabinet Room, we found Churchill waiting in the hall. He had come to demand an immediate ultimatum to Hitler. He was convinced it was our last chance of stopping a landslide..." (Gilbert, V, 971)

Though this photograph captures Churchill outside of 10 Downing St., the caption is likely referring to Churchill's meeting with Foreign Secretary Viscount Halifax on 11 September. The following day Halifax reported to the committee that Churchill had proposed "that we should tell Germany that if she set foot in Czechoslovakia we should at once be at war with her." (Gilbert, V, 971) Instead, on 30 September Chamberlain returned from Munich to announce that he had ceded Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland to Hitler in return for "peace in our time." After receiving the news, Churchill paused with a friend outside of a restaurant from which echoed the sounds of laughter. Churchill "stopped in the doorway, watching impassively." Turning away, "he muttered 'those poor people! They little know what they will have to face.'" (Gilbert, Vol. V, p.990)

Churchill now used his personal platform to appeal directly to the American people with a strikingly blunt assault on the Munich Agreement. On 16 October 1938, NBC broadcast an address by Churchill directly to the American people. It may seem odd that Churchill – merely a Member of Parliament and representative of neither his party nor his Government – would address the people of the United States. The fact is that Churchill had a voice and audience independent of his Government. Moreover, "As a result of the Munich debate, relations between Churchill and Chamberlain had worsened considerably." (Gilbert, Vol. V, p.980) By this time, it was almost as if Churchill was Leader of the Opposition, despite sharing the party of the sitting Prime Minister. Churchill now used his personal platform to appeal directly to the American people with a strikingly blunt assault on the moral and strategic infirmity of the Munich agreement and a clarion call for preparedness.

Churchill's speech was a boldly unequivocal statement of the situation. Churchill frontally assaulted both the moral and strategic infirmity of the Munich agreement. "All the world wishes for peace and security. Have we not been misled by the sacrifice of the Czechoslovak Republic...the model democratic State of Central Europe...has been deserted, destroyed, and devoured...Is this the end, or is there more to come?... Can peace, goodwill and confidence be built upon submission to wrong-doing backed by force?" History's answer was darkly decisive. A year after this London, 16 October 1938
An original press photograph of Winston S. Churchill and Clementine Churchill with former French Prime Minister Léon Blum at Chartwell on 10 May 1939, four months before the Second World War and one year to the day before Churchill became Britain’s wartime Prime Minister and the Nazis invaded the Low Countries and France

_The Daily Telegraph_
London, 7 September 1945

This original press photograph captures Winston S. Churchill and Clementine Churchill with former French Prime Minister Léon Blum at Chartwell on 10 May 1939, four months before the Second World War and one year to the day before Churchill became Britain’s wartime Prime Minister and the Nazis invaded the Low Countries and France. The gelatin silver print on heavy matte photo paper measures 7.5 x 9.5 in (17 x 24.1 cm). Condition is very good minus. The paper is clean, crisp, and free of scratches, with some minor edge wear.

This photograph once belonged to the working archives of _The Daily Telegraph_ and bears their Art Department’s original crop marks, as well as what appears to be paint on the surface of the image behind Blum’s head, likely an Art Department correction. This is a beautiful photograph, crisp and clear with high contrast and a rich sepia tonality. The mirth and ease evident on all three faces starkly belies the severe wartime trials that lay before them. The verso bears an obscured copyright stamp over which has been pasted a typed caption dated 7 SEP 1945, a newspaper clipping of the caption as it was published, and various pencil notations. The original typed caption is titled, “M. BLUM SEES MR. CHURCHILL” and reads, “M. Leon Blum, who arrived in London yesterday, today motored to Chartwell Manor, Westerham, Kent, to see Mr. Churchill. May 10th. 39.” The clipped newspaper caption from the 7 September 1945 publication of the photograph reads “When M. Léon Blum was last in England – After lunching at Chartwell.”

Churchill had spent much of the 1930s warning about the dangers of a rising Nazi Germany, vigorously advocating rearmament and collective security and often at odds with both his party leadership and prevailing public sentiment. Blum was among an eclectic coterie of officials, dignitaries, and subject matter experts, both British and foreign, invited to Chartwell to discuss German strength and plans, as well as British vulnerabilities. Such visitors “provided Churchill with facts, figures, arguments and insights, sometimes endangering their careers by doing so, helping him to build up a comprehensive picture of the Nazi threat, and the British Government’s inadequate response to it.” (Roberts, _Walking With Destiny_, pp.365-66)

Léon Blum (1872-1950), did not share Churchill’s politics, but certainly shared his opposition to fascism. When this photograph was taken in 1939 Blum had already briefly served twice as French Prime Minister – France’s first socialist and first Jew to hold the post. Churchill and Blum visited one other several times in the 1930s; this was their last visit before the outbreak of WWII. Paul Maze, an artistic mentor to Churchill and regular visitor to Chartwell, wrote of this visit in his diary, “Conversation rendered difficult by Clemmie’s constant interference in the conversation & her desire to translate to show up her French (which is very good). Very excellent lunch, then a walk about the garden when a group of photographers took snapshots.” (Gilbert, _Documents XIII_, 1496) One year later Nazi Germany began its invasion of France and the Low Countries. As a Jew, a socialist, an opponent of fascism, and a former French premier, Blum was clearly in danger, but nonetheless made no effort to flee, instead remaining as one of the so-called Vichy 80, the group of politicians who voted against the establishment of the Vichy regime. He was arrested in September, and brought to trial in February 1942. The defense reportedly so discomfited the Vichy regime and irritated the Germans that hearings were suspended. Blum would survive Buchenwald and be freed by Allied troops in May 1945, four months before this 1939 photograph was published. Blum would subsequently help negotiate a postwar reconstruction loan from the U.S. and form a brief caretaker government pending the election of the first President of the Fourth Republic.

[CBC #005245]

$275 USD
An original press photograph of newly appointed First Lord of the Admiralty Winston S. Churchill on 11 September 1939, eight days after Britain declared war on Germany and on the day that President Franklin Roosevelt initiated their wartime correspondence.

Copyright Graphic Photo Union
London, 11 September 1939

This original press photograph captures newly appointed as First Lord of the Admiralty Winston S. Churchill on 11 September 1939, eight days after Britain declared war on Germany. The gelatin silver print on heavy matte photo paper measures 10 x 8 in (25.4 x 20.3 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scratches, with a small loss to the lower left corner confined to the margin and some speckles on the image inherent to the photograph’s developing out. The image is crisp and bright with high contrast. It is also compelling in composition, Churchill captured full length, mid stride, with the grimly capable and resolved countenance that would carry both him and Britain through the long years of war ahead. This press photo once belonged to The Daily Telegraph’s working archive. The verso bears the copyright stamp of ‘Graphic Photo Union’, a received stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated 11 SEP 1939, and remnants of a typed caption.

On 11 September, the date stamped on the verso of this photograph, President Franklin Roosevelt initiated what would become a world-defining relationship and correspondence. FDR wrote, “My dear Churchill, It is because you and I occupied similar positions in the [First] World War that I want you to know how glad I am that you are back again in the Admiralty… I shall at all times welcome it if you will keep me in touch personally with anything you want me to know about.” (ed. Kimball, Complete Correspondence Vol.I, p.24) Churchill responded with the amusingly transparent code name “Naval Person” which he changed to “Former Naval Person” when he became prime minister.

The week before this image was taken had seen a precipitous and dramatic change in Churchill’s station. Churchill had spent most of the 1930s out of power and out of favor, warning against the growing Nazi threat and often at odds with both his Party leadership and prevailing public sentiment. As the Second World War approached, he passed into his sixties with his own future as uncertain as that of his nation. Then, on 3 September 1939, Britain declared war on Germany, formally entering what would become the twentieth century’s defining conflict not just for Britain, but for the world. That same day Churchill was appointed First Lord of the Admiralty, a position that he had held nearly a quarter of a century before during the First World War. Indeed, a few weeks after this image was taken Churchill would begin his first speech to the House of Commons as First Lord on 26 September with a disarming quip about “how strange an experience it was for him after a quarter of a century to find himself once more in the same room in front of the same maps, fighting the same enemy and dealing with the same problems.” He would follow this quip with another, more pointed one, looking down at Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and saying “I have no conception how this curious change in my fortunes occurred.” (Gilbert, Vol. VI, pp.45-6)

Chamberlain, whose appeasement policies Churchill had so vehemently and vigorously opposed, had unwittingly set Churchill up perfectly to replace him as premier. “Before Churchill could become prime minister he had to look like one… Churchill had the freedom now to make uplifting speeches on life-and-death issues, ones that regularly put any other rivals in the shade with their sense of purpose and humour.” (Roberts, Walking With Destiny, p.470) Churchill became prime minister seven and a half months later on 10 May 1940. [CBC #005247]
This original press photograph captures First Lord of the Admiralty Sir Winston S. Churchill with his private secretary, Eric Seel, on 27 September 1939, weeks after the outbreak of the Second World War and Churchill’s return to the Admiralty. The gelatin silver print on heavy matte photo paper measures 9.5 x 7.5 in (24.1 x 17 cm). Condition is very good minus. The paper is clean, crisp, and free of scratches, with damage limited to a small loss to the image’s surface at the lower left corner. This press photo once belonged to the Evening Standard’s working archive and features their art department’s original airbrushing behind Churchill’s head. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “Graphic Photo Union”, a received stamp of 2/10/39, and a half-circle stamp dated 3 OCT 1939.

This is a compelling early wartime image, Churchill captured full-length, mid-stride, regarding the camera with the grimly capable determination that would carry both him and his nation through the long years of war to come. Churchill had spent most of the 1930s out of power and out of favor, warning against the growing Nazi threat and often at odds with both his Party leadership and prevailing public sentiment. As the Second World War approached, he passed into his sixties with his own future as uncertain as that of his nation. Then, on 3 September 1939, Britain declared war on Germany, formally entering what would become the twentieth century’s defining conflict not just for Britain, but for the world. That same day Churchill was appointed First Lord of the Admiralty, a position that he had held nearly a quarter of a century before during the First World War.

On 26 September, the day before this image was captured, Churchill set the stage for his impending ascent to the premiership with his first speech to the House of Commons in his new post – indeed his first speech from the dispatch box in more than a decade. Chamberlain preceded Churchill, and while the Prime Minister spoke, Churchill sat “lowering” and “hunched” beside him (adjectives one might apply to Churchill’s countenance in this image) “He started with a joke about how it was strange to find himself in the same room at the Admiralty with the same charts fighting the same enemy and dealing with the same problems.” (Roberts, Walking With Destiny, p.470) His speech was an overview of the naval situation and the threat of German U-boats. Harold Nicolson recorded “…he sounded every note from deep charts fighting the same enemy and dealing with the same problems.” (Roberts, p.470) On 1 October Churchill gave his first wartime broadcast on the newly created BBC Home Service.

Churchill opened his broadcast with grim candor “We have not yet come at all to the severity of fighting which is to be expected.” He then addressed three prominent events of the first month of the war. First was the event that precipitated the outbreak of the Second World War and Churchill’s return to the Admiralty. Actually, Churchill had the freedom now to make uplifting speeches on life-and-death issues, ones that regularly put any other rivals in the shade with their sense of purpose and humour. “I have no conception how this curious change in my fortunes occurred.” Indeed, Chamberlain’s appointment of his rival all but assured his ascendancy. “Before Churchill could become prime minister he had to look like one... Churchill had the freedom now to make uplifting speeches on life-and-death issues, ones that regularly put any other rivals in the shade with their sense of purpose and humour.” (Roberts, p.470) Churchill became prime minister seven and a half months later on 10 May 1940. [CBC #005229]

$220 USD

An original press photograph of First Lord of the Admiralty Winston S. Churchill on 27 September 1939, weeks after the outbreak Second World War and the day after his watershed speech in the House of Commons that set the tone for his impending premiership

Copyright Planet News Ltd.

London, 27 September 1939

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This original press photograph captures First Lord of the Admiralty Sir Winston S. Churchill leaving to Downing Street on 2 October 1939, the day after his first wartime broadcast to the British People

Copyright Graphic Photo Union

London, October 1939

$775 USD

An original press photograph of First Lord of the Admiralty Winston S. Churchill leaving to Downing Street on 2 October 1939, the day after his first wartime broadcast to the British People
WINSTON CHURCHILL BROADCASTS TO NATION
An original press photo of First Lord of the Admiralty
Winston S. Churchill delivering his first wartime broadcast
on 1 October 1939
The Daily Telegraph
London, October 1939

This original press photo captures First Lord of the Admiralty Sir Winston S. Churchill on 1 October 1939 seated behind a microphone as he delivers his first wartime broadcast. The gelatin silver print on glossy photo paper measures 10 x 8 in (25.4 x 20.3 cm). Condition is good. The image surface is clean, but there is significant creasing throughout the paper, two short closed tears on the right edge, and a small area of loss confined to the bottom margin. This press photo once belonged to The Daily Telegraph’s working archive. Testifying to this photo’s long history with The Daily Telegraph, the verso bears both an original received stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated 3 OCT 1939 and a published stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated 3 MAR 1990. The verso also shows handwritten printing notations and an original typed caption titled, "WINSTON CHURCHILL BROADCASTS TO NATION," and reading "Mr. Winston Churchill photographed at the microphone tonight (Sunday)."

This is an intriguing full-length early wartime image of Churchill, the microphone looking symbolically huge overhead, his countenance featuring the grimly capable determination that would carry both him and his nation through the long years of war to come. Churchill had spent most of the 1930s out of power and out of favor, warning against the growing Nazi threat and often at odds with both his Party leadership and prevailing public sentiment. As the Second World War approached, he passed into his sixties with his own future as uncertain as that of his nation. Then, on 3 September 1939, Britain declared war on Germany, formally entering what would become the twentieth century’s defining conflict not just for Britain, but for the world. That same day Churchill was appointed First Lord of the Admiralty, a position that he had held nearly a quarter of a century before during the First World War.

Chamberlain, whose appeasement policies Churchill had so vehemently and vigorously opposed, had unwittingly set Churchill up perfectly to replace him as premier. “Before Churchill could become prime minister he had to look like one... Churchill had the freedom now to make uplifting speeches on life-and-death issues, ones that regularly put any other rivals in the shade with their sense of purpose and humour.” (Roberts, Walking With Destiny, p.471) On 1 October Churchill gave his first wartime broadcast on the newly created BBC Home Service.

Churchill opened his broadcast with grim candor: “We have not yet come at all to the severity of fighting which is to be expected”. He then addressed three prominent events of the first month of the war. First was the event that precipitated Britain’s declaration of war – the subjugation of Poland. “The heroic defence of Warsaw shows that the soul of Poland is indestructible... she will rise again like a rock, which may for a spell be submerged by a tidal wave, but which remains a rock.” Churchill then raised the question of Russia’s role and intentions, which he characterized “a riddle wrapped in mystery inside an enigma” but suggested to the British that Russia’s interests would ultimately not allow her to let Nazi Germany “plant itself upon the shores of the Black Sea... overrun the Balkan States and subjugate the Slavonic peoples of South-Eastern Europe.” Third, of course the First Lord of the Admiralty spoke of “command of the seas” as a national strategic imperative. “Churchill’s words strengthened... millions of Britons when at 9 p.m. the radio news was turned on in pubs and homes and he filled his listeners with a warlike spirit that Chamberlain’s worthy but unheroic phraseology simply could not.” (Roberts, Walking with Destiny, p.472) Writing to his sister on 1 October, even Chamberlain called Churchill’s broadcast “excellent”. Seven months after he was captured in this image visiting 10 Downing Street as one of Chamberlain’s ministers, on 10 May 1940 Churchill replaced Chamberlain as wartime prime minister. [CBC #005461]

$260 USD
An original wartime press photograph of First Lord of the Admiralty Winston S. Churchill with his wife Clementine and daughter Mary attending the marriage of his son Randolph on 4 October 1939, a month after the start of the Second World War.

Copyright Graphic Photo Union, published by The Daily Telegraph
London, 5 October

This original press photograph captures then-First Lord of the Admiralty Winston S. Churchill with his wife, Clementine, and youngest daughter, Mary, on 4 October 1939 - the day of his son Randolph’s wedding and a month after the beginning of the Second World War. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures in x 8 in (21.4 x 20.3 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scuffing with some light edge wear and a loss to the lower left corner, both confined to the generous margins. This press photo once belonged to the working archives of The Daily Telegraph and features their Art Department’s original hand-applied retouching to Churchill’s suit and airbrushing to the background, as well as original crop markings. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “Graphic Photo Union”, a published stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated 5 OCT 1940, handwritten printing notations, part of the original typed caption, and a torn clipping of the caption as it was published, reading, “Mr. and Mrs. Ch[__] their daughter arriving for the ceremony.”

On 4 October 1939 Winston Churchill’s twenty-eight-year-old son Randolph Churchill was married to Pamela Digby, daughter of the 11th Baron Digby. One month prior, on 3 September, Britain declared war on Germany, formally entering what would become the defining conflict for both Winston Churchill and the twentieth century. War abruptly ended Churchill’s “wilderness years”; he was appointed First Lord of the Admiralty – the position he had held at the start of the First World War. Three days before the wedding, Churchill delivered his first wartime broadcast on the newly created BBC Home Service, exhorting the nation to courage and setting the tone that would characterize Churchill’s wartime premiership (May 1940-July 1945).

The public responded with enthusiasm. When Churchill arrived at his son’s wedding he was cheered by both bystanders outside the church and the congregation within. One guest, Maud Russell, recalled that Churchill “cried a lot during the service.” She also expressed some skepticism of Randolph’s love for his bride, “I haven’t the slightest doubt that he’s marrying because he thinks it’s time and right that Winston must have a grandson. He has proposed to four or five women in the last few months.” (Roberts, p. 473) Love seemed temuous on both sides. The union produced a son, Winston, but ended in 1946 after the war. Pamela (1920-1927) had a number of wartime affairs, among them with Averell Harriman, whom she later married.

Randolph (1911-1968) of course had his own limitations, including his own vices to prevail upon Pamela’s fortune. British historian Andrew Roberts has said: “Aside from his heroically dismal manners, his gambling, arrogance, vicious temper, indiscretions, and aggression,” Randolph “was generous, patriotic, extravagant and amazingly courageous.” Randolph dwelt in his father’s shadow and often disappointed him. Nonetheless, “During World War II, when Randolph served with distinction in North Africa and Yugoslavia, Winston entrusted him with sensitive tasks which he performed with skill and discretion.” (Richard Langworth)

Most wartime images of Winston Churchill’s youngest child, Mary (1922-2014), show her in uniform. Mary served as his wartime aide-de-camp for many of his overseas trips, including the 1944 Quebec Conference and the 1945 Potsdam Conference. She would later author a number of books, including a 1979 biography of her mother, Clementine Churchill, Winston Churchill, His Life as a Painter (1990), and a personal memoir. Mary was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in 1945 in recognition of her meritorious military services, promoted to Dame Commander (DRE) in 1980, and invested as a Lady Companion of the Order of the Garter (L.G.) in 2005. Mary married the Conservative politician Christopher Soames in 1947 and became Baroness Soames in 1978 when her husband was created a life peer as Baron Soames. (CBC #005575)

$150 USD

An original wartime press photograph of First Lord of the Admiralty Winston S. Churchill inspecting a “guard of honour of R.A.F. airmen” in France on 7 January 1940, less than half a year before Churchill’s ascension to the premiership, the Dunkirk evacuation, and the fall of France.

Royal Air Force / British Official Photograph, Crown Copyright Reserved
France, 1940

This original press photo captures First Lord of the Admiralty Winston S. Churchill touring the Royal Air Force Headquarters in France on 7 January 1940, less than half a year before his ascension to wartime premier, the evacuation of Dunkirk, and the fall of France. The image, measuring 6 x 8.125 inches (15.2 x 20.6 cm), is a gelatin silver print on glossy photo paper. Condition is very good. The paper is crisp and clean with some edge wear and a missing upper left corner both confined to the margins, original crop markings, and light scuffing visible only under raking light. The verso bears some handwritten notations and a printed caption indicating that this is a British Official Photograph from the Royal Air Force under copyright of the Crown. The caption is titled “The Royal Air Force in France” and reads, “Photo taken during the visit to the Ro. Hr. Mr. Winston Churchill, the First Lord of the Admiralty. Mr. Churchill inspects a guard of honour of R.A.F. airmen. P.N.A. JAN. 10th. 1940.” It is worth noting that the original caption’s date of “Jan. 10th. 1940” is incorrect.

On 4 January 1940 First Lord of the Admiralty Winston Churchill embarked on a four-day visit to France, a nation on the brink of invasion. Just twelve months prior Churchill had been in political exile, an elder statesman of 64 whose warnings against the growing Nazi threat had gone substantially unheeded. But in September 1939, at the outbreak of the Second World War, Churchill was called back to the Admiralty, filling the same position he held in the previous war. On this trip Churchill visited the Maginot Line, the headquarters of General Gorgi (head of the British Expeditionary Force), and a number of RAF squadrons stationed in France, where this photograph captures him on 7 January.

Following Churchill’s return to England on 8 January, a press statement was released. Churchill encouraged the public that he “visited a British Brigade which is in direct contact with the enemy and found them in splendid spirits… Anyone at home who feels a bit gloomy or fretful about the war would benefit very much by spending a few days with the French and British Armies. They would find it at once a tonic and a sedative.” (Gilbert, Documents Vol XIV, 67)

Five months later Churchill became wartime Prime Minister, and shortly after swift Nazi subjugation of France required the dramatic rescue of Allied forces trapped in northern France. An incredible mobilization of British civilians helped effect a near-miraculous evacuation of 224,000 British and 111,000 French soldiers. In recognition of this effort Churchill gave one of his most defining – and defiant – wartime speeches. In his 4 June 1940 speech he set the tone that would carry his nation through long years of war still ahead: “We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender…”

CBC #005573

$180 USD
An original wartime press photograph of Winston S. Churchill, Sir Kingsley Wood, and Anthony Eden taken on 10 May 1940, hours before Churchill became wartime Prime Minister

The Topical Press Agency
London, 10 May 1940

This original press photo captures Winston S. Churchill on 10 May 1940, the day he became wartime Prime Minister. The gelatin silver print on glossy photo paper measures 8.125 x 6 in (20.6 x 15.2 cm). Condition is very good minus. The paper is crisp and clean with some wear along the edges, creases to the lower corners largely confined to the margins, and light scuffing visible only under raking light. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “The Topical Press Agency Ltd.” and an original typed caption. The caption is titled “IMPORTANT CABINET MEETING.” and reads “Photo shows: Ministers leaving after this morning’s important Cabinet meeting at No. 10, Downing Street, London, S.W. They are (Left to Right: Sir Kingsley Wood (Secretary of State for Air), Mr. Winston Churchill (First Lord of the Admiralty) and Mr. Anthony Eden (Secretary of State for Dominions.) 10/5/40.” This photograph is housed in a removable, archival mylar sleeve within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.

Churchill spent most of the 1930s out of power and out of favor, warning against the growing Nazi threat and often at odds with both his Party leadership and prevailing public sentiment. As the Second World War approached, he passed into his sixties with his own future as uncertain as that of his nation. But in September 1939, at the outbreak of the Second World War, Churchill was called back to the Admiralty, filling the same position he held in the previous war. Eight months later, on 10 May 1940, Churchill became wartime Prime Minister.

Beginning on 7 May 1940 the Norway Debate in the House of Commons escalated into a vote of no confidence in the premiership of Neville Chamberlain. At dawn on 10 May Germany invaded Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Belgium. A Cabinet meeting was called and Chamberlain concluded that the situation was dire enough to necessitate delaying his resignation. Sir Kingsley Wood, the man at left in this photograph, argued that the seriousness of the German threat should accelerate Chamberlain’s resignation and encouraged Churchill to become Prime Minister. A third War Cabinet was summoned for four-thirty that afternoon. “Once again, Churchill crossed the Horse Guards Parade to where his colleagues and their advisers were assembled.” It was at this meeting, as the fifth item on the War Cabinet’s agenda, that Chamberlain announced he would “at once tender his resignation to The King.”

Churchill returned to the Admiralty while Chamberlain was on his way to Buckingham Palace “within half an hour” after which Chamberlain returned to 10 Downing Street and Churchill was summoned to Buckingham Palace. (Gilbert, Vol VI, p.312-13) The night this photograph was taken – Churchill’s first as premier - Churchill worked on forming his Government until the early hours of the morning. Sir Kingsley Wood was appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer, serving until his death in 1943. Anthony Eden became Secretary of State for War, returning to his previous post as Foreign Secretary by the end of 1940. Eden would serve a decade and a half as Churchill’s deputy before becoming Prime Minister himself in 1955.

In his WWII memoirs Churchill later recalled of the night this photograph was taken: “I was conscious of a profound sense of relief. At last I had the authority to give direction over the whole scene. 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. Eleven years in the political wilderness had freed me from ordinary Party antagonisms. My warnings over the last six years had been so numerous, so detailed, and were now so terribly vindicated, that no one could gainsay me. I could not be reproached either for making the war or with want of preparation for it. I thought I knew a good deal about it all, and I was sure I should not fail. Therefore, although impatient for the morning, I slept soundly and had no need for cheering dreams. Facts are better than dreams.” (Gilbert, Vol 1, p.286-27) [CBC #00575]

$350 USD
An original press photograph of Winston S. Churchill taken on 10 May 1940, crossing Horse Guards Parade en route back to the Admiralty after a War Cabinet meeting just hours before he became wartime Prime Minister

This original press photograph captures Winston S. Churchill pausing to light a cigar as he crosses Horse Guards Parade off Whitehall on 10 May 1940, just hours before he becomes wartime Prime Minister. The gelatin silver print on heavy matte photo paper measures 9.5 x 7.5 in (24.1 x 19 cm). Condition is very good minus. The paper is crisp with some wear along the edges mostly confined to the margins, some light bruising, and a tattered typed caption reading “HOLLAND and BELGIUM [invaded] BY GERMANY, MR WINSTON CHURCHILL walking to the Admiralty.” The verso bears the copyright stamp of “Graphic Photo Union,” A “USED” stamp of The Sunday Telegraph dated 22 MAY 1943 testifies that this photo spent many decades in the Telegraph’s archives.

During the 1930s, Churchill spent nearly a decade out of power and out of favor, warning against the growing Nazi threat and often at odds with both his Party leadership and prevailing public sentiment. As the Second World War approached, he passed into his sixties with his own future as uncertain as that of his nation. But in September 1939, at the outbreak of the Second World War, Churchill was called back to the Admiralty, filling the same position he held in the previous war. Eight months later, on 10 May 1940, Churchill became wartime Prime Minister.

On that day, “A third War Cabinet had been summoned for four-thirty that afternoon. Once again, Churchill crossed the Horse Guards Parade to where his colleagues and their advisers were assembled.” It was at this meeting, as the fifth item on the War Cabinet’s agenda, that Chamberlain announced he would “at once tender his resignation to The King.” Churchill returned to the Admiralty while Chamberlain was on his way to Buckingham Palace “within half an hour” after which Chamberlain returned to 10 Downing Street and Churchill was summoned to Buckingham Palace.

The night this photograph was taken – Churchill’s first as premier - Churchill worked on forming his Government until the early hours of the morning. In his memoirs of WWII he later recalled of that night: “I was conscious of a profound sense of relief. At last I had the authority to give direction over the whole scene. 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. Eleven years in the political wilderness had freed me from ordinary Party antagonisms. My warnings over the last six years had been so numerous, so detailed, and were now so terribly vindicated, that no one could gainsay me. I could not be reproached either for making the war or with want of preparation for it. I thought I knew a good deal about it all, and I was sure I should not fail. Therefore, although impatient for the morning, I slept soundly and had no need for cheering dreams. Facts are better than dreams.” (Gilbert, Vol I, p.326-27) [CBC #005275]

$200 USD

An original press photograph of Winston S. Churchill taken on 10 May 1940, pausing to light a cigar as he crossed Horse Guards Parade hours before he became wartime Prime Minister

This original press photograph captures Winston S. Churchill pausing to light a cigar as he crosses Horse Guards Parade off Whitehall on 10 May 1940, just hours before he becomes wartime Prime Minister. The gelatin silver print on heavy matte photo paper measures 9.5 x 7.5 in (24.1 x 19 cm). Condition is very good minus. The paper is crisp with some wear along the edges mostly confined to the margins, some light bruising, and an ink fingerprint at the left edge. This press photo was once a part of the working archives of the Evening Standard. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “Associated Press Photo”, a stamp of the Evening Standard dated 10 MAY 1940, an additional date stamp from 10 MAY 1940, a date stamp from 8 May 1945, some handwritten printing notations, and two clippings of the caption as it was printed in the newspaper.

During the 1930s, Churchill spent nearly a decade out of power and out of favor, warning against the growing Nazi threat and often at odds with both his Party leadership and prevailing public sentiment. As the Second World War approached, he passed into his sixties with his own future as uncertain as that of his nation. But in September 1939, at the outbreak of the Second World War, Churchill was called back to the Admiralty, filling the same position he held in the previous war. Eight months later, on 10 May 1940, Churchill became wartime Prime Minister.

On that day, “A third War Cabinet had been summoned for four-thirty that afternoon. Once again, Churchill crossed the Horse Guards Parade to where his colleagues and their advisers were assembled.” It was at this meeting, as the fifth item on the War Cabinet’s agenda, that Chamberlain announced he would “at once tender his resignation to The King.” Churchill returned to the Admiralty while Chamberlain was on his way to Buckingham Palace “within half an hour” after which Chamberlain returned to 10 Downing Street and Churchill was summoned to Buckingham Palace.

The night this photograph was taken – Churchill’s first as premier - Churchill worked on forming his Government until the early hours of the morning. In his memoirs of WWII he later recalled of that night: “I was conscious of a profound sense of relief. At last I had the authority to give direction over the whole scene. 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. Eleven years in the political wilderness had freed me from ordinary Party antagonisms. My warnings over the last six years had been so numerous, so detailed, and were now so terribly vindicated, that no one could gainsay me. I could not be reproached either for making the war or with want of preparation for it. I thought I knew a good deal about it all, and I was sure I should not fail. Therefore, although impatient for the morning, I slept soundly and had no need for cheering dreams. Facts are better than dreams.” (Gilbert, Vol I, p.326-27) [CBC #005275]

$220 USD
An original wartime press photo of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill and his wife, Clementine, walking to 10 Downing Street on 30 May 1940, as the Evacuation at Dunkirk was underway

This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill and his wife, Clementine, walking to 10 Downing Street on 30 May 1940, just 20 days into Churchill’s wartime premiership and as the evacuation of Dunkirk was underway. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 10 x 8 inches (25.4 x 20.3 cm). Condition is very good minus. The paper is crisp and free of scratching with some light wear to the edges, some small closed tears along the edges which are mostly confined to the edges, and some minor scattered soiling. This press photo once belonged to the working archives of the Evening Standard and features original, hand-applied retouching to the figures’ faces and clothes as well as the building behind them. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “Keystone Press Agency Ltd.”, a published stamp from the Evening Standard dated 30 May 1940, an additional date stamp of 30 May 1940, handwritten printing notations, and a clipping of the caption as it was published in the newspaper. The caption reads “Mrs. Churchill walking with the Premier to-day on his way from the Admiralty to No. 10, Downing-street.”

Both the composition and timing of this photograph are compelling. Chamberlain had resigned less than three weeks earlier and the new Prime Minister and his wife would not move from Admiralty House into 10 Downing Street’s second floor flat until mid-June. Nonetheless, the strains of wartime premiership – which both Churchills may seem to wear lightly in this image – were already acute. When Churchill became Prime Minister on 10 May 1940, the war for Britain was not so much a struggle for victory as a struggle to survive. Churchill’s first year in office saw, among other near-calamities, the Battle of the Atlantic, the fall of France, and the evacuation at Dunkirk. Just two weeks after Churchill became wartime Prime Minister, swift Nazi subjugation of France required rescue of Allied forces trapped in northern France.

The day after this photograph was taken Churchill would fly to Paris via a circuiterous route taken to avoid the Luftwaffe. Churchill’s bodyguard, Walter Thompson, would later recall Churchill’s demeanor during that trip, “His sole topic of conversation was of the possibility of substantial numbers of troops being got off the beaches. For once, his face, grave and strained, showed the anxiety that he felt.” (Thompson, Shadow, 45) An incredible mobilization of British civilians helped effect a near-miraculous evacuation of 224,000 British and 111,000 French soldiers.

On 4 June 1940, the day this image was captured, in the House of Commons Churchill gave one of his most defining – and defiant – wartime speeches. Churchill had been wartime Prime Minister for less than a month. In his 4 June 1940 speech he set the tone that would carry his nation through long years of war still ahead: “We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender…” [CBC #005205]

$180 USD
General Sikorski (1881-1943) led Poland’s government in exile. On 1 September the German army invaded Poland, prompting Britain and France to enter the war in accordance with preceding security accords. On 5 August 1940 a further agreement was signed, documenting that the Polish Armed Forces were a sovereign military under the constitutional control of the Polish Government in exile. Sikorski’s British liaison officer, Victor Cazalet, recorded the day and the unexpected move to bring in photographers in his diary, “Polish Agreement signed to Downing Street, inside Cabinet Room, Winston at last minute insisted on photographer coming into the Cabinet Room. We had all been told that was the one thing that was not to be done. He was very distracted while we were in the garden and could not be got to do anything but smile. We all drank champagne and all the Polish officers, etc., whom I brought in, were very pleased as the whole Cabinet came down and made themselves pleasant.” (Gilbert, Documents XV, 616)

Churchill’s relationship with Poland would have controversies. On 5 July, 1943, the Liberator bomber carrying General Sikorski crashed immediately after taking off from Gibraltar. Sikorski’s death fueled conspiracy theories, as the cause of Polish sovereignty was a thorn in the side of relations between the American, British, and Soviet Allies. Certainly, Sikorski’s death proved a blow to Polish independence; Poland was effectively ceded to the Soviet sphere of influence for the long Cold War that followed the Second World War. Despite the inconvenience of the Polish cause to Allied relations, Churchill was publicly supportive of Sikorski and Poland. Churchill is reported to have wept upon receiving the news of Sikorski’s death (Gilbert, Vol. VII, p.426). On 6 July, 1943, Churchill gave a tribute to Sikorski in the House of Commons. [CBC #005016]

$300 USD
An original wartime press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill followed by cheering crowds and accompanied by his son-in-law as he surveys bomb damage on 10 September 1940, just three days after the beginning of the Blitz

Fox Photos
London, 10 September 1940

This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill followed by a cheering crowd as he surveys bomb damage on 10 September 1940, just three days after the beginning of the Blitz. On Churchill's right, in army uniform, is his son-in-law, Captain Duncan Sandys. Particularly noteworthy in the image are the cheering young women one might better expect to associate with 1960s pop music icons than a 1940s British Prime Minister. This is an original copy of the same image used by Sir Martin Gilbert in Churchill's Official Biography (Vol. VI, following p.300). The gelatin silver print on heavy matte photo paper measures 7.5 x 9.5 in (17 x 24.1 cm). The paper is clean, crisp, and free of scratches, some very minor edge wear confined to the margins being its only flaw. This press photo came from the Fox Photos press agency. The verso bears a copyright stamp of "Fox Photos", a date stamp from 10 SEP [1940], and a typed caption titled "THE PREMIER INSPECTS CITY DAMAGE." and reading "Huge crowds followed Mr. Winston Churchill to-day when he inspected the damage and bomb craters caused by last night's raid. Mr. Churchill asked the crowded as a whole if they were downhearted, and cries of 'No' was heard from one and all." The caption terminates in the printed date "SEPT. 10th.40."

When Churchill became Prime Minister, the war for Britain was not so much a struggle for victory as a struggle to survive. Churchill's first year in office saw, among other near-calamities, the Battle of the Atlantic, the fall of France, evacuation at Dunkirk, and the Battle of Britain. Hitler intended the Battle of Britain as the preparatory effort to gain air superiority prior to an invasion of England. The question was far from settled when this photograph was taken. Indeed, at the time this photo was taken, invasion by Nazi Germany remained a credible threat.

Just days earlier, on 4 September 1940 Hitler gave a speech in Berlin promising to "erase their [Britain's] cities from the earth". On 7 September the Luftwaffe commenced the Blitz; by the day's end the German Luftwaffe had dropped 447 tons of bombs on London, killing 448 civilians. For the following 57 days London was relentlessly bombed. On 11 September 1940 Churchill’s broadcast to the British people reminded the nation of its past victories, "we must regard the next week or so as a very important period in our history. It ranks with the days when the Spanish Armada was approaching the Channel... or when Nelson stood between us and Napoleon's Grand Army at Boulogne. We have read all about this in the history books; but what is happening now is on a far greater scale and of far more consequence to the life and future of the world and its civilization than these brave old days of the past. Every man and woman will therefore prepare himself to do his duty, whatever it may be, with special pride and care."

Churchill's encouragement to his people extended from the airwaves to the streets of London. He frequently visited bomb sites to boost morale. In his WWII memoirs he recalled one such visit to a devastating bomb site in Peckham, "Already little pathetic Union Jacks had been stuck up amid the ruins. When my car was recognized the people came running from all quarters, and a crowd of more than a thousand was soon gathered. All these folk were in a high state of enthusiasm... 'Give it 'em back,' they cried, and 'Let them have it too.' I undertook forthwith to see that their wishes were carried out".

(WWII, Vol II, 307-8) [CBC #003240]

$350 USD
This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill and his wife, Clementine, seated under the flag at the stern of a Naval Patrol vessel in London on 25 September 1940 during the Battle of Britain, on their way to view Luftwaffe bomb damage to the London docks.

British Official Photograph supplied by BIPP, published by The Daily Telegraph
London, 27 September 1940

Just weeks earlier, on 4 September 1940 Hitler gave a speech in Berlin promising to "erase their [Britain’s] cities from the earth" in response to "Herr Churchill’s" promise to increase attacks on German cities. On 7 September the Luftwaffe commenced the Blitz; by the day’s end the Germans had dropped 447 tons of bombs on London, killing 448 civilians. For the following 57 days London was relentlessly bombed. Gilbert notes that "During the week ending on noon on September 26, more than 1,500 civilians had been killed in Britain, 1,300 of them in London." (Vol. VI, 812) Nevertheless, Churchill projected confidence. In a 24 September letter to Chamberlain he wrote, "I do not think that they will continue at their present height for many weeks... Let us go on together through the storm. These are great days." (ibid) [CBC #005231]

$450 USD

This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill leaving Downing Street on 5 October 1940 with Clement Attlee and Ernest Bevin during the final weeks of the Battle of Britain.

The Daily Telegraph
London, 5 October 1940

Just one month earlier, on 4 September 1940, Hitler gave a speech in Berlin promising to "erase their [Britain’s] cities from the earth" in response to "Herr Churchill’s" promise to increase attacks on German cities. On 7 September the Luftwaffe commenced the Blitz; by the day’s end the Germans had dropped 447 tons of bombs on London, killing 448 civilians. For the following 57 days London was relentlessly bombed. Gilbert notes that "During the week ending on noon on September 26, more than 1,500 civilians had been killed in Britain, 1,300 of them in London." (Vol. VI, 812) Nevertheless, Churchill projected confidence. In a 24 September letter to Chamberlain he wrote, "I do not think that they will continue at their present height for many weeks... Let us go on together through the storm. These are great days." (ibid) RAF pilots fought off the Luftwaffe onslaught, thereby almost single-handedly securing England. Churchill encapsulated and immortalized the struggle when he uttered the words: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few." [CBC #005327]

$180 USD
When Churchill became Prime Minister, the war for Britain was not so much a struggle for victory as a struggle to survive. Churchill's first year in office saw, among other near-calamities, the Battle of the Atlantic, the fall of France, evacuation at Dunkirk, and the Battle of Britain. Hitler intended the relentless aerial bombardment of British cities by the Luftwaffe during The Blitz as the preparatory effort to an invasion of England. Throughout the war, Churchill often visited bombed sites. In this instance, on the night of 11 April Churchill "travelled to Bristol with Ambassador Winant and Robert Menzies, who were to receive honorary degrees from Churchill, the University's Chancellor... That night Churchill, family and guests slept in a special train just outside the city. While they slept, German bombers struck at Bristol docks. Woken by the sirens and the bombardment, they watched and listened to the distant raid."

The next day, Churchill "drove for an hour through the ruined city... Next to the University, a building was still in flames. 'That you should gather in this way,' Churchill told his University audience, 'is a mark of fortitude and phlegm...' Mary Churchill later recalled the scene: 'It was quite extraordinary. People kept on arriving late with grime on their faces half washed off. They had their ceremonial robes on, over their fire fighting clothes which were still wet.' That afternoon, Churchill again inspected the ruins." (Gilbert, Vol. VI, pp.1058-9) Lord Ismay later recalled of the day "At one of the rest centres at which you called, there was a poor old woman who had lost all her belongings sobbing her heart out. But as you entered, she took her handkerchief from her eyes and waved it madly shouting 'Hooray, hooray.' " (Letter of 28 November 1946) "As Churchill's train pulled out of Bristol station... Averell Harriman noticed that tears filled the Prime Minister's eyes, and he picked up a newspaper to hid his face from those who were with him..." (Harriman and Abel, Special Envoy to Churchill and Stalin, pp. 29-30) [CBC #005206]
This original press photograph of British Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill and Australian Prime Minister Robert Menzies at 10 Downing Street in February 1941 is reportedly the first image captured of the two men taken together. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 7.5 x 9.5 inches (19 x 24.1 cm). Condition is very good minus. The paper is clean, crisp, and free of scratches with some light wear to the edges and corners. The verso bears a copyright stamp from “Planet News Ltd”, a received stamp of "The Daily Telegraph" dated 27 FEB 1941, and a significant portion of an original typed caption. The caption is titled “MR. MENZIES ATTENDS WAR CABINET MEETING WITH BRITISH PRIME MINISTER”, and the remaining legible portion reads, “Mr. R. G. Menzies, the Australian Prime Minister, who is over here to confer with the British Government, attended a meeting of the War Cabinet. PHOTO SHOWS: The first picture taken of Mr. Winston Churchill and Mr. R. G. Menzies together. The two Prime Ministers cha... 1941”.

On 3 September 1939 Britain declared war on Germany, formally entering what would become a defining conflict not just for Britain, but for the world. That same day Prime Minister of Australia Robert Menzies (1894-1978), who had become Prime Minister in April 1939, announced to his people that Australia was consequently also at war with Germany, thereafter forming a war cabinet and preparing his nation. While Britain's primary concern was Nazi Germany, Menzies was justifiably concerned about the proximate threat Japan posed to his own sparsely populated, poorly defended nation. Against a backdrop of political factionalism and war anxiety at home, Menzies left Australia on 24 January 1941 in a Qantas Empire Flying Boat. “In an extraordinary journey, hopping his way across the top end to Indonesia, Singapore, Rangoon, Calcutta, Karachi, Bahrain, and Basra, to Palestine and thence to Egypt and Libya, after which he had a long flight across the Sahara and southern Africa, then north to Lisbon, Menzies and his team arrived in England on 20 February. (Henderson, FH 168, Spring 2015, p.28)

Menzies was ultimately absent from Australia for four months, seeking trade deals, material support, and strategic attention to Australia’s peril in the decidedly secondary Pacific Theater of the war. “Nothing worked. And as he stayed in Britain, Menzies diarised how his emotions and regard for Churchill swayed from admiration to annoyance. For all his efforts, Churchill did not understand the situation at Singapore or the danger for Britain’s dominions in the Pacific.” (Ibid) Menzies returned home to heightened war anxieties and further erosion of his tenuous political position. He resigned his premiership in August 1941. His administration had committed Australian troops to fight with Britain and set up a war administration, but this would end his role in the war, both in Australia and in Imperial councils, given the voluble dissent he had given Churchill in the War Cabinet while in London.

Both men had a second chance, both at leadership and at friendship. Menzies returned to Australia's premiership in December 1949, remaining until January 1966, becoming Australia's longest-serving prime minister. “After the war, Menzies and Churchill struck up an elder-statesmen friendship, with Robert and Pattie Menzies making many visits to Chartwell.” They shared national leadership during Churchill's second and final premiership (1951-1955). Menzies delivered a personal and fulsome broadcast tribute from the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral on the occasion of Churchill's funeral: “In the whole of recorded modern history, this was, I believe, the one occasion when one man, with one soaring imagination, with one fire burning in him, and with one unrivalled capacity for conveying it to others, won a crucial victory not only for the forces (for there were many heroes in those days) but for the very spirit of human freedom.” [CBC #005655]

$165 USD
An original wartime press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill speaking at the 27 March 1941 Conservative and Unionist Associations Central Council Meeting in London

Evening Standard
London, 27 March 1941

This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill delivering a speech at the 27 March 1941 Conservative and Unionist Associations Central Council Meeting in London. The gelatin silver print on heavy matte paper measures 9.5 x 11.5 in (24.2 x 29.2 cm). Condition is very good minus. The paper is clean, crisp, and free of scratches with some edge wear (most noticeable at the left and bottom edges), two short closed tears to the left edge and a crease to the bottom left corner. This press photo once belonged to the working archive of the Evening Standard and features original hand-applied retouching to the figures' faces and clothes. The verso bears the copyright stamp of "The Evening Standard", a received stamp dated 27 MAR 1941, handwritten printing notifications, and a clipping of the caption as it was published reading, "Mr. Churchill speaking at to-day's Conservative meeting – Evening Standard exclusive picture."

That Churchill became his Party's leader was anything but inevitable and born far more of wartime exigency than confident mutual regard. It requires little imagination to read some skeptical reservation on the faces beside and behind Churchill captured in this image. Churchill warred with his own Conservative Party throughout the 1930s. By the time of then-Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's 1938 Munich concessions to Hitler, so vehement was Churchill's dissent with his own Party leadership that Churchill had effectively become leader of the opposition. Nonetheless, on 10 May 1940 he became Prime Minister – not of a Conservative government, but of a wartime Coalition government. Churchill would not head a Conservative government until his final premiership of 1955-1959.

In the meantime, the first year of Churchill's wartime premiership for Britain was not so much a struggle for victory as a struggle to survive. His first year in office saw, among other near-calamities, the Battle of the Atlantic, the fall of France, evacuation at Dunkirk, and the Battle of Britain. Churchill could take nothing for granted, including the support of his own Conservative Party. Fortunately for Churchill, this Party Council meeting occurred just days after Churchill was able to announce a vital material lifeline for Britain in the form of American approval of the Lend-Lease Act. Moreover, "Britain's air defences now "mitigated the full horror of earlier night attacks". (Gilbert, Vol. VI, p.1035) And on the day this image was captured, 27 March 1941, "Churchill's confidence was boosted... by the completion in Washington of the United States-British Staff Conversations, which had culminated in 'Joint Basic War Plan Number One' of the United States and the British Commonwealth 'for war against the Axis Powers". (Gilbert, Vol. VI, p.1044)

Photographs like this provide poignant, tangible evidence of Churchill's formidable prowess as an orator – a skill used to great effect during the Second World War when Churchill "mobilized the English language and sent it into battle." (Edward R. Murrow) Here Churchill is captured making the case for his Party's continued support in his coalition government. Churchill reminded his audience "The reason why His Majesty entrusted me in May last with the formation of a Government was because it was an effect during the Second World War when Churchill "mobilized the English language and sent it into battle." (Edward R. Murrow) Here Churchill is captured making the case for his Party's continued support in his coalition government. Churchill reminded his audience "The reason why His Majesty entrusted me in May last with the formation of a Government was because it was an
An original wartime press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill delivering his letter of introduction from King George VI to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on 9 August 1941 on board the USS Augusta for the first meeting of the Atlantic Charter Conference.


This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill delivering his letter of introduction from King George VI to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on 9 August 1941 on board the USS Augusta during their first meeting of the Atlantic Charter Conference. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 5.375 x 7 inches (13.6 x 17.8 cm). An original paper caption extends an additional .75 inches below the bottom of the image. Condition is very good minus. The paper is crisp and free of scratching with some light wear to the edges and pin holes in each corner. The photo once belonged to the working archives of a Swedish newspaper. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “A.B. Text & Bilder”, a stamp reading “Svenska Dagbladets Bild-Arkiv” (Svenska Dagbladets is a Stockholm daily newspaper, and Bild-arkiv translates to photo archive), handwritten notations, and a typed Swedish caption. This photograph is housed in a removable, archival mylar sleeve within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.

In August 1941, British Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill braved the Battle of the Atlantic to voyage by warship to Placentia Bay, Newfoundland, where he met secretly with U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Upon their first meeting Churchill presented Roosevelt with a letter of introduction from King George VI who expressed that he had “no doubt that your meeting will prove of great benefit to our two countries in the pursuit of our common goal.” Their agenda included setting constructive goals for the post-war world, even as the struggle against Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan was still very much undecided and the U.S. had yet to formally enter the war.

The eight principles to which they agreed became known as the Atlantic Charter. “That it had little legal validity did not detract from its value… Coming from the two great democratic leaders of the day… the Atlantic Charter created a profound impression on the embattled Allies… a message of hope to the occupied countries, and… the promise of a world organization based on the enduring verities of international morality.” (United Nations) In addition to encapsulating the Allies' postwar aspirations and catalyzing formation of the United Nations, the Atlantic Charter testified to the remarkable personal relationship between FDR and Churchill.

“Support for the principles of the Atlantic Charter and a pledge of cooperation to the utmost in giving effect to them, came from a meeting of ten governments in London shortly after Mr. Churchill returned from his ocean rendezvous. This declaration was signed on September 24 by the USSR and the nine governments of occupied Europe: Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Yugoslavia and by the representatives of General de Gaulle, of France.” Nonetheless, Atlantic Charter principles were remote from the realities of war in August 1941. Even after Newfoundland, to Churchill’s frustration, America had still “made no commitments and was no nearer to war than before the ship board meeting.” (Gilbert, VI, p.170) Not until December 1941, after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, did America formally enter the war and not until October 1945 was the United Nations established, embodying the lofty principles of the Atlantic Charter.

[CBC #009128]

$500 USD
This is a striking, original Swedish press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on board the H.M.S. Prince of Wales on 10 August 1941 during the Atlantic Charter conference. The gelatin silver print on glossy photo paper measures 4.75 x 6.75 inches (12.1 x 17.1 cm). Condition is very good minus. The paper is crisp with some wear along the edges, original crop marks, creases to the lower left and upper right corners, and some light scuffing visible only under raking light. This image features original, hand-applied white paint used to isolate Churchill and Roosevelt. The effect of the crop marks and paint strikingly roots this compelling original photo in the technology and perspective of the time in which it was taken. The photo once belonged to the archives of a Swedish newspaper. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “A. B. Text & Bilder”, a stamp reading “Svenska Dagbladets Bild-Arkiv” (Svenska Dagbladets is a Stockholm daily newspaper, and bild-arkiv translates to photo archive), handwritten notations, and a typed caption in Swedish. This photo is housed in a removable, archival mylar sleeve within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.

In August 1941, British Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill braved the Battle of the Atlantic to voyage by warship to Placentia Bay, Newfoundland, and meet secretly with U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Their agenda included setting constructive goals for the post-war world, even as the struggle against Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan was very much undecided and the U.S. had yet to formally enter the war. The eight principles to which they agreed became known as the Atlantic Charter. “That it had little legal validity did not detract from its value… Coming from the two great democratic leaders of the day… the Atlantic Charter created a profound impression on the embattled Allies… a message of hope to the occupied countries, and… the promise of a world organization based on the enduring verities of international morality.” (United Nations) In addition to encapsulating the Allies’ postwar aspirations and catalyzing formation of the United Nations, the Atlantic Charter testified to the remarkable personal relationship between FDR and Churchill.

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An original wartime press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill and his wife, Clementine, on 19 August 1941, taken upon Churchill’s return from the Atlantic Charter Conference with President Franklin D. Roosevelt

The Topical Press Agency
London, 19 August 1941

This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill and his wife, Clementine, on 19 August 1941 upon Churchill’s return from the Atlantic Charter Conference with President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Their agenda included setting constructive goals for the post-war world, even as the struggle against Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan was still very much undecided and the U.S. had yet to formally enter the war. The eight principles to which they agreed became known as the Atlantic Charter. “That it had little legal validity did not detract from its value… Coming from the two great democratic leaders of the day… the Atlantic Charter created a profound impression on the embattled Allies. It came as a message of hope to the occupied countries, and it held out the promise of a world organization based on the enduring verities of international morality.” (United Nations) In addition to encapsulating the Allies’ postwar aspirations and catalyzing formation of the United Nations, the Atlantic Charter testified to the remarkable personal relationship between FDR and Churchill.

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$160 USD

An original wartime press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill donating to the Air Raid Distress Fund on 19 August 1941, the day after his return to London from his first wartime conference with President Franklin Roosevelt, during which the two men drafted and signed the Atlantic Charter

Associated Press Photo
London, 19 August 1941

This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill on 19 August 1941 donating to the Air Raid Distress Fund as the charity representative pins a flag to his lapel. Churchill had just returned from his first wartime conference with President Franklin Roosevelt, during which they drafted and signed the Atlantic Charter. This is an original copy of a charming image used by Sir Martin Gilbert in his Official Biography of Churchill (Vol. VI, following p.889). The gelatin silver print on heavy matte photo paper measures 9.5 x 7.5 in (24.1 x 19 x cm). Condition is very good. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scratches with only very minor edge wear, slightly bumped corners, and a crease to the lower left corner. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “Associated Press Photo” covered by the caption slip, a received stamp dated “19 AUG 1941”, and a typed caption. The typed caption is titled “CHURCHILL ARRIVES AT DOWNING STREET AND BUYS A FLAG”. The caption reads “MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL, JUST ARRIVED AT DOWNING STREET AFTER HIS HISTORIC MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, SEEN BUYING A FLAG FOR THE LORD MAYOR’S AIR RAID DISTRESS FUND THIS MORNING, AUGUST 19, BEHIND IS A P.C., GIVING THE SALUTE.”

Depending on perspective, this image can be seen either as a sharp contrast to the greater events that were consuming Churchill’s attention or a poignantly grounding reminder of the war’s human scale and human costs.

In August 1941, British Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill braved the Battle of the Atlantic to voyage by warship to Placentia Bay, Newfoundland, where he secretly met with U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt. From the 9th to the 12th they conferred, setting constructive goals for the post-war world, even as the struggle against Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan was still very much undecided and the U.S. had yet to formally enter the war. The eight principles to which they agreed became known as the Atlantic Charter. “That it had little legal validity did not detract from its value… Coming from the two great democratic leaders of the day… the Atlantic Charter created a profound impression on the embattled Allies. It came as a message of hope to the occupied countries, and it held out the promise of a world organization based on the enduring verities of international morality.” (United Nations) In addition to encapsulating the Allies’ postwar aspirations and catalyzing formation of the United Nations, the Atlantic Charter testified to the remarkable personal relationship between FDR and Churchill.

Churchill arrived back in London on the 8th after a brief stop in Iceland. On 19 August, the day this photograph was taken, Churchill lunched with the King who recorded that “W. was very taken by [Roosevelt].” Though the Prime Minister was optimistic about the effects of his talk with the President, he was frustrated by the lack of immediate aid. Even after Newfoundland, to Churchill’s frustration, America had still “made no commitments and was no nearer to war than before the ship board meeting.” (Gilbert, VI, p.176) Late in the night on the same day that this image was captured, Churchill’s private secretary, Jock Colville, found his Prime Minister at no Downing Street “nodding his head gloomily” (at the prospect that Germany might destroy Russia before the U.S. entered the war) and saying that the situation was “very grim”. (Gilbert, Vol. VI, p. 1717) Not until December 1941 did the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor prompt U.S. entry into the war, ending Britain’s solitary stand. Churchill’s words famously steadied his people. But Churchill’s tangible symbols of support, including his physical presence in his nation’s bomb-damaged neighborhoods, docks, and factories, as well as moments like the purchase of this Air Raid Distress Fund Bag, were also vital to the courage and resolve he helped inspire in his countrymen. [CBC #005255]

$300 USD
This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill firing a Sten gun at the Royal Artillery experimental station on 13 June 1941. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 8 x 6 inches (20.3 x 15.2 cm). Condition is very good minus. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scratching with some light wear to the edges, pin holes in each corner, and a very light line that appears to be inherent to the photo's developing out passing horizontally through Churchill's hand. This press photo once belonged to the working archives of the Evening Standard. The verso bears a copyright stamp reading “BRITISH OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH No._ [ISSUED BY] PHOTOGRAPHIC NEWS AGENCIES, LTD.”, a published stamp from The Daily Telegraph dated 19 JUN 1941, and a typed caption, reading “MR. CHURCHILL TRYING HIS HAND WITH A TOMMY GUN DURING A VISIT TO AN ARMAMENT FACTORY. CAPT. MARGESSON, WAR SECRETARY, IS SEEN OVER HIS RIGHT SHOULDER.” This photograph is housed in a removable, archival mylar sleeve within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.

This photo is testimony to Churchill’s lifelong informed fascination with the minutiae and machinery of combat and a reminder of the fact that he was a soldier before he was a politician. Churchill’s interest was neither idle nor amateur. The man who began his career as a cavalry officer and participated in the ‘last great cavalry charge in British history’ would later help conceive the tank, pilot aircraft, support establishment of the Royal Air Force, direct use of some of the earliest computers (for WWII code breaking), and ultimately preside as Prime Minister over the first British nuclear weapons test. Before he became Prime Minister, Churchill had twice served as wartime First Lord of the Admiralty and also as wartime Minister of Munitions. During the Second World War – as he had for decades before – Churchill showed keen interest in – and critical support for – the struggle for technological mastery that would prove as critical to winning the war as men, material, and logistics.

The spring of 1941 saw a Britain battered by the recently ended Blitz and desperately rebuilding its devastated armaments production centers. On 11 March 1941 the United States passed the Lend Lease Act. Critically for Britain, the Lend Lease Act included provisions for massive supplies of war machinery and funds. Over the following months Churchill visited dozens of sites of production, testing, and training. The caption on the verso of this photograph erroneously identifies the gun Churchill is firing as a Tommy gun; it is, in fact, a Sten submachine gun, developed in Britain in early 1941 when their need for firepower outpaced the production of Thompson submachine guns. Naturally, Churchill was eager to test for himself this newly developed weapon. Over the course of WWII Britain and Canada would manufacture more than four million of these weapons. [CBC #005207]

$350 USD
This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill inspecting an anti-aircraft gun and its crew in London on 17 October 1941. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 7.75 x 9.5 inches (19.7 x 24.1 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scratches with only some light edge wear confined to the margins. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “Central Press Photos Ltd.”, a stamp indicating that this photograph passed censors, a received stamp dated 18 OCT. 1941, and a typed caption. The caption is titled “PRIME MINISTER WITH ‘ACK ACK’ GIRLS” and reads, “Mr WINSTON CHURCHILL, accompanied by his wife, today paid a visit to the anti-aircraft battery in the London area which is manned by men and women. The picture shows the Premier watching some of the men load one of the guns.”

Throughout the war Churchill frequently visited defense-related production, testing, and training sites. The caption on the verso of this photograph indicates that this gun site was operated in part by the Ack Ack Girls. (Though this photograph captures the loading of the guns, a job performed by men, one woman is visible in the background). All women age 20-30 were required to join one of the Auxiliary services. One such service was the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) which contained one of the most exciting, and dangerous, roles, that of the Ack Ack Girls who were charged with operating London’s anti-aircraft guns. Churchill’s youngest child, Mary (1922-2014), was among the first Ack Ack Girls to volunteer, serving at a gun site in Hyde Park. Though women were forbidden to operate weaponry, the Ack Ack Girls played a critical role in spotting enemy aircraft and calculating trajectories.

This photo is testimony to Churchill’s lifelong informed fascination with the minutiae and machinery of combat and a reminder of the fact that he was a soldier before he was a politician. Churchill’s interest was neither idle nor amateur. The man who began his career as a cavalry officer and participated in the “last great cavalry charge in British history” would later help conceive the tank, pilot aircraft, support establishment of the Royal Air Force, direct use of some of the earliest computers (for WWII code breaking), and ultimately preside as Prime Minister over the first British nuclear weapons test. Before he became Prime Minister, Churchill had twice served as wartime First Lord of the Admiralty and also as wartime Minister of Munitions. During the Second World War – as he had for decades before – Churchill showed keen interest in – and critical support for – the struggle for technological mastery that would prove as critical to winning the war as men, material, and logistics. [CBC #005221]

$300 USD

This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill on 7 December 1941, the day of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, outside 10 Downing Street holding a newspaper with a headline announcing the attack. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 8 x 6 in (20.3 x 15.2 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scratches with only very minor edge wear, slightly bumped corners, and a very small loss to the upper right corner, all of which are confined to the margins. This press photo was once a part of the working archives of The Daily Telegraph and features their Art Department’s hand-applied retouching and airbrushing to Churchill’s clothes. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “The ‘Topical’ Press Agency”, a published stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated 8 DEC 1941, handwritten printing notations, and a clipping of the caption as it was published reading, “THE PRIME MINISTER photographed outside No. 10 Downing street, yesterday.” This photograph is housed in a removable, archival mylar sleeve within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.

On 3 September 1939 Britain declared war on Germany, formally entering what would become a defining conflict not just for Britain, but for the world. For twenty-seven long, perilous months of official U.S. neutrality, the nation stood in solitary opposition to Nazi forces in the face of devastating bombardment and imminent invasion at home, and withering losses in the Far East. When Churchill became Prime Minister on 10 May 1940, the war for Britain was not so much a struggle for victory as a struggle to survive. While Churchill developed a strong relationship with U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt and secured quite considerable material U.S. aid, it was not until the attack on Pearl Harbor that the U.S. formally entered the war, ending Britain’s solitary stand.

Upon hearing the news Churchill telephoned Roosevelt who told the Prime Minister “We are all in the same boat now”. In his war memoirs Churchill would later recall the relief he felt at the unfortunate news, “No American will think it wrong of me if I proclaim that to have the United States at our side was to me the greatest joy… at this very moment I knew the United States was in the war, up to the neck and in to the death… I went to bed and slept the sleep of the saved and thankful” (WSC, WWII Vol. III, p. 539-40). To cement the alliance Churchill had done so much to cultivate, Churchill immediately decided to travel to the United States, and on December 12, 1941 he boarded the battleship Duke of York and began the 10-day trip across the Atlantic - a perilous journey at a time when German U-Boats plagued the North Atlantic. Churchill spent a full month in North America, during which he addressed both the U.S. Congress and Canadian Parliament. [CBC #005268]

$360 USD
This is an original print of Yousuf Karsh’s wartime “Roaring Lion” photograph of Winston Churchill – one of the twentieth century’s most famous photographs by one of the world’s most famous portrait photographers. This print was produced by Karsh’s studio during Churchill’s lifetime and used as a press photograph. The 8 x 10 inch (20.3 x 25.4 cm) silver gelatin photograph is in very good condition, with trivial scratches and signs of handling visible only under raking light. Minor wrinkling and wear is confined to the edges. This original print was supplied by Karsh’s studio, as evidenced by the “Karsh, Ottawa” studio print on the verso. An ink-stamped date of “6.4.55” (6 April 1955) indicates that the print was made no later than the day after the end of Churchill’s second and final premiership (5 April 1955). We speculate that the print was supplied to “Camera Press Ltd.” of London, whose ink-stamp also appears on the verso. The print ostensibly passed thereafter to a Swedish press agency, as evidenced by three Swedish ink stamps and a printed sticker, in English, stating: “After use please return for: International Magazine Service AB” of “Stockholm, Sweden”. There is additional notation, in various hands in both ink and pencil, on the verso, including a penciled date that appears to be 22/10-50 (22 October 1950).

This iconic image was captured on 30 December 1941 in Ottawa, Canada. In the days after the 7 December 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States formally entered the Second World War, marking the end of Britain’s solitary stand against Hitler’s Germany, which it had sustained since the fall of France. Immediately after Pearl Harbor, Churchill decided to travel to North America – a perilous journey he made by battleship at a time when German U-Boats plagued the North Atlantic. On 26 December 1941 Churchill addressed a joint session of the U.S. Congress. A few days later, on 30 December, he addressed both houses of the Canadian Parliament.

Thrust into the historic moment was 33-year-old Yousuf Karsh (1908-2002). Born in Armenian Turkey, Karsh had fled on foot with his family to Syria before immigrating to Canada in 1924 as a refugee. After his speech to the Canadian Parliament, Churchill was ushered to the Speaker’s Chamber, where, at the invitation of the Canadian government, Karsh had anxiously set up his camera and lighting equipment the night before. “I approached Winston Churchill in 1941 with awe... But as a photographer I had a job to be done and it must be done far too fast. Mr. Churchill... was in no mood for portraiture and two minutes were all he would allow me... two niggardly minutes in which I must try to put on film a man who filled the world with his fame, and me, on this occasion, with dread. He marched in scowling, and regarded my camera as he might regard the German enemy. His expression suited me perfectly, if I could capture it, but the cigar thrust between his teeth seemed somehow incompatible with such a solemn and formal occasion. Instinctively I removed the cigar. At this the Churchillian scowl deepened, the head was thrust forward belligerently, and the hand placed on the hip in an attitude of anger. So he stands in my portrait in what always seemed to me the image of England in those years, defiant and unconquerable. With a swift change of mood, he came towards me when I was finished, extending his hand and saying, ‘Well, you can certainly make a roaring lion stand still to be photographed.” (Karsh, Faces of our Time, p.38)

Karsh titled the image “The Roaring Lion.” It appeared on the cover of Life magazine and established Karsh’s international reputation. In the years that followed, Karsh went on to photograph an incredible array of the most prominent personalities of politics, science, art, and culture in the second half of the twentieth century. Karsh’s portrait of Churchill remains an archetypal photographic portrayal of his character. [CBC #005230]

$2,250 USD
This original wartime press photograph was captured on 31 December 1941 in Ottawa, Canada. In the days after the 7 December 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States formally entered the Second World War, marking the end of Britain’s solitary stand against Hitler’s Germany, which it had sustained since the fall of France. Immediately after Pearl Harbor, Churchill decided to travel to North America – a perilous journey he made by battleship at a time when German U-Boats plagued the North Atlantic. On 26 December 1941 Churchill addressed a joint session of the U.S. Congress. A few days later, on 30 December, he addressed both houses of the Canadian Parliament. In what became a defining line of the speech, Churchill was characteristically defiant: “When I warned them that Britain would fight alone whatever they did, their generals told their Prime Minister and his divided Cabinet ‘In three weeks England will have her neck wrung like a chicken.’ Some chicken; some neck.”

Churchill expressed his admiration for the Canadian people and his thanks for their part in the war effort and gave a Churchillian exhortation to courage: “There shall be no halting, or half measures, there shall be no compromise, or parley. These gangs of bandits have sought to darken the light of the world; have sought to stand between the common people of all the lands and their march forward into their inheritance.” In recognition of French-speaking Canadians, Churchill delivered a section of this speech in French. This speech appears to have been well-received. One newspaper said that it had “the splendor of poetry at its best, and in phrases which had a Shakespearian glow and the fervor of the Bible, Britain’s ‘man of destiny’ electrified a joint session of the Senate and the House of Commons.”

Immediately after Churchill’s speech, Churchill had been ushered to the Speaker’s Chamber where a young Yousef Karsh captured the iconic “Roaring Lion” portrait of Churchill. The following day, 31 December, Churchill gave a press conference before or after which this photograph was likely taken. This press photo originated with the Photographic News Agency, Ltd. [CBC #005228]

This original wartime press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston Churchill as he inspects a guard of honour outside the Canadian Parliament buildings in Ottawa on 31 December 1941; the day after his famous “Some Chicken, Some Neck” address to the Canadian Parliament.

British Official Photograph issued by Photographic News Agencies, Ltd.
London, 7 January 1942

This photograph was captured on 31 December 1941 in Ottawa, Canada. In the days after the 7 December 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States formally entered the Second World War, marking the end of Britain’s solitary stand against Hitler’s Germany, which it had sustained since the fall of France. Immediately after Pearl Harbor, Churchill decided to travel to North America – a perilous journey he made by battleship at a time when German U-Boats plagued the North Atlantic. On 26 December 1941 Churchill addressed a joint session of the U.S. Congress. A few days later, on 30 December, he addressed both houses of the Canadian Parliament. In what became a defining line of the speech, Churchill was characteristically defiant: “When I warned them that Britain would fight alone whatever they did, their generals told their Prime Minister and his divided Cabinet ‘In three weeks England will have her neck wrung like a chicken.’ Some chicken; some neck.”

Churchill expressed his admiration for the Canadian people and his thanks for their part in the war effort and gave a Churchillian exhortation to courage: “There shall be no halting, or half measures, there shall be no compromise, or parley. These gangs of bandits have sought to darken the light of the world; have sought to stand between the common people of all the lands and their march forward into their inheritance.” In recognition of French-speaking Canadians, Churchill delivered a section of this speech in French. This speech appears to have been well-received. One newspaper said that it had “the splendor of poetry at its best, and in phrases which had a Shakespearian glow and the fervor of the Bible, Britain’s ‘man of destiny’ electrified a joint session of the Senate and the House of Commons.”

Immediately after Churchill's speech, Churchill had been ushered to the Speaker's Chamber where a young Yousef Karsh captured the iconic “Roaring Lion” portrait of Churchill. The following day, 31 December, Churchill gave a press conference before or after which this photograph was likely taken. This press photo originated with the Photographic News Agency, Ltd. [CBC #005228]

$200 USD

This original wartime press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston Churchill wearing his signature "siren suit" on the White House grounds in January 1942, accompanied by FDR's dog and the daughter of presidential advisor Harry Hopkins. This photograph was captured on 31 December 1941 in Ottawa, Canada. In the days after the 7 December 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States formally entered the Second World War, marking the end of Britain's solitary stand against Hitler's Germany, which it had sustained since the fall of France. To cement and sustain the alliance Churchill had done so much to cultivate, Churchill immediately decided to travel to the United States. On December 12, 1941 he boarded the battleship Duke of York and began the 10-day trip across the Atlantic - a perilous journey at a time when German U-Boats plagued the North Atlantic. Churchill addressed the U.S. Congress on the 26th and the Canadian Parliament on the 30th. Churchill remained in Washington until 14 January 1942.

Upon his return to England he reported to the War Cabinet, "The United States Administration were tackling war problems with the greatest vigour, and were clearly resolved not to be diverted from using all the resources of their country to the utmost to crush Hitler, our major enemy." This effort, culminating in Germany's unconditional surrender on 8 May 1945, would cost Roosevelt the rest of his life and he followed swiftly by the end of Churchill's first premiership. [CBC #005214]

$160 USD
An original wartime press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill on 14 January 1942 at the controls of the Boeing flying boat returning him from Washington to England, the first trans-Atlantic flight by a world leader

A.B. Text & Bilder
Stockholm, 1942

This original press photograph captures wartime Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill on 14 January 1942 at the controls of a Boeing flying boat returning him from Washington to England, the first trans-Atlantic flight by a world leader. The gelatin silver print on glossy photo paper measures 4.625 x 6.625 inches (11.6 x 16.8 cm). Condition is very good, the paper clean and crisp with only light edge wear and minor creasing to the corners. The verso bears a copyright stamp of “A.B. Text & Bilder”, a handwritten date of 1942, and handwritten notations in Swedish. This photograph is housed in a removable, archival mylar sleeve within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.

When Churchill became Prime Minister, the war for Britain was not so much a struggle for victory as a struggle to survive. In the days after the 7 December 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States formally entered the Second World War, marking the end of Britain’s solitary stand against Hitler’s Germany, which it had sustained since the fall of France. To cement the alliance Churchill had done so much to cultivate, Churchill immediately decided to visit the United States, to which he traveled by warship.

Abraham Text & Bilder
Stockholm, 1942

After spending a full month in North America, during which he addressed both the U.S. Congress and Canadian Parliament, Churchill began his perilous journey back to England. British intelligence charts showed more than twenty U-boats along the planned course. Churchill took off from Virginia in a Boeing air boat bound for Bermuda where the Duke of York awaited the Prime Minister for his return journey across the Atlantic. During the three hour trip Churchill befriended the Captain, Kelly Rogers, who invited him into the cockpit with the assurance that the Prime Minister’s cigar posed no threat to the craft’s safety. Churchill, who had once trained as a pilot, asked to take the controls for a bit. Captain Rogers acquiesced, disengaged the autopilot, and quietly whispered to the co-pilot to make adjustments only should the plane get out of Churchill’s control. No adjustments were necessary; Churchill piloted the plane for twenty minutes, making a series of banked turns.

Churchill's interest in powered flight dated back to before the First World War. As First Lord of the Admiralty he founded the Royal Naval Air Service in 1912 and took flying lessons himself before a concerned Clementine prevailed upon him to quit. The flying boat arrived safely in Bermuda, and Churchill, concerned about the worsening situation in Malaya, decided that the cross Atlantic journey could be taken more expeditiously and safely by air than by sea. Captain Rogers assured him that the aircraft was capable and that weather was favorable. In his WWII memoirs Churchill recalled his feelings on the morning of the trans-Atlantic flight, “I must confess that I felt rather frightened. I thought of the ocean spaces, and that we should never be within a thousand miles of land until we approached the British Isles.” (Vol. III, p.708)

This was to be the first journey by plane across the Atlantic Ocean undertaken by any head of state. The seventeen-hour journey went smoothly until its final stretch. At dawn Churchill made his way to the cockpit where he found the anxious crew. He recalled, “We were supposed to be approaching England from the south west and we ought already to have passed the Scilly Islands... As we had flown for more than ten hours through mist and had had only one sight of a star in that time, we might be slightly off our course.” (ibid., p.710) The aircraft readjusted its course and shortly after landed safely in Plymouth. Churchill would not learn the full gravity of their deviation until weeks later. Had the plane travelled mere minutes more they would have found themselves over German batteries in Brest, France. Further danger arose from the craft’s abrupt change in course that resulted in the craft being reported as a hostile bomber approaching England from Brest. Six Hurricanes were ordered to shoot down the intruding plane; fortunately they failed their mission. [CBC #005020]

$350 USD
Images from the Archives

Churchill Flies Home - An original wartime press photo of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill with Clementine Churchill and their daughter Diana at 10 Downing Street on 17 January 1942 upon Churchill's return from the United States via the first trans-Atlantic flight by a head of state

Graphic Photo Union
London, 17 January 1942

This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill, his wife, Clementine, and their daughter Diana, at 10 Downing Street on 17 January 1942 upon Churchill’s return from the United States. The gelatin silver print on heavy matte photo paper measures 6.5 x 8.5 in (16.5 x 21.6 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is clean, crisp, and free of scratches with some light edgewear and a crease to the lower left corner all confined to the margins. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “Graphic Photo Union” and a tattered original typed caption. The caption is titled “CHURCHILL FLIES HOME” and the legible, remaining portions read “...Minister arrived at PLYMOUTH this morning on...his visit to the United States of America...Winston...ill who crossed the ATLANTIC from BERMUDA in a flying...of the British Airways was accompanied by Lord Beaverbrook...[of] the Fleet, Sir Dudley Pound, and Air Chief Marshal...[of] Portal and Sir Charles Wilson. 17/1/42...and Mrs Churchill photographed on arrival at No 10...spect. With them is Mrs. Duncan Sandys, wife of the M.P....with the Wrens and daughter of the Premier.”

In the days after the 7 December 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States formally entered the Second World War, marking the end of Britain’s solitary stand against Hitler’s Germany, which it had sustained since the fall of France. To cement and sustain the alliance Churchill had done so much to cultivate, Churchill immediately decided to travel to the United States. On December 12, 1941 he boarded the battleship Duke of York and began the ten-day trip across the Atlantic - a perilous journey at a time when German U-Boats plagued the North Atlantic. Churchill addressed the U.S. Congress on the 26th and the Canadian Parliament on the 30th. Churchill remained in Washington until 14 January 1942, conferring and planning with his host, President Roosevelt, and charming the American Press, before spending his last two days of the trip resting and swimming in the sea at a Florida villa.

Churchill’s return to England was supposed to be via ship, but instead became the first trans-Atlantic flight by a head of state. After Churchill had spent a month in North America, British intelligence charts showed more than twenty U-Boats along the planned course home. Ultimately Churchill decided that the cross-Atlantic journey could be taken more expeditiously and safely by air than by sea. The seventeen-hour journey went smoothly until its final stretch. At dawn Churchill made his way to the cockpit where he found the anxious crew. He recalled, “We were supposed to be approaching England from the south-west and we ought already to have passed the Scilly Islands... As we had flown for more than ten hours through mist and had had only one sight of a star in that time, we might be slightly off our course.” (ibid., p.70) The aircraft readjusted its course and shortly after landed safely in Plymouth.

Churchill would not learn the full gravity of their deviation until weeks later. Had the plane travelled mere minutes more they would have found themselves over German batteries in Brest, France. Further danger arose from the craft’s abrupt change in course that resulted in the craft being reported as a hostile bomber approaching England from Brest. Six Hurricanes were ordered to shoot would have found themselves over German batteries in Brest, France. Further danger arose from the craft’s abrupt change in course.

Now see the ridge ahead - An original wartime press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill on 16 May 1942 delivering a speech amidst a huge crowd at Leeds premises the turning point of the Second World War just after the second anniversary of his wartime premiership

Copyrighted by The Associated Press, published by The Daily Telegraph
London, 18 May 1942

This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill on 16 May 1942 delivering a speech at Leeds announcing a turning point of the war. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 8 x 10 inches (20.3 x 25.4 cm). This press photo once belonged to the working archives of The Daily Telegraph. The image is striking in both composition and quality. Churchill before the microphone is almost lost among the teeming masses surrounding. The image viscerally conveys what Edward R. Murrow said of Churchill – that “He mobilized the English language and sent it into battle.” Looking at this image, it is clear why Churchill would later receive the Nobel Prize in Literature in part “...for brilliant oratory in defending exalted human values” (1953).

In addition to the composition, the image is of exceptional quality, high contrast with hundreds of faces in the audience crisp and clear. Condition is very good minus. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scruffing with some edge wear, bruising to the corners, and some bruising on the left of the picture that is visible under raking light. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “The Associated Press”, a typed caption reading “MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL RECENTLY PAID A VISIT TO LEEDS, WHERE HE ADDRESSED THE HUGE CROWDS WHICH ASSEMBLED OUTSIDE THE TOWN HALL. LATER THE PRIME MINISTER TOURED THE INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS OF THE TOWN.” This photograph is housed in a removable, archival mylar sleeve within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.

When Churchill became Prime Minister on 10 May 1940, the war for Britain was not so much a struggle for victory as a struggle to survive. Churchill’s first year in office had seen, among other near-calamities, the Battle of the Atlantic, the fall of France, evacuation at Dunkirk, and the Battle of Britain. Two years later, during his 16 May 1942 speech at Leeds at which this image was captured, he was able to say “We have reached a period in the war when it would be premature to say that we have topped the ridge, but now we see the ridge ahead.” Churchill continued “We see that perseverance, unflinching, dogged, inexhaustible, tireless, valiant, will surely carry us and our allies, the great nations of the world, and the unfortunate nations who have been subjugated and enslaved, on to one of the most deep-founded movements of humanity which has taken place in our history.”

By November – a few months after this image was captured – Alexander’s and Montgomery’s victories at El Alamein prompted Churchill to confirm this notion of a fundamental change in the war effort, declaring “Now, this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.” [CBC.00524]
An original wartime press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill on 20 May 1942 with the Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov and other British Cabinet members and Soviet dignitaries at 10 Downing Street during negotiations for the Anglo-Soviet Treaty

The Daily Telegraph
London, 3 June 1942

This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill in the back garden of 10 Downing Street on 20 May 1942 accompanied by Soviet Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov, Deputy Prime Minister Clement Attlee, British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, and others during the negotiations for the Anglo-Soviet Treaty. The gelatin silver print on heavy matte photo paper measures 6.5 x 8.5 in (16.5 x 21.6 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scratches with only very minor edge wear, slightly bumped corners, original crop markings, and six pin holes, three along the top edge and three along the bottom. This press photo belonged to the working archives of The Daily Telegraph.

The verso bears a copyright stamp, illegible save for the address and “Passed for Publication by Minister of Information.” One “PUBLISHED” stamp of The Daily Telegraph is dated “3 JUN 1942,” a second stamp dated “20 SEP 1960.” There are also handwritten printing notations and an original typed caption reading, “M. MOLOTOV RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PHOTOGRAPH ON THE TERRACE OF NO. 10, DOWNING STREET, AFTER HIS SECRET ARRIVAL TO NEGOTIATE THE ANGLO-RUSSIAN TREATY, SIGNED SIX DAYS LATER ON MAY 26.”

The Second World War alliance between Britain and the Soviet Union was essential but uneasy. Before the two nations made their formal alliance of necessity, the same Soviet Foreign Minister posing in this photo with Churchill at 10 Downing Street had signed the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact on 23 August 1939, promising mutual non-aggression with Nazi Germany. On 22 June 1941 the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact was unceremoniously terminated when Nazi forces invaded the Soviet Union. Churchill had long been a vehement anti-communist. Nevertheless he embraced the necessity of wartime alliance with the Soviets.

“No one has been a more consistent opponent of Communism than I have for the last twenty-five years,” he told the British people over a broadcast on the day Germany invaded the Soviet Union. “I will unsay no word that I have spoken about it. But all this fades away before the spectacle which is now unfolding. The past with its crimes, its follies and its tragedies, flashes away.” His concession was no indication of approval; he once said “If Hitler invaded Hell I would make at least a favourable reference to the Devil in the House of Commons.”

On 12 July 1941 the Anglo-Soviet Agreement was signed. On 20 May 1942 Molotov arrived in Britain to organize a more formal treaty between the nations. Churchill and Molotov did not share a warm regard. Churchill later wrote of the Foreign Minister “I have never seen a human being who more perfectly represented the modern conception of a robot” (WSC, WWII, Vol. I p. 288-9). In a harbinger of the long Cold War to come, a point of friction was territorial provisions for Poland and the Baltic States. Anthony Eden suggested they leave this matter in suspension and a twenty-year treaty of friendship was signed on 26 May 1942. Not long after this very point of contention would again manifest with the post-war descent of the “Iron Curtain” across Eastern Europe. The long shadow cast by the events depicted in this photo is corroborated by the fact that this photograph was pulled out of the archives for re-publication on 20 September 1960.

$320 USD
This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill in Moscow with U.S. Presidential Envoy Averell Harriman and Soviet Foreign Affairs Minister Vyacheslav Molotov in Moscow on 12 August 1942. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 4.25 x 8 inches (10.8 x 20.3 cm) with an original typed paper caption extending an additional inch below the photo. Condition is very good. The paper is clean, crisp and free of scratches with some light wear to the edges, three pin holes each along the top and bottom edges, and light rippling to the attached caption. Deficiencies of clarity and depth doubtless owe to contemporary limitations of wire transmission from Moscow. The verso bears a copyright stamp reading “British Official Photograph Crown Copyright Reserved supplied by Bippa” and a stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated 22 AUG 1942. The typed caption below the recto reads “MR. CHURCHILL, WITH MR. AVERILL (sic) (ON HIS LEFT), AND M. MOLOTOV (ON HIS RIGHT), AT A MOSCOW AIRPORT DURING HIS VISIT TO RUSSIA.”
This original press photo captures Winston S. Churchill at Fort Jackson, South Carolina on 24 June 1942 watching a parachute demonstration by US troops. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 6 x 8 inches (15.2 x 20.3 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is crisp and clean with only minor edge wear. This press photo was once a part of the working archives of The Daily Telegraph and features their Art Department’s original hand-applied retouching to Churchill’s hands and clothes and airbrushing to the background, as well as original crop marks. The verso bears a copyright stamp of “The Associated Press”, a published stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated 7 JUL 1942, and a handwritten caption reading, “Mr. Churchill watching the descent of United States parachute troops during his recent American visit. Two troop-carrying planes are seen flying away to the right of the picture.”

On 27 June 1942 Churchill left London for the United States for his second US meeting with President Roosevelt since the United States had entered the war the previous December. During his trip Churchill visited Fort Jackson, South Carolina, home base for 60,000 American troops, several thousand of which took part in a presentation for the Prime Minister on 24 June. Churchill was treated to a display of parachuting troops, of which he would later recall, “I had never seen a thousand men leap into the air at once”. After lunch a brigade of young soldiers demonstrated a field firing exercise with live ammunition. Churchill later wrote a letter of thanks to his American hosts: “I have had considerable experience of such inspections and I can say that I have never been more impressed than I was with the bearing of the men whom I saw. The undemonstrative, therefore grim, determination which was everywhere manifest not only in the seasoned troops but in the newly-drafted, bodes ill for our enemies.” (Gilbert, Vol. VII, p.133)


Their acquaintance began inauspiciously. In 1899 Winston Churchill, age 24, was captured during the Boer War. Churchill’s Afrikaner interrogator was Jan Smuts, age 29. Smuts opposed Churchill’s release. Churchill famously escaped. They met again in 1906, when Churchill was at the Colonial Office, and Smuts had become a Commando general. Their agreement to “a fresh start… between Briton and Boer” led to formation of a self-governing Union of South Africa. (Roberts, WWD, p.105) Smuts served as its second prime minister from 1919-1924. Both men attended War Cabinets in the First World War. Smuts was an early member of Churchill’s Other Club where, in 1933, in the midst of Churchill’s “wilderness years” (and his own), Smuts said that Churchill should have been Prime Minister and “Let me say this – if my old friend is careful, he will get there yet.” (Ibid. p.570) Smuts got there first. The September 1939 parliamentary vote that brought South Africa into the Second World War on the Allied side also resulted in the return of Smuts to the premiership (1939-1948). Churchill became prime minister in May 1940.

By 1941 Smuts had joined the British War Cabinet, been appointed a Field Marshal in the British Army and become a critical advisor to Churchill. In July 1942, British troops defeated Rommel’s forces in the First Battle of El Alamein, but Allied momentum then stalled. Churchill flew to Cairo on 1 August to assess command. Smuts accompanied Churchill and was instrumental in encouraging Churchill’s difficult decision to replace Middle East Commander-in-Chief Auchinleck with Alexander. Churchill wrote to his wife of Smuts “He fortified me where I am inclined to be tender-hearted…” (Ibid. p.748) Churchill also appointed Montgomery to command the Eighth Army. On 8 August at dinner in the Cairo Embassy – plausibly the day this image was captured - Smuts and Churchill had a contest to see who could recite the most Shakespeare. Two months later Alexander’s and Montgomery’s forces won the Second Battle of El Alamein. In May 1943 Alexander sent Churchill the message: “... the Tunisian campaign is over... We are masters of the North African shores.” (THoF, p.780) When Smuts died in 1950, Churchill told the Other Club that he had admired Smuts unreservedly, accepting advice from him that he would not have taken from anybody else besides his wife. (Ibid. p.948) [CBC #005583]
This original press photo captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill in his signature “siren suit” working at his desk at 10 Downing Street in September 1942. The gelatin silver print on heavy matte photo paper measures 7.75 x 6 inches (19.6 x 15.2 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scratches with only some light bumping to the corners. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “A. C. Cooper, F.R.P.S.”, a received stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated MAY 1942, and a typed caption reading, “Mr. Churchill in his siren suit, working at his desk in Downing Street.”

This photograph is from the studio of Augustus Charles Cooper (1873-1960), a photographer whose studio, opened in 1918, is still in operation to this day. The National Portrait Gallery, which includes in its collection a number of prints from this sitting, indicates that “This is one of a set of ten photographs of Churchill taken from various angles as an aid to the sculptor, Sir William Reid Dick, in producing his bust of Churchill in September 1942.” Interestingly, though this image is certainly from the same sitting, the photographs held by the National Portrait Gallery do not include this particular shot.

When Churchill became Prime Minister, the war for Britain was not so much a struggle for victory as a struggle to survive. Churchill’s first year in office saw, among other near-calamities, the Battle of the Atlantic, the fall of France, evacuation at Dunkirk, and the Battle of Britain. By mid-1942, he was able to say “We have reached a period in the war when it would be premature to say that we have topped the ridge, but now we see the ridge ahead.” (speech of 16 May 1942) By November 1942, Churchill declared, “Now, this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.”

An original wartime press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill in his signature “siren suit” working at his desk at 10 Downing Street in September 1942.

Augustus Charles Cooper F.R.P.S
London, 1942

$200 USD

This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill on 12 May 1942 delivering a speech to the Parliamentary Home Guard while carrying his gas mask in its bag. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 9.5 x 7.75 inches (24.1 x 19 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scuffing with only light bruising to the corners. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “Planet News Ltd”, a received stamp dated 13 MAY 1942, and a typed caption titled “THE PRIME MINISTER – CARRYING [sic] HIS GAS MASK – INSPECTS PARLIAMENTARY HOME GUARD.” The caption reads, “Mr. Winston Churchill, inspected detachments of the Parliamentary Home Guard in London. The detachment included members of Parliament, messengers and men of the staff of both Houses and is responsible for guarding the whole Parliament area. PHOTO SHOWS: Mr. Churchill addressing the Home Guard after the inspection.” The caption terminates with the date “12th May 1942”.

When Churchill became Prime Minister on 10 May 1940, the war for Britain was not so much a struggle for victory as a struggle to survive. The possibility of invasion was a genuine concern. Anthony Eden proposed to the War Cabinet the formation of Local Defence Volunteers and on 14 May he delivered a radio broadcast calling for men between the ages of 17 and 65 to volunteer to protect their nation. Churchill found the word Local to be uninspiring and had the title changed to Home Guard. By summer 13 million Britons had joined. “Men and women worked night and day making them [weapons] fit for use. By the end of July we were manning a reserve of seven million given to us by the Industry of our country. We had become an armed nation, so far as parachute or airborne landings were concerned. We had become a ‘hornet’s nest.’” (WSC, WWII, Vol.II, p.238) Over the course of the war the initially untrained and sparsely equipped force acquired uniforms, ranks, and formal military training. As invasion became less of an imminent threat, the Home Guard’s duties shifted to the location and disposal of unexploded bombs and home front military relief to free the Service members for overseas duties.

An original wartime press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill on 12 May 1942 addressing the Parliamentary Home Guard in London while carrying his gas mask.

Planet News Ltd.
London, 13 May 1942

$225 USD
When Churchill became Prime Minister on 10 May 1940, the war for Britain was not so much a struggle for victory as a struggle to survive. The possibility of invasion was a genuine concern. Anthony Eden proposed to the War Cabinet the formation of Local Defence Volunteers and on 14 May he delivered a radio broadcast calling for men between the ages of 17 and 65 to volunteer to protect their nation. Churchill found the word Local to be uninspiring and had the title changed to Home Guard. By summer 1.5 million Britons had joined. “Men and women worked night and day making them [weapons] fit for use. By the end of July we were an armed nation, so far as parachute or airborne landings were concerned. We had become a ‘hornet’s nest’.” (WSC, WWII, Vol.II, p.238) Over the course of the war the initially untrained and sparsely equipped force acquired uniforms, ranks, and formal military training. As invasion became less of an imminent threat, the Home Guard’s duties shifted to the location and disposal of unexploded bombs and home front military relief to free the Service members for overseas duties.

Churchill’s first year in office had seen, among other near-calamities, the Battle of the Atlantic, the fall of France, evacuation at Dunkirk, and the Battle of Britain. By mid-1942, he was able to say “We have reached a period in the war when it would be premature to say that we have topped the ridge, but now we see the ridge ahead.” (speech of 16 May 1942) By November – a few months after this image was captured - Alexander’s and Montgomery’s victories at El Alamein prompted Churchill to declare, “Now, this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.” But even as it became less of an urgent need the Prime Minister who had bestowed its name remained attentive to the Home Guard. On 14 May 1943, the third anniversary of the formation of the Home Guard, Churchill delivered a speech in thanks of the nation’s defenders. “We must not overlook, or consider as matters of mere routine, those unceasing daily and nightly efforts of millions of men and women which constitute the foundation of our capacity to wage this righteous war...The degree of the invasion danger depends entirely upon the strength or weakness of the forces and preparations gathered to meet it... You Home Guardsmen are a vital part of those forces”. The Home Guard was formally disbanded on 31 December 1945. [CBC #005219]

This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill inspecting the Home Guard on Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall on 10 September 1942. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 6 x 8 inches (15.2 x 20.3 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scuffing with only some light bruising to the corners. This press photo once belonged to the working archives of The Daily Telegraph. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “The Associated Press”, a received stamp of “The Evening Standard News”, a received stamp of “The Press”, a received stamp of “The Associated Press”, a received stamp of “The Daily Telegraph”.

The Daily Telegraph Press”, a received stamp of “The Associated Press”, a received stamp of “The Associated Press”, a received stamp of “The Associated Press”. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 7.5 x 9.75 inches (19 x 24.8 cm). Condition is very good minus. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scuffing, its chief flaw being a crease and two closed tears on the right edge. This press photo once belonged to the working archives of the Evening Standard. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “Evening News”, a received stamp of the Evening Standard dated 30 June 1943, and a handwritten caption reading “Mr. Churchill inspecting Home Guard at the Guildhall (today)”.

When Churchill became Prime Minister on 10 May 1940, the war for Britain was not so much a struggle for victory as a struggle to survive. The possibility of invasion was a genuine concern. Anthony Eden proposed to the War Cabinet the formation of Local Defence Volunteers and on 14 May he delivered a radio broadcast calling for men between the ages of 17 and 65 to volunteer to protect their nation. Churchill found the word Local to be uninspiring and had the title changed to Home Guard. By summer 1.5 million Britons had joined. “Men and women worked night and day making them [weapons] fit for use. By the end of July we were an armed nation, so far as parachute or airborne landings were concerned. We had become a ‘hornet’s nest’.” (WSC, WWII, Vol.II, p.238) Over the course of the war the initially untrained and sparsely equipped force acquired uniforms, ranks, and formal military training. As invasion became less of an imminent threat, the Home Guard’s duties shifted to the location and disposal of unexploded bombs and home front military relief to free the Service members for overseas duties.

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An original wartime press photograph of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill on 23 January 1943 at the Casablanca Conference meeting where rival French leaders Charles de Gaulle and Henri Giraud were coerced to shake hands

British Official Photograph, Crown copyright reserved, supplied by BIPPA
London, February 1943

This is an original wartime press photograph of Allied leaders Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945) and Winston S. Churchill (1874-1965) at the Casablanca Conference on 23 January 1943 with bitter rival leaders of defunct, defeated, and dependent “Free” France, Charles de Gaulle (1890-1970) and Henri Giraud (1889-1949). The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 10.25 x 8 inches (26 x 20.3 cm). Condition is very good, clear and unfaded with minor wear and cockling to extremities. This photograph once belonged to the Evening Standard working archives. The verso bears a “British Official Photograph Crown Copyright Reserved Supplied by BIPPA” ink stamp, an original caption, and a “RECEIVED” stamp of “EVENING STANDARD” with an illegible 1943 date.

The lengthy original typed caption is prominently embargoed with the stipulation “NOT TO BE PUBLISHED BEFORE THE MORNING PAPERS ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 1st.” above the identification of this image as “BRITISH OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH No.BNA 471 (WN). WAR OFFICE PHOTOGRAPH CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED.” The caption title and text reads, “Allies grand-strategy conference in N.Afruca [sic]. President Roosevelt meets Mr. Churchill. One of the momentous conferences of the war began on Jan. 14th. near Casablanca, when President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill met to survey the entire field of the war, theatre by theatre. They were accompanied by the Chiefs of Staff of the two countries. All resources were marshaled for the active and concerted execution of the Allies’ plans for the offensive campaign of 1943. Mr. Roosevelt later described the meeting as the “unconditional surrender” meeting, by which he meant that unconditional surrender by the Axis was the only assurance of future world peace. General de Gaulle and General Giraud also met at Casablanca and discussed plans for the unification of the war effort of the French Empire, PICTURE SHOWS - President Roosevelt shakes hands with General Giraud (High Commissioner for French North Africa ) Standing are Mr. Churchill and General de Gaulle (Leader of the Fighting French. NOT TO BE PUBLISHED BEFORE THE MORNING PAPERS ON MONDAY FEB. 1st.”

From 14-24 January 1943, two months after the Anglo-American landings in French North Africa, the Allied leaders met in Casablanca, Morocco, to plan Allied military strategy. Stalin was invited but declined to attend allegedly due to the ongoing Battle of Stalingrad. The Conference determined that invasion of Sicily would follow North Africa, addressed force deployments and lines of attack in the Far East, and agreed on concentrated bombing of Germany. Perhaps most important, Roosevelt and Churchill resolved to demand “unconditional surrender” from Germany, Italy, and Japan as the necessary precursor to postwar peace – a policy that aroused criticism and controversy both during and after the war.

Among the tasks at Casablanca was, as Churchill had telegraphed to Roosevelt on 28 December 1942, that of engineering “a meeting between de Gaulle and Giraud as soon as possible, before rivalries crystallize.” To that end, Churchill arranged for de Gaulle and Giraud to have “two separate villas side by side.” Churchill and Roosevelt asked Harold Macmillan and his American counterpart, Robert Murphy, “to help work out an agreement between de Gaulle and Giraud”. This proved impossible, “but both men agreed to a communique that Frenchmen should unite to fight beside the Allies against the Axis.” (Gilbert, Vol.VII, p.306) This photo depicts the moments on 23 January right before or after de Gaulle and Giraud were coerced to shake hands for the cameras. Roosevelt is shaking Giraud’s hand while de Gaulle and Churchill look on. De Gaulle looks characteristically stiff, pompous, and pouty. Giraud retired in April 1944 over differences with de Gaulle, who spent the war neither fighting for nor cooperating with his benefactors. In return, the British and Americans ceaselessly indulged his ego and ultimately liberated his nation. [CBC #005213]

$220 USD
An original wartime press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill and President Franklin D. Roosevelt meeting with British and American war correspondents at the Casablanca Conference on 24 January 1943

British Official Photograph issued by Photographic News Agencies, Ltd., published by The Daily Telegraph

London, 1 February 1943

This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill and President Franklin D. Roosevelt meeting with British and American war correspondents on 24 January 1943, the last day of the Casablanca Conference. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 8 x 10.125 in (20.3 x 25.7 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is crisp and clean with only minor edge wear, a loss to the upper right corner confined to the margins, pin holes at all corners, a crease to the lower right corner, and light cockling. This press photo was once a part of the working archives of The Daily Telegraph. The verso bears a copyright stamp identifying it as a hand-numbered “British Official Photograph” issued by “Photographic News Agencies, Ltd.” A “Published” stamp of The Daily Telegraph is dated “1 FEB 1943.” Additionally, the verso features handwritten printing notations, and the remnants of a typed caption. This photograph is housed in a removable, archival mylar sleeve within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.

From 14-24 January 1943, two months after the Anglo-American landings in French North Africa, the Allied leaders met in Casablanca, Morocco, to plan Allied military strategy. Stalin was invited but declined to attend allegedly due to the ongoing Battle of Stalingrad. The Conference determined that invasion of Sicily would follow North Africa, addressed force deployments and lines of attack in the Far East, and agreed on concentrated bombing of Germany. Perhaps most important, Roosevelt and Churchill resolved to demand "unconditional surrender" from Germany, Italy, and Japan as the necessary precursor to postwar peace – a policy that aroused criticism and controversy both during and after the war.

This photo captures the two Allied leaders in the garden of the Anfa Hotel in Casablanca where they held a press conference for fifty Allied newspapermen. Roosevelt read out a prepared statement in which he outlined the events of the Conference and "The determination that peace can come to the world only by the total elimination of German and Japanese war power" and "the destruction of the philosophies in those countries which are based on conquest and the subjugation of other people." (Gilbert, Vol VII, p309) Churchill appealed directly to the agents of the press to "Give them the picture of unity, thoroughness and integrity of the political chiefs." (ibid.) Of this meeting with the press Churchill told Roosevelt, "We charmed them all right." (Roberts, Walking with Destiny, p.268) [CBC #005569]

$375 USD
This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill on board the American launch that transported him from the Queen Mary to land in New York after he crossed the Atlantic for his Third Washington Conference with President Roosevelt. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 6 x 8.125 inches (15.2 x 20.6 cm). An original, typed paper caption extends 1.75 inches below the lower edge. Condition is very good. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scuffing with only light edge wear, pin holes to the four corners, original crop markings, and light cockling. This photograph belonged to the working archives of The Daily Telegraph. The verso bears a copyright stamp reading “British Official Photograph Crown Copyright Reserved Supplied by Bippa”, a published stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated 7 JUN 1943, and handwritten printing notations. The original caption reads, “One of the first pictures to be published of Mr. Churchill’s journey to the United States last month. Mr. Churchill looks up and smiles broadly to the cheering crowds who greeted him as a launch bearing the United States flag brought him alongside on arrival. With him, right, is Mr. Harry Hopkins, President Roosevelt’s adviser.”

On 4 May 1943 Churchill boarded the Queen Mary and set sail across the Atlantic for the Third Washington D.C. Conference of the war with President Roosevelt, codenamed Trident. In a world almost unrecognizable to that of wartime Britain, in May 1936, Churchill had written an essay for The Strand Magazine on the ship’s maiden voyage. Now, Queen Mary, built for the height of luxurious travel, had been stripped of its fine appointments for wartime uses, such as the transportation of troops, supplies, and, of course, Britain’s Prime Minister. General Ismay recalled the onboard accommodations: “The Queen Mary was a most convenient and comfortable workshop. We were all under one roof, and each had our own offices. There were ample conference rooms, and the reproduction and circulation of papers went forward with the same methodical precision as in London. We received the usual stream of telegrams, and the Prime Minister’s Map Room, in charge of the indefatigable [Capt. Richard] Pim, was kept as up to date as its counterpart in Great George Street.” (Churchill Goes to War: Winston’s Wartime Journeys)

The journey across the Atlantic was still perilous. Two days into the voyage Churchill was informed that a German submarine was to cross the ship’s course in 15 miles. Churchill reassured Averell Harriman, with whom he was playing cards, “we are just as likely to ram the submarine as it is to see us first.” He added that he arranged for a machine gun to be fixed to his lifeboat in case he was forced to abandon ship and invited Harriman to “Come with me in the boat and see the fun.” (Gilbert, Vol. VII, p.397)

The following day the ship received news that thirteen ships had been sunk in a convoy.

While in Washington, on 19 May 1943 Churchill addressed the U.S. Congress. Seventeen long months of war had passed since his first address to Congress, just after Pearl Harbor. Churchill took considerable time to prepare his remarks and his carefully chosen words spoke to the task of the conference - to continue to reinforce common cause, unified strategy, and mutual resolve. “I do not intend to be responsible for any suggestion that the war is won or will soon be over.” Churchill cautioned, invoking, for his American audience, the grim memory of the prolonged outcome of the U.S. Civil War. “No one after Gettysburg doubted which way the dread balance of war would incline. Yet far more blood was shed after the Union victory at Gettysburg than in all the fighting which went before.” Churchill concluded: “By singleness of purpose, by steadfastness of conduct, by tenacity and endurance, such as we have so far displayed, by these, and only by these, can we discharge our duty to the future of the world and to the destiny of man.” [CBC #005574]

$300 USD
An original wartime press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill in May 1943 giving his “V” sign to cheering sailors as he disembarks the Queen Mary in New York after crossing the Atlantic for his third Washington conference with President Roosevelt.

British Official Photograph, Crown Copyright Reserved, supplied by BIPPA

London, 10 June 1942

This original wartime press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston Churchill in May 1943 giving his “V” sign to cheering sailors as he disembarks the Queen Mary in New York after crossing the Atlantic for his third Washington conference with President Roosevelt. The gelatin silver print on heavy matte photo paper measures 6 x 8 inches (15.2 x 20.3 cm). This press photo was once a part of the working archives of The Daily Telegraph. Condition is very good. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scratches with only minor bumping to the corners and original crop markings. The photo quality is exceptional, crisp and clear with high contrast. It is an original copy of a frequently reproduced image, used most recently in Andrew Roberts’s Churchill: Walking with Destiny. The verso bears a stamp indicating that this is a “British Official Photograph | Crown Copyright Reserved | Supplied by | BIPPA”, a received stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated 10 JUN 1943, handwritten notations, and the remnants of a typed caption. This photograph is housed in a removable, archival mylar sleeve within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.

It is worth noting that Churchill’s official biography records Queen Mary reached the United States at noon on 11 May (Gilbert, Vol. VII, p.402), a disparity with The Daily Telegraph received stamp on this photograph. On 4 May 1943 Churchill boarded the Queen Mary and set sail across the Atlantic for the third Washington D.C. Conference of the war with President Roosevelt, codenamed Trident. In a world almost unrecognizable to that of wartime Britain, in May 1936, Churchill had written an essay for The Strand Magazine on the ship’s maiden voyage. Now, Queen Mary, built for the height of luxurious travel, had been stripped of its fine appointments for wartime uses, such as the transportation of troops, supplies, and, of course, Britain’s Prime Minister. General Ismay recalled the onboard accommodations: “The Queen Mary was a most convenient and comfortable workshop. We were all under one roof, and each had our own offices. There were ample conference rooms, and the reproduction and circulation of papers went forward with the same methodical precision as in London. We received the usual stream of telegrams, and the Prime Minister’s Map Room, in charge of the indefatigable [Capt. Richard] Pim, was kept as up to date as its counterpart in Great George Street.” (Churchill Goes to War: Winston’s Wartime Journeys)

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While in Washington, on 9 May 1943 Churchill addressed the U.S. Congress. Seventeen long months of war had passed since his first address to Congress, just after Pearl Harbor. Churchill took considerable time to prepare his remarks and his carefully chosen words spoke to the task of the conference - to continue to reinforce common cause, unified strategy, and mutual resolve.

“I do not intend to be responsible for any suggestion that the war is won or will soon be over,” Churchill cautioned, invoking, for his American audience, the grim memory of the prolonged outcome of the U.S. Civil War. “No one after Gettysburg doubted which way the dread balance of war would incline. Yet far more blood was shed after the Union victory at Gettysburg than in all the fighting which went before.” Churchill concluded: “By singleness of purpose, by steadfastness of conduct, by tenacity and endurance, such as we have so far displayed, by these, and only by these, can we discharge our duty to the future of the world and to the destiny of man.” [CBC #005568]

$450 USD
An original wartime press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill and Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden inspecting one of the legendary German Panzerkampfwagen VI Tiger tanks in Tunis on 2 June 1943.

British Official Photograph, Crown copyright reserved, issued by Photographic News Agencies, Ltd., published by the Evening Standard London, 8 June 1943

While in America for his third Washington conference with President Roosevelt, Churchill received a telegram from Field Marshal Alexander in the afternoon of 13 May 1943. It read, "Sir: It is my duty to report that the Tunisian campaign is over. All enemy resistance has ceased. We are masters of the North African shores." (THoF, p.780) Allied victory in North Africa not only removed Nazi Germany from North Africa, but also cleared the way for invasion of Sicily and opened a route to supply Stalin - politically important particularly given the strain placed upon Allied relations by discovery of the Katyn massacre. On 26 May Churchill departed Washington for North Africa, arriving in Algiers the following day. Churchill spent the next five days planning the invasion of Sicily with Eisenhower and Eden, who flew from Britain at the Prime Minister's request.

On 1 June Churchill flew to Tunis, and from the airfield he was driven to Carthage where he addressed 3,000 Allied Servicemen in the ruins of an ancient Roman amphitheatre. Of the events in North Africa he said, "Remember we had Corporal Hitler all the time to help us. This self-made, self-unmade man has added sauce to the goose that you have caught, killed, and eaten." (Yorkshire Post, 7 June 1943) The following day, 2 June 1943, Churchill and Eden were given a tour of the battlegrounds where they encountered a German Mark VI tank. The "Tiger" as it was called was one of the most formidable tanks of the war, justly both feared and respected by the Allies. A quarter of a century before, as First Lord of the Admiralty during the First World War Churchill advocated development and application of the tank as a decisive offensive battlefield weapon. Now, in the Second World War, Churchill had become British Prime Minister and the tank had revolutionized offensive warfare. Churchill took the opportunity to climb up for a close inspection, a moment that is captured by this photograph we offer here.

[CBC #005258] $250 USD
On 30 June 1943 the City of London bestowed its greatest honor on the man who was leading them through the war when it presented Prime Minister Winston Churchill with the Honorary Freedom of the City of London. The Freedom of the City of London, like many British traditions, is centuries old and today far removed from its original purposes. Established in the 13th century, the Freedom originally meant that its recipient was not the property of a feudal lord and had the right to earn money and own land. Today the Freedom is bestowed on those who have made a significant impact in their field in London. The Honorary Freedom is a far rarer and greater honor usually bestowed only on Heads of State during a formal ceremony at the Guildhall. At the Guildhall ceremony Churchill gave a lengthy speech, opening with thanks for the honor, "The strain of protracted war is hard and severe upon the men at the executive summit of great countries, however lightly care may seem to sit upon them. They have need of all the help and comfort their fellow countrymen can give them. I feel myself buoyed up by your good will here today, and indeed I have felt uplifted through all these years by the consideration with which the British people have treated me, even when serious mistakes have been made." (Complete Speeches, Vol VII, p.6792)

On 30 June 1943 London, 1 July 1943

N.P.A. Rota, copyright The Times

London, 1 July 1943

This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill on 30 June 1943 delivering a speech at the Guildhall during the ceremony at which he was awarded the Honorary Freedom of the City of London. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 8 x 10 in (20.3 x 25.4 cm) with a tattered paper caption extending an additional 1 in below (anchored to the verso). Condition is very good minus. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scratches with only some minor edge wear, bumping to the corners, and light cockling overall. This photograph once belonged to the working archives of The Times. The verso bears a copyright stamp of “N.P.A. Rota” supplied by The Times, a second stamp reading “The Times Copyright”, and a typed caption reading, “MR. CHURCHILL RECEIVING THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF LONDON. Our photograph shows Mr. Churchill speaking during the ceremony at the Guildhall.”

On 30 June 1943 the City of London bestowed its greatest honor on the man who was leading them through the war when it presented Prime Minister Winston Churchill with the Honorary Freedom of the City of London. Composition of this photograph of Churchill speaking at the ceremony is striking. Few spaces could speak as eloquently to the steadfast resilience of wartime Britain as London’s Guildhall. Built between 1411 and 1440, Guildhall spent half a millennium as a civic and ceremonial centre of London before its Great Hall’s roof was razed by German air raids on the night of 29 December 1940. In this image, the venerable walls are a manifestly ancient presence, further emphasized by the ceremonial dress of the foreground audience and the Lord Mayor’s scepter and sword crossed on the table behind Churchill. Visible to Churchill’s left are his wife, Clementine, and his daughters, Mary and Sarah, each in uniform.

The Freedom of the City of London, like many British traditions, is centuries old and today far removed from its original purposes. Established in the 13th century, the Freedom originally meant that its recipient was not the property of a feudal lord and had the right to earn money and own land. Today the Freedom is bestowed on those who have made a significant impact in their field in London. The Honorary Freedom is a far rarer and greater honor usually bestowed only on Heads of State during a formal ceremony at the Guildhall. At the Guildhall ceremony Churchill gave a lengthy speech, opening with thanks for the honor, “The strain of protracted war is hard and severe upon the men at the executive summit of great countries, however lightly care may seem to sit upon them. They have need of all the help and comfort their fellow countrymen can give them. I feel myself buoyed up by your good will here today, and indeed I have felt uplifted through all these years by the consideration with which the British people have treated me, even when serious mistakes have been made.” (Complete Speeches, Vol VII, p.6792) Here Churchill is pictured with his family, his daughters Mary and Sarah on 30 June 1943. All four are smiling, seated in a carriage en route to a luncheon at Mansion House (official residence of the Lord Mayor of London) following the ceremony awarding Churchill the Honorary Freedom of the City of London. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 8 x 10 in (20.3 x 25.4 cm) with a tattered paper caption (anchored to the verso) extending an additional 1 in below. Condition is very good minus. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scratches with only some minor edge wear and creasing to the corners contained within the margins and light cockling overall. This photograph once belonged to the working archives of the Evening Standard. The verso bears a copyright stamp of “Evening News”, a received stamp of the Evening Standard dated 30 Jun 1943, and handwritten notations reading, “Mr. Churchill receives the Freedom of the City of London (today)” and “Mr + Mrs Churchill leaving the Guildhall with their two daughters.”
This item from The Daily Telegraph archives is both quite unusual and quite striking – a triptych of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill comprised of three wartime photographs taken on 30 June 1943 at the luncheon in his honor following his receipt of the Honorary Freedom of the City of London. The composition, measuring 11.5 x 8.5 inches (29.2 x 21.6 cm), comprises three gelatin silver prints on matte photo paper. The Daily Telegraph Art Department hinged the three images together with paper tape on the verso and hand-applied retouching to Churchill’s face and suit. Condition is very good plus. The paper is clean and crisp with only minor softening to the corners. The photographs are arresting; Churchill is in focus with the other figures blurred from motion and a beautiful bokeh to the table setting. The versos of all three photos bear the copyright stamp of “Fox Photos Ltd.” and handwritten printing notations. The top and bottom photos have published stamps from The Daily Telegraph dated 1 JUL 1943; and the bottom photo has a clipping of the caption as it appeared in print reading, “THREE INTIMATE STUDIES of the Prime Minister taken yesterday at the Mansion House during the luncheon held in his honour.” This triptych is housed in a removable, archival mylar sleeve within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.

This is the only such triptych we have encountered in the many hundreds of original press photos we have handled. It is a striking piece well-suited to framing. On 30 June 1943 the City of London bestowed its greatest honor on the man who was leading them through the war when it presented Prime Minister Winston Churchill with the Honorary Freedom of the City of London. The Freedom of the City of London, like many British traditions, is centuries old and today far removed from its original purposes. Established in the 13th century, the Freedom originally meant that its recipient was not the property of a feudal lord and had the right to earn money and own land. Today the Freedom is bestowed on those who have made a significant impact in their field in London. The Honorary Freedom is a far rarer and greater honor usually bestowed only on Heads of State during a formal ceremony at the Guildhall.

At the Guildhall ceremony Churchill gave a lengthy speech, opening with thanks for the honor, “The strain of protracted war is hard and severe upon the men at the executive summit of great countries, however lightly care may seem to sit upon them. They have need of all the help and comfort their fellow countrymen can give them. I feel myself buoyed up by your good will here today, and indeed I have felt uplifted through all these years by the consideration with which the British people have treated me, even when serious mistakes have been made.” (Complete Speeches, Vol VII, p.6790) This press photo was once a part of the working archive of The Daily Telegraph. [CBC #005601]

$550 USD
This original press photograph features Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill with his wife, Clementine, visiting the cubs of “his” lion, Rota, at the London Zoo on 26 July 1943. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 6 x 8 in (15.3 x 20.3 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scuffing with some edge wear; the verso bears the copyright stamp of “The Associated Press” and an original typed caption reading “TODAY, JULY 26, THE PRIME MINISTER AND MRS. CHURCHILL PAID A SHORT VISIT TO THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, WHERE THEY SAW ROTA, THE CELEBRATED ‘PINNER LION’, AND THE FOUR CUBS, ALAMEIN, BIZERTA, MARETH AND TUNIA. MR. GEORGE THOMSON, WHO PRESENTED THE LION TO MR. CHURCHILL, WAS INTRODUCED WITH HIS WIFE TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND MRS. CHURCHILL. AFTER FEEDING ROTA MR. AND MRS. CHURCHILL WENT ON TO SEE THE BLACK SWAN PRESENTED TO MR. CHURCHILL BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE GIANT PANDA. MORE THAN 14,000 PEOPLE WERE VISITING THE ZOO AT THE TIME, AND THE PRIME MINISTER RECEIVED A GREAT OVATION AS HE PASSED THROUGH THE CHEERING CROWDS.”

The symbolism is manifest. The lion has been ubiquitous in British heraldry for the better part of a thousand years. The association with Churchill’s rumbling oratory and implacable steadfast wartime leadership was perhaps inevitable. The iconic photographic portrait of Churchill taken on 30 December 1941 by Yousef Karsh – among the most famous photographic images of the twentieth century - came to be known as “The Roaring Lion”. Years later, in remarks on his 80th birthday in 1954, Churchill would remark on his legacy: “It was the nation and the race dwelling all round the globe that had the lion’s heart. I had the luck to be called upon to give the roar.”

Rota captured in this image being fed by the Prime Minister, was not just a metaphor, but an actual lion. Winston Churchill’s lion to be exact. Churchill, “ever capable of traversing seamlessly from the sublime to the ridiculous and back” (Roberts, 783), was the recipient of innumerable honors, awards, and gifts over the course of his long and significant career; singular among these gifts was the lion, Rota. George Thomson, the evidently eccentric managing director of Rotaprint, was the original owner of the lion named Rotaprince (later shortened to Rota). Thomson made the young lion his firm’s mascot and kept him in the garden of his home in suburban Pinner. The start of the war meant the rationing of meat, and Thomson donated the lion to the better equipped London Zoo. In celebration of victories in North Africa the Zoo gifted Rota to the lionhearted Prime Minister in February 1943.

Churchill was delighted with his new pet. He wrote “I shall have much pleasure in becoming the possessor of the lion, on the condition that I do not have to feed it or take care of it, and that the Zoo makes sure that it does not get loose... I do not want the lion at the moment either at Downing Street or at Chequers, owing to the Ministerial calm which prevails there. But the Zoo is not far away, and situations may arise in which I shall have great need of it.” (Gilbert, Documents Vol. XVIII, p. 433-4) In the fourth volume of his WWII memoirs Churchill wrote of one possible use for the beast: “If there are any shortcomings in your work I shall send you to him. Meat is very short now.” He took a serious view of this remark. He reported to the office that I was in a delirium.” (WSC, WWII Vol. IV, p. 651-652; Rose died in 1955 after siring 60 cubs. Today Rota is preserved in a perpetual roar, stuffed and on display at the Lightner Museum in St. Augustine, Florida. [CBC #005232]

$300 USD
An original press photograph - an extraordinary image of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill on 22 July 1943 wading through a crowd of admirers for the nearly three-decade delayed unveiling of his portrait at the National Liberal Club

This original press photograph captures Sir Winston S. Churchill at the 22 July 1943 unveiling of his portrait at the National Liberal Club, nearly thirty years after it was painted. The gelatin silver print on heavy matte photo paper measures 6.5 x 8.5 inches (16.5 x 21.6 cm). Condition is very good plus. The paper is clean, crisp, and free of scratches with only some very minor softening to the corners. This is an extraordinary photo, the image crisp, bright, and high contrast with focus centered and fixed on Churchill. The verso bears the copyright stamp of "Graphic Photo Union," a published stamp and a lengthy original typed caption titled, "MR CHURCHILL UNVEILS HIS OWN PORTRAIT AT THE NATIONAL LIBERAL CLUB." The text reads "Mr Churchill today visited the National Liberal Club to take part in the unveiling of his own portrait. The Portrait shows a young, slim and rather red haired Winston Churchill in the uniform of the 4th Hussars. After the last war the picture was removed from the wall and dispatched to the cellars. There it remained until the fall of the Coalition Government when it was restored to the wall. During the raids on London the club received a direct hit. Mr Churchill's Portrait was again removed but this time for repairs." An additional caption reads "P.S. picture shows City workers mob the Prime Minister as he arrive [sic] at the National Liberal Club who become parted from Mrs Churchill seen in the background wreathed with smiles." This photo is housed in a removable, archival mylar sleeve within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.

In the spring of 1915 an anonymous donor commissioned British artist Ernest Townsend to paint a portrait of then-First Lord of the Admiralty Winston Churchill for the National Liberal Club. By the time the NLC Art Committee approved the project, Churchill was no longer First Lord - he had been scapegoated and forced to resign over the Dardanelles. Churchill sat for the portrait late in 1915, wearing his First Lord regalia even though he had left the post in May. He soon yielded far less ceremonial weapons; in November he joined the troops on the western front, serving as a Lt. Colonel in the trenches.

The portrait was finally delivered to the NLC in July 1916, whereupon the club spent six months wafting on a location before deciding that it was an inopportune time for a public ceremony; the painting was quietly hung in a small committee room. In 1917 Churchill was exonerated by the Dardanelles Commission, and appointed Minister of Munitions by Prime Minister Lloyd George. There was renewed discussion of a public unveiling that never occurred. By 1921 Liberal sentiment for Lloyd George's coalition government had soured to the point that both Churchill's portrait and Lloyd George's were removed from public display and stored in what was called a "dry, well-ventilated place...encased in blankets." (Jonathan Black, Churchill's official biographer records an amusing anecdote: "Asked by a journalist what he thought of the Falls, Churchill replied: 'I saw them before you were born. I came here first in 1903.' Do they look the same?" he was asked. 'Well,' he replied, 'the principle seems the same. The water still keeps falling over.'"

Churchill seen in the background wreathed with smiles. This photo is housed in a removable, archival mylar sleeve within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.

An original wartime press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill and his daughter Mary at Thompson's Point on the Canadian side of Niagara Falls on 12 August 1943 while the two were in North America for the First Quebec Conference with President Roosevelt

This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill and his daughter, Mary, at Thompson's Point at Niagara Falls on 12 August 1943 while the two were in North America for the First Quebec Conference with President Roosevelt. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 6.5 x 8.5 inches (16.5 x 21.6 cm). A tattered, original typed caption affixed to the verso extends 0.5 inch below the bottom edge. Condition is very good minus. The paper is clean and free of scuffing with some light edge wear, minor cockling, pin holes to the four corners, and a small loss to the lower left corner. This press photo was once a part of the working archives of The Daily Telegraph and features their Art Department's original hand-applied retouching to the river's rapids. The verso bears a copyright stamp reading "British Official Photograph No. BI 20866 issued by Photographic News Agency, Ltd., a published stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated 27 AUG 1943, and handwritten notations. The legible portion of the caption reads, "Prime Minister with daughter Mary admiring the magnificent".

Churchill's First Quebec Conference with Roosevelt in August 1943 was code-named "Quadrant". Churchill was accompanied by his wife, daughter Mary, and a "formidable team" of two hundred, most of whom set sail aboard the Queen Mary in the afternoon of 5 August. En route, Churchill and his Chiefs of Staff discussed every aspect of the war, including the two-postponed and much awaited cross-Channel invasion, "Overlord". "It was Churchill's first opportunity... to learn from his advisers the full details of the 'Overlord' plan..." (Gilbert, VII, p.460). While in Quebec, Churchill and Roosevelt both lived at the Citadel, the summer residence of the Governor General, the upstairs floor of which was prepared for Roosevelt "with ramps fitted wherever necessary for his wheelchair." (Gilbert, Vol. VII, p.468).

Following their short stay in Quebec, Churchill was invited to Hyde Park, President Roosevelt's home on the Hudson River. Churchill made a detour to Niagara so that his daughter could see the famous falls. Churchill's official biographer records an amusing anecdote: "Asked by a journalist what he thought of the Falls, Churchill replied: 'I saw them before you were born. I came here first in 1903.' Do they look the same?" he was asked. "Well," he replied, "the principle seems the same. The water still keeps falling over." (Gilbert, VII, p.469).

Churchill's and Roosevelt's discussions at both Hyde Park (12-14 August) and in Quebec (17-24 August), included the recent overthrow of Mussolini and battle to subjugate Italy, command of the forthcoming cross-Channel invasion (Churchill conceded to FDR's choice of Eisenhower, passing over Brooke, to whom command had already been promised), command in South-East Asia, sharing of information on development of the atomic bomb, and relations with Stalin.

Churchill's youngest daughter, Mary, celebrated her twenty-first birthday on board the HMS Renown during the return journey to Britain. Baroness Mary Soames, nee Mary Spencer-Churchill (1922-2014) was the youngest and longest-lived of Winston and Clementine’s five children. She was raised at Chartwell. During the Second World War, Mary joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service, serving in anti-aircraft batteries. Later in the war, Mary accompanied her father on several of his journeys abroad, including this journey to Quebec and the Potsdam summit with Truman and Stalin. She mobilized in 1946 and in February 1947 Winston walked Mary up the aisle when she married Arthur Christopher John Soames. The HMS Renown’s Captain Edward Parry marked the occasion of Mary’s twenty-first birthday with the spectacle of cannon practice. (CBC 2005986) $880 USD

$350 USD
This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill on 21 September 1943, on the way to address Parliament having just returned to London the evening prior from his first Quebec conference with President Roosevelt.

Churchill’s first Quebec conference with Roosevelt in August 1943 was code-named “Quadrant”. Churchill was accompanied by his wife, daughter Mary, and a “formidable team” of two hundred, most of whom set sail aboard the Queen Mary in the afternoon of 5 August. (Foreign Minister Anthony Eden and Minister of Information Brendan Bracken arrived later via plane.) En route, Churchill and his Chiefs of Staff discussed every aspect of the war, including the twice-postponed and much awaited cross-Channel invasion, “Overlord.” “It was Churchill’s first opportunity... to learn from his advisers the full details of the ‘Overlord’ plan...” (Gilbert, VII, p.462) Reaching the port of Halifax in the afternoon of 9 August, Churchill travelled by train to Quebec, which he reached on the evening of 10 August.

While in Quebec, Churchill and Roosevelt both lived at the Citadel, the summer residence of the Governor-General, the upstairs floor of which was prepared for Roosevelt “with ramps fitted wherever necessary for his wheelchair.” (Gilbert, VII, p.468)

Churchill and Roosevelt’s discussions at both Hyde Park, President Roosevelt’s home on the Hudson River (12-14 August) and in Quebec (17-24 August), included the recent overthrow of Mussolini and battle to subjugate Italy, command of the forthcoming cross-Channel invasion (Churchill conceded to FDR’s choice of Eisenhowen, crossing over Brooke, to whom command had already been promised), command in South-East Asia, sharing of information on development of the atomic bomb, and relations with Stalin. On 14 September 1943 Churchill boarded the HMS Renown in Halifax, Nova Scotia for his return to England. Churchill spent the five-day journey working on his return speech to Parliament and playing bezique and poker.

Mary Churchill celebrated her twenty-first birthday on board the ship on 15 September. Baroness Mary Soames, nee Mary Spencer-Churchill (1922-2014) was the youngest and longest-lived of Winston and Clementine’s five children. She was raised at Chartwell. During the Second World War, Mary joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service, serving in anti-aircraft batteries. Later in the war, Mary accompanied her father on several of his journeys abroad, including this journey to Quebec and the Potdam summit with Truman and Stalin. She demobilized in 1946 and in February 1947 Winston walked Mary up the aisle when she married Arthur Christopher John Soames. The HMS Renown’s Captain Edward Parry marked the occasion of Mary’s twenty-first birthday with the spectacle of gunnery practice the following day, which Churchill is here photographed watching with the requisite ear protection.

The ship arrived safely in England on the 19th and Churchill returned to London by train the following day. ([CBC #00509])

An original wartime press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill on 16 September 1943 on board the HMS Renown for his return trip from the first Quebec Conference with President Franklin D. Roosevelt, watching gunnery practice in celebration of his daughter’s twenty-first birthday.

71

72
An original wartime “British Official Photograph” capturing British Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill presenting the “Sword of Stalingrad” - a gift from King George VI - to Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin on 29 November 1943 during their conference in Tehran with President Franklin Roosevelt.

British Official Photograph issued by Photographic News Agencies, Ltd., published by The Daily Telegraph

London, 1943

This original “British Official Photograph” captures British Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill presenting a sword from King George VI to Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin on 29 November 1943 during their conference in Tehran. This photograph belonged to the Daily Telegraph archives. The gelatin silver image measures approximately 8 x 6 inches (20.3 x 15.2 cm). Deficiencies of clarity and depth doubtless owe to contemporary limitations of wire transmission from Tehran. Condition is very good. Modest curling and creasing do not substantively detract. A significant fragment of the original, typed caption, affixed to the verso, extends below the image. Caption fragments read: “MR. CHURCHILL HANDING OVER TO MARSHAL STALIN THE SWORD OF … GIVEN BY THE KING TO “THE STEEL-HEARTED CITIZENS… AD”… EME LEFT IS MR. EDEN, AND, FACING CAMER...” The photograph verso features ink stamps and holograph notation in pencil. A “BRITISH OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH” stamp is prominent in the verso center with a hand-written number of “BM30861”. A Daily Telegraph Art Department stamp indicates that the image was published on “8 DEC 1943”. This photo is housed in a removable, archival mylar sleeve within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.

The first of its kind, the “Big Three” conference in Tehran (codenamed “Eureka”) was one of only two among British Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin. It was held from 28 November to 1 December 1943. Churchill christened the meeting – not entirely hyperbolically – as probably ‘the greatest concentration of worldly power that had ever been seen in the history of mankind’.

Concentration did not mean harmony. The slightly infamous moment of the sword presentation exemplifies Churchill’s difficulties in fruitfully engaging Stalin. At 3:30 PM on 29 November, “Churchill and the British delegation crossed into the Russian compound for a short ceremony, the handing over by Churchill to Stalin of the specially made Sword of Stalingrad. Inscribed on the blade of the sword, in English and Russian, were the words: ‘To the steel-hearted citizens of Stalingrad, the gift of King George VI, in token of the homage of the British people.” (Gilbert, Vol. VII, pp.577-8) After a short speech, Churchill handed the sword to Stalin – the moment captured here. Stalin “kissed the scabbard and handed it to [Marshal] Voroshilov”. The sword “slipped out of the scabbard” and fell to the floor, the pommel reportedly hitting Voroshilov on the toe.

Awkwardness began even before they arrived in Tehran. “At Stalin’s insistence, the American delegation were housed in a building in the grounds of the Soviet Embassy” – supposedly to avoid an assassination plot uncovered by the Soviets. Churchill proposed that Roosevelt stay at the British Legation, “but his suggestion had been ignored.” (Gilbert, VII, p.568) Moreover, FDR and Stalin had their first meeting without Churchill – only hours before this sword was presented. The President’s advisor, Harry Hopkins, explained that FDR wanted to assure Stalin “that he was anxious to relieve the pressure on the Russian front by invading France” - this, of course, distancing FDR from Churchill’s hopes of a more vigorous Mediterranean strategy. Roosevelt continued to meet privately with Stalin, but avoided meeting with Churchill privately so as not to arouse Stalin’s suspicion. Churchill, meanwhile, sought to mitigate divergences by meeting privately with Stalin.

Churchill would sum up the conference to his wife, Clementine, thus: “Atmosphere most cordial but triangular problems difficult” (Roberts, Walking with Destiny, p.806) Together with the second WSC-FDR-Stalin Conference at Yalta in the Crimea from 4-11 February 1945, Tehran proved a defining event of the 20th Century, shaping not only Allied war strategy, but also the postwar world, and drawing the battle lines of the long Cold War to come. [CBC #005564]

$400 USD
An original wartime “British Official Photograph” featuring U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin, and British Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill on Churchill’s 69th birthday, 30 November 1943, at a dinner hosted by Churchill during the “Big Three” Tehran Conference. 

Copyright British Official Photograph issued by Photograph News Agencies, Ltd., published by The Daily Telegraph.

London, 30 November 1943

This is an original wartime “British Official Photograph” featuring U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin, and British Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill on Churchill’s 69th birthday, 30 November 1943, at a dinner hosted by Churchill during the “Big Three” Tehran Conference. This wartime press photograph belonged to the Daily Telegraph archives. The gelatin silver image measures approximately 6.375 x 5.5 inches (16.19 x 13.97 cm) printed on an 8 x 6 (20.32 x 15.24 cm) inch sheet of heavy matte photo paper. Deficiencies of clarity and depth doubtless owe to contemporary limitations of wire transmission from Tehran. Condition approaches very good minus. Modest curling and soiling and surface scratches visible under raking light do not substantively detract. A significant fragment of the of the original, typed caption, affixed to the verso, extends below the image. Caption fragments read, “...CONFERENCE. THE THREE ALLIED LEADERS PHOTOGRAPHED... NER PARTY GIVEN BY MR. CHURCHILL ON HIS... THE PERSIAN...” The photograph verso features a “BRITISH OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH” ink stamp indicating that it was issued by “PHOTOGRAPHIC NEWS AGENCIES, LTD.” A second ink stamp of The Daily Telegraph Art Department indicates a published date of “7 DEC 1943”. Additional numerical notation in pencil is found at two corners of the verso. This photo is housed in a removable, archival mylar sleeve within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.

The “Big Three” conference held in Tehran from 28 November to 1 December 1943 was the first of its kind and one of only two among these leaders. Churchill christened the meeting – not entirely hyperbolically - as probably ‘the greatest concentration of worldly power that had ever been seen in the history of mankind’. Concentration did not mean harmony. Awkwardness began even before they arrived in Tehran. “At Stalin’s insistence, the American delegation were housed in a building in the grounds of the Soviet Embassy” – supposedly to avoid an assassination plot uncovered by the Soviets. Churchill proposed that Roosevelt stay at the British Legation, “but his suggestion had been ignored.” (Gilbert, VII, p.568) Moreover, FDR and Stalin had their first meeting without Churchill. The President’s advisor, Harry Hopkins, explained that FDR wanted to assure Stalin “that he was anxious to relieve the pressure on the Russian front by invading France” - this, of course, distancing FDR from Churchill’s hopes of a more vigorous Mediterranean strategy. Roosevelt continued to meet privately with Stalin, but avoided meeting with Churchill privately so as not to arouse Stalin’s suspicion. Churchill, meanwhile, sought to mitigate divergences by meeting privately with Stalin.

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On 30 November 1943, Churchill hosted the third dinner of the conference, at which this image was taken. “It was his own birthday dinner: he was sixty-nine.” Earlier that day, in discussion with Stalin, Churchill had commented ‘that truth deserved a bodyguard of lies’. “This phrase was to become the key of a new and most secret operation, ‘Bodyguard’, the deception plans for ‘Overlord’, the Allied invasion at Normandy. The dinner was perhaps a high point of cordiality between Stalin and Churchill; Churchill at one point toasted “I drink to the Proletarian masses.” Stalin reciprocally toasted “I drink to the Conservative Party.” and lingered after Roosevelt and most of the other guests had left. (Gilbert, VII, p.586) [CBC #005565]

$450 USD
An original wartime press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill with supreme commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force General Dwight D. Eisenhower on 23 March 1944 as they inspect U.S. troops in England preparing for the liberation of Europe

U.S. Official Photograph supplied by The Associated Press
London, 25 March 1944

This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill and supreme commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force Dwight D. Eisenhower on 25 March 1944 as they inspect U.S. troops preparing for the liberation of Europe. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 6 x 8 inches (15.2 x 20.3 cm). Condition is very good, the paper clean, crisp, and free of scuffing with only some light edge wear, and softening to the corners. This photograph belonged to the working archives of The Daily Telegraph and features their Art Department’s original hand-applied retouching to the figures’ clothing, hands, and faces, as well as original crop markings. The verso bears a copyright stamp reading “U.S. Official Photograph supplied by The Associated Press” (below caption slip), a received stamp of The Daily Telegraph as original crop markings. The verso bears a copyright stamp reading “U.S. Official Photograph supplied by The Associated Press” yesterday, March 23, when they saw [one of the largest] mass parachute jumps [ever attempted] by U.S. forces in the United Kingdom.” The bracketed portions of the caption are hand redacted, plausibly for censor concerns. This photograph is housed in a removable, archival mylar sleeve within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.

Preparations for Operation Overlord, the amphibious invasion of Europe by Allied forces, began at the May 1943 Trident Conference in Washington and continued at the Quebec conference in August where Eisenhower was appointed to command the invasion set for the beginning of the following year. On 23 March 1944 Churchill and Eisenhower set off by train to inspect American troops in Britain. Churchill spoke to the troops, opening with a joking apology for their host country’s weather and closing sincerely, “I thank God you are here, and from the bottom of my heart I wish you good fortune and success.” (Gilbert, VII, p.777) The General and Prime Minister were then presented with a demonstration of paratroopers. “As he watched the Prime Minister, smiling grimly, rose quickly from his chair, and stood, unlighted cigar between his lips, gripping the rail in front of him.” (Liverpool Evening Express, 24 March 1944) A demonstration of ground forces was then performed.

Operation Overlord commenced on 6 June 1944, when the United States, Britain, and their WWII allies launched the largest amphibious invasion in history. Allied landings on the beaches at Normandy, France began the campaign that ended with Germany’s unconditional surrender. The Allies celebrated their final victory over Germany less than one year later on V-E Day, 8 May 1945. At the height of his own and Eisenhower’s supreme victories, Churchill’s wartime government fell to Labour in the General Election of late July 1945. More than six years passed with Churchill as Leader of the Opposition before Churchill’s Conservatives won the General Election of October 1951. Churchill returned to 10 Downing Street to lead a Britain increasingly marginalized and eclipsed by America. Eisenhower was elected President of the United States a year later, becoming Churchill’s civilian counterpart.

Though their relationship was marked with frequent disagreements about strategic and national priorities, the two men had deep mutual respect. When Eisenhower eulogized Churchill on 30 January 1965, he recalled: “...I was privileged to meet, to talk, to plan and to work with him for common goals... an abiding – and to me precious – friendship was forged; it withstood the trials and friction inescapable among men of strong convictions, living in the atmosphere of war... our friendship flowered in the later and more subtle tests imposed by international politics... each of us, holding high official post in his own nation, strove together so to concert the strength of our two peoples that liberty might be preserved among men and the security of the free world wholly sustained.”

[$400 USD]

An original wartime press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill with supreme commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force General Dwight D. Eisenhower on 15 May 1944 as they inspect U.S. troops in England preparing for the liberation of Europe

British Official Photograph, Crown Copyright Reserved, issued by Photographic News Agencies, Ltd.
London, 15 May 1944

This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill, in his signature “siren suit”, with supreme commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force General Dwight D. Eisenhower on 15 May 1944 as they inspect U.S. troops in England preparing for the liberation of Europe. The gelatin silver print on heavy matte photo paper measures 6 x 8.25 inches (15.2 x 21 cm). Condition is very good. The image is crisp and the paper clean with light surface scratches and finger marks visible only under raking light. We note light bruising to extremities with creasing and a scuff to the lower left corner. This photograph belonged to the working archives of The Daily Telegraph, whose Art Department applied hand-retouching to both Churchill and Eisenhower, along with original crop marks. The verso bears a “British Official Photograph” stamp indicating that the image was issued by “Photographic News Agencies, Ltd.”, a “Received” stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated “15 May 1944”, and a lengthy original typed caption. The caption identifies the image as “BRITISH OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH No. BH. 23342. (XS). WAR OFFICE PHOTOGRAPH. CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED.” The caption is titled “MR CHURCHILL AND DOMINION PRIME MINISTERS MEET GENERAL D. EISENHOWER” and reads “During the tour made by Mr. Churchill and the Dominion Prime Ministers to inspect Allied troops who will take part in the liberation of Europe, they were joined by General Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander. Picture shows: Mr. Churchill demonstrates the zipper on his siren suit to General Eisenhower while strolling along the platform during a halt of the special train in which the party travelled. RELEASE DATE: MONDAYS DAILIES. 15/5/44.”

The lightness of the image belies the seriousness of the impending occasion. Three weeks after this image was taken, on 6 June 1944, the United States, Britain, and their WWII allies launched the largest amphibious invasion in history, Operation Overlord. The landings on the Normandy beaches came to be known as D-Day. The Allies celebrated their unconditional surrender of Germany less than one year later on V-E Day, 8 May 1945. At the height of his own and Eisenhower’s supreme victories, Churchill’s wartime government fell to Labour in the General Election of late July 1945. More than six years passed with Churchill as Leader of the Opposition before his Conservatives won the General Election of October 1951. Churchill returned to 10 Downing Street to lead a Britain increasingly marginalized and eclipsed by America. Eisenhower was elected President of the United States a year later, becoming Churchill’s civilian counterpart.

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[$300 USD]
An original wartime “British Official” Press Photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill and King George VI signing the “Visitors’ Book” at the Allied Expeditionary Air Force H.Q. on D-Day, 6 June 1944 - testimony to “the closest personal relationship in modern British history between a monarch and a Prime Minister” on one of the most momentous days of the Second World War

Copyright British Official Photograph issued by Photographic News Agencies, Ltd., published by The Daily Telegraph London, 7 June 1944

On 6 June 1944, the United States, Britain, and their WWII allies launched the largest amphibious invasion in history. Allied landings on the beaches at Normandy began the campaign that would end with Germany’s unconditional surrender in May 1945. This photograph is testimony not only to a singularly momentous day of the war, but also to what has been described as “the closest personal relationship in modern British history between a monarch and a Prime Minister”. Arguably, King George VI was the only reason Churchill was present in Britain for this image to be captured. Four years earlier, the King had been reluctant for Churchill to succeed Neville Chamberlain, but after Churchill became Prime Minister in 1940, he and the King developed what has been described as “the closest personal relationship in modern British history between a monarch and a Prime Minister”.

In June 1944, Churchill, then the 69-year-old British Prime Minister, had been positively insistent on being aboard an Allied warship during the invasion. Eventually, the King had personally intervened, writing to Churchill, “I have agreed to stay at home; is it fair then that you should do exactly what I should have liked to do myself? I ask you most earnestly to… not let your personal wishes… lead you to depart from your own very high standard of duty to the State.” Only then did a still grumbling, surly, and “profoundly disappointed” Churchill acquiesce.

The operation commenced at two in the morning when gliders of the 6 Airborne Division landed on the continent successfully capturing two bridges. By dawn British and American troops had landed on the beaches. The Germans were overcome and the assault an initial success. Over the morning Churchill watched progress in his Map Room before making a statement before the House. He lunched with the King and together they drove to the Allied Air Headquarters where this photograph was taken. That evening Churchill made a second statement in the House of Commons, informing them that the operation was proceeding “in a thoroughly satisfactory manner.” At nine o’clock, as D-Day closed the King delivered a moving speech to his people over the radio. The Allied forces would celebrate their final victory over Germany less than one year later on V-E Day, 8 May 1945. King George VI died on 6 February 1952, during Churchill’s second and final premiership. Churchill’s fifteen minute broadcast speech to the nation the next day was a moving tribute to the both the man himself and the monarchy he had ably rescued from his brother: “…there struck a deep and solemn note in our lives which, as it resounded far and wide, stilled the clatter and traffic of twentieth-century life in many lands…” [CBC #005199]

$600 USD
An original wartime press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill on board the destroyer HMS Kelvin crossing the English Channel for Normandy on 12 June 1944, less than a week after D-Day

U.S. Official Photograph issued via the U.S. Office of War Information London, 14 June 1944

This original press photo captures Winston S. Churchill in sunglasses, cigar in hand, crossing the English Channel aboard the HMS Kelvin on 12 June 1944 for Montgomery’s headquarters in Normandy shortly after the D-Day landings. The gelatin silver print on glossy photo paper measures 8.25 x 6 inches (21 x 15.2 cm). Condition is very good, the paper clean and crisp with some light softening to the corners, edge wear, and light scuffing visible only under raking light. This photograph belonged to the working archives of The Daily Telegraph, whose Art Department applied original crop markings and printing notations made in red crayon, as well as hand-applied retouching to Churchill’s clothing. The original printed caption on the verso designates this as “U.S. Official Photograph. NO.EA.26241.BT. Issued Thru O.W.I.” [Office of War Intelligence] An underlined statement at the top of the caption reads “MUST NOT BE PUBLISHED BEFORE DAILY PAPERS WEDNESDAY, 14TH, JUNE 1944.” The caption itself reads “Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Great Britain sits on the bridge of a warship which is carrying him to the headquarters of General Montgomery, somewhere in France. Somewhere off the French Coast. Must not be published before daily papers Wednesday 14th June 1944.” Hand-written notation with an arrow pointing in France. Somewhere off the French Coast. Must not be published before daily papers Wednesday 14th June 1944.” Hand-written notation with an arrow pointing to the “warship” reference clarifies “THIS MUST HAVE BEEN HMS KELVIN A DESTROYER” and is signed “Phil Green.” The verso also bears a received stamp of “The Daily Telegraph dated 14 JUN 1944, a used stamp of the Sunday Telegraph dated 18 JUN 1945, and additional handwritten notations. This photograph is housed in a removable, archival mylar sleeve within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.

On 6 June 1944, the United States, Britain, and their WWII allies launched the largest amphibious invasion in history, Operation Overlord. The landings on beaches in Normandy came to be known as D-Day. Churchill had desperately wished to be present with the fleet during the landings, but had been checked by his King. By 9 June Churchill was confident enough in the success of the operation that he began to make plans to cross the channel into France. Churchill telegrammed Montgomery, “We do not wish in any way to be a burden to you or on your headquarters... We shall bring some sandwiches with us.” Montgomery replied, “Road not (repeat not) 100 per cent safe owing to enemy snipers.” Not realizing that the telegram came directly from Churchill he added, “Essential PM should go only where I take him and you must get away from here in early evening. Am very satisfied with progress of operation.” [Gilbert, VII, p.802-3]

On 12 June Churchill along with Smuts and Brooke embarked on a British destroyer. A “smiling and confident” Montgomery met them at the beach. They drove by jeep to the headquarters where “Troops rushed the car and surrounded it. Some wanted to shake hands, others wanted to give the Prime Minister a pat on the back. Cries were heard from all sides of ‘Good old Winnie.’ One particularly bright tin-hatted Tommy, battle-dressed and looking tired and exhausted after days of fighting shouted cheerfully ‘Got any whisky for us?’” [Hull Daily Mail, 13 June 1944] Churchill remembered, “We lunches in a tent looking towards the enemy. The General was in the highest spirits. I asked him...” [Gilbert, VII, p.801-2]

That evening Smuts, Brooke, and Churchill returned on the HMS Kelvin. When the destroyer was within seven thousand yards of the shore Churchill asked Admiral Vian to “have a plug at them yourselves before we go home!” Vian acquiesced and the ship opened fire on the shore for several minutes. This was the only time Churchill, twice First Lord of the Admiralty, was on board a ship firing in combat. The Allies would celebrate their final victory over Germany less than one year later on V-E Day, 8 May 1945.

$400 USD

An original wartime press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill, Field Marshal Sir Alan Brooke, and General Smuts with General Bernard Montgomery at his Headquarters in Normandy on 12 June 1944, less than a week after the D-Day landings

U.S. Official Photograph published by The Daily Telegraph London, 14 June 1944

This original press photo captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill with Field Marshal Sir Alan Brooke, Field Marshal and South African Prime Minister Jan Smuts, and General Montgomery at Montgomery’s Headquarters in Normandy on 12 June 1944, less than a week after the D-Day landings. This photograph belonged to the working archives of The Daily Telegraph. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 6 x 8 inches (15.2 x 20.3 cm). The tattered original paper caption, anchored to the verso, extends an additional inch from the lower edge. Condition is good plus. Most of this photograph’s flaws, including the four pin holes and loss to the upper right corner, are confined to the generous margins. Additionally, there is some creasing to the corners and light cockling along the upper and lower edges. The verso bears a partially obscured copyright stamp reading “U.S. Official Photograph”, a published stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated 14 JUN 1944, handwritten printing notations, and a clipping (the right side of which is lost) of the caption as it was published reading, “Mr. Churchill visits Gen. Montgomery... his temporary H.Q. in France, accompanied... Field Marshal Sir Alan Brooke, Chief of the Imperial Gen. Staff (left), and Smuts (right).” The remaining portion of the original, typed caption reads “Mr. Churchill visits Gen. Montgomery at his temporary quarters, in France, accompanied by Field Marshal Sir Alan... Chief of the Imperial Staff (left) and...” This photograph is housed in a removable, archival mylar sleeve within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.

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$350 USD
said, ‘No.’ ‘What is there then to prevent an incursion of German armour breaking up our luncheon?’ He said he did not think they
had the highest spirits. I asked him how far away was the actual front. He said about three miles. I asked him if he had a continuous line. He
said no. I asked him if he expected a French or British landing in his sector. He said no. He asked me how far away I thought the
bright tin-hatted Tommy, battle-dressed and looking tired and exhausted after days of fighting shouted cheerfully ‘Got any whisky for
me?’ I told him the weather was so bad there was no point in trying to land him any whisky. He said he did not care. He said he
had just had a plug at them himself before we went home.’ Vian acquiesced and the ship opened fire on the shore for several minutes. This
was the only time Churchill, twice First Lord of the Admiralty, was on board a ship firing in combat. The Allies would celebrate their final
victory over Germany less than one year later on V-E Day, 8 May 1945. (CBC 0005622)

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of the Swedish caption as it was published. This photograph
Dagbladets Bild Arkiv, handwritten notations, and a clipping
of the photo about half an inch from the top and bottom edges.
This original press photograph belonged to a Swedish news
agency. The verso bears a copyright stamp of “Pressens Bild”,
a stamp from Svenska Dagbladet, two stamps reading Svenska
Dagbladets Bild Arkiv, handwritten notations, and a clipping

This original press photo captures Winston S. Churchill with
General Bernard Law Montgomery on a Normandy beach on 12
June 1944, less than a week after the D-Day landings. This is an
original copy of a frequently reproduced, quintessential WWII image of two of the war’s iconic personalities at the epicenter of
one of the war’s most momentous events. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 5.125 x 7.125 inches (13 x 18 cm). Condition is good plus. The paper is clean and free of
scuffing with three pin holes along the top edge and seven along
the bottom. There are two strong horizontal creases across the
photo about half an inch from the top and bottom edges.
This original press photograph belonged to a Swedish news
agency. The verso bears a copyright stamp of “Pressens Bild”,
a stamp from Svenska Dagbladet, two stamps reading Svenska
Dagbladets Bild Arkiv, handwritten notations, and a clipping

When Churchill and Eden arrived in Athens on 14 February 1945 the Three Powers Yalta Conference (7-11 February) had
just ended. The Yalta Conference, also known as The Crimea Conference, was held at the Livadia Palace near Yalta in the
Crimea. This conference proved to be one of the key geopolitical defining events of the 20th Century, fundamentally shaping the
postwar world and drawing the battle lines of the long Cold War to come. The conference was marked by fundamentally
different attitudes toward Stalin on the part of Churchill and Roosevelt. Roosevelt—terminally ill and trusting—viewed
massive concessions to Stalin as a hopeful path to lasting peace. By contrast, Churchill deeply distrusted Stalin’s character and
motivations, but had little power to resist the tide of Roosevelt’s accommodations and optimism. This conference substantially
determined postwar organization of Europe.

Greece would occupy the early front lines of the struggle for postwar control. On 12 February the Treaty of Varkiza was signed
in Greece, disarming communist-backed guerrilla forces and bringing a temporary end to warfare in recently liberated Greece.
This consequently ended the violent skirmishes in Greece between the British army who backed the Greek government-in-exile and
the communist bands that had gained majority control of the government following the German evacuation. After Yalta, Churchill
journeyed to Greece, arriving in Athens on 14 February to rapturous approbation perhaps owing in part to his aggressive advocacy for
disastrously unsuccessful British military support for Greece during the war. On the day this image was captured, Churchill
addressed an enormous crowd; Harold Macmillan estimated 40,000, and Churchill wrote to Clementine
that he had never seen a crowd of that size. His speech was one of characteristic Churchillian exhortation to courage and perseverance, “Let right prevail. Let party
earnestness die. Let there be unity, let there be resolute

That evening Smuts, Brooke, and Churchill returned on the HMS Kelvin. When the
destroyer was within seven thousand yards of the shore Churchill asked Admiral Vian to
“have a plug at them ourselves before we go home!” Vian acquiesced and the ship opened
fire on the shore for several minutes. This was the only time Churchill, twice First Lord of
the Admiralty, was on board a ship firing in combat. The Allies would celebrate their final
victory over Germany less than one year later on V-E Day, 8 May 1945. (CBC 0005622)

S$175 USD

This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill and Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden arriving
in Athens on 14 February 1945, just after the final conference with Roosevelt and Stalin and the signing of the Treaty of Varkiza.
The gelatin silver print on glossy photo paper measures 6 x 8.125 inches (15.2 x 20.7 cm). Condition is very good minus. The paper
is clean and crisp with some light wear to the edges and corners and some scuffing and horizontal cracking to the photo surface
visible only under raking light. The verso bears a copyright stamp reading “Crown Copyright Reserved supplied by BIPPA”, a
received stamp dated in FEB 1945, and a typed caption indicating that this is a British Official Photograph. The typed caption
stipulates “FOR FIRST PUBLICATION EVENING PAPRSFRIDAY. [sic] FEBRUARY nth”. The caption reads, “Mr. Churchill,
accompanied by his daughter Sarah (Mrs Oliver) (in felt hat) Field Marshal Alexander, Mr. Eden and Foreign Office officials, landed
at an airport near Athens recently. The party was met at the airfield by L.G. General Scobie, Major Churchill, the Rt. Hon
H. Macmillan, Mr. Leeper, and others. Mr Churchill was driven straight to the Regency and then he and the Regent drove to
the Old Palace in Constitution Square, where the Regent, Mr Churchill and Mr. Eden spoke to the assembled crowd through
loudspeakers. The crowd was enthusiastic and gave the visitors a tremendous welcome. PIPicture [sic] shows, The Prime
Minister being greeted on arrival at the Old Palace.”

When Churchill and Eden arrived in Athens on 14 February 1945 the Three Powers Yalta Conference (7-11 February) had
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earnestness die. Let there be unity, let there be resolute
An original wartime press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill on 13 April 1945, the day after the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, captured in mid-stride on his way to the House of Commons to move adjournment in tribute to FDR.

London, News Agency Photos, Ltd.
London, 13 April 1945

This original press photograph is a full-length image of a somber and sternly grieving Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill on 13 April 1944 captured in mid-stride on his way to the House of Commons to move adjournment in tribute to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt the day after FDR's death. The gelatin silver print on glossy photo paper measures 8 x 6 inches (20.3 x 15.2 cm). The paper is crisp and clean with some light edge wear, a crease to the upper right corner, some white specks inherent to the photo's developing out, and light scuffing visible only under raking light. This press photo originated from London News Agency Photos. Condition is very good. The verso bears the copyright stamp of "London News Agency Photos, Ltd."

113 pages from the archives

Few relationships between world leaders proved as world-defining as the relationship between Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill. On the afternoon of 12 August the American President died of a cerebral hemorrhage in Warm Springs, Georgia. The news did not reach Churchill until midnight and it deeply affected him. Churchill immediately began preparing for a flight to America the next morning (having been invited to the private funeral at Hyde Park), but it was decided that matters at home did not allow for his departure.

The following day King George VI wrote a letter of condolence to Churchill sending "all my sympathy at this moment." Churchill’s reply to the King encapsulates the dual sorrow – personal and political - encompassed by FDR’s death. "The sudden loss of this great friend and comrade in all our affairs is very hard for me. Ties have been shorn asunder which years had woven. We have to begin again in many ways." Writing to FDR’s wife, Eleanor, Churchill could not contain his own grief: "As for myself, I have lost a dear and cherished friendship... I trust you may find consolation in the magnitude of his work and the glory of his name." (Telegram of 13 April 1945)

As the caption on the verso of this image notes, Churchill announced the loss to the House of Commons, “The House will have learned with the deepest sorrow for the grievous news which has come to us from across the Atlantic, and conveys to us the loss of the famous President of the United States, whose friendship for the cause of freedom and for the causes of the weak and poor have won him immortal renown. It is not fitting that we should continue our work this day. I feel that the House will wish to render its token of respect to the memory of this great departed statesman and war leader, by adjourning immediately.”

Four days later, on 17 April, Churchill lunched alone before returning to the House of Commons to movingly eulogize his friend. Clearly, more than common interest had united the two men. Churchill told the House of his and FDR’s exchange of “over 1,700 messages” and nine wartime meetings. Churchill’s words about FDR expressed “admiration for him as a statesman, a man of affairs, and a war leader.” More personally, Churchill testified “I felt the utmost confidence in his upright, inspiring character and outlook and a personal regard – affection I must say – for him beyond my power to express today.” Expressing that kinship and regard, Churchill added to his tally of FDR’s virtues a “generous heart which was always stirred to anger and to action by spectacles of aggression and oppression by the strong against the weak.” In Roosevelt, Churchill ended “there died the greatest American friend we have ever known and the greatest champion of freedom who has ever brought help and comfort from the new world to the old.”

$500 USD

www.churchillbookcollector.com
This original press photo captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill and King George VI and his Queen on the balcony of Buckingham Palace on the day Germany’s unconditional surrender took effect, VE Day, 8 May 1945. This press photo was once a part of the working archives of the Evening Standard. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 6 x 8 inches (20.3 x 25.4 cm). Condition is very good plus. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scratches with only some minor edge wear with a few small image defects, notably at the King’s left shoulder, and to the space between the torsos of Churchill and the Queen. The verso bears a copyright stamp of “Photographic News Agencies, Ltd.”, a received stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated 9 May 1945, and a torn typed caption reading “A happy scene on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, showing their Majesties the King and Queen with the Prime Minister.” The caption terminates in the printed date “May 8th 45.” The image may be considered unusual in that, rather than being focused on the crowd and looking out towards the camera, the King, Churchill and the Queen are all captured in profile, the two men leaning in attentively toward the Queen who is gesturing to them. The photo is housed in a removable archival mylar sleeve within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.

The 8th of May 1945 was declared a public holiday in Britain. The previous day, General Alfred Jodl and Admiral Doenitz, representing Germany, signed the German unconditional surrender at Eisenhower’s headquarters in Reims; the war would officially end at 12:01 midnight on 8 May. Churchill spent the morning of the first day of victory working in bed. He lunched with the King before returning to No. 10 for the victory broadcast where he congratulated the nation on their victory but warned of the new challenges ahead. “We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing, but let us not forget for a moment the toil and efforts that lie ahead... We must now devote all our strength and resources to the completion of our task, both at home and abroad. Advance, Britannia! Long live the cause of freedom! God save the King!” Churchill then left for Parliament in an open car, swarmed by cheering crowds for the entire trip. He gave the same speech before the Houses where all Members save one rose and cheered heartily.

At 4:30 Churchill went to Buckingham Palace along with the Chiefs of Staff and the War Cabinet. There he joined the King, Queen, and two Princesses on the balcony, waving to the thousands of jubilant Britons assembled in the mall below. He then made his way to the Home Office and the Ministry of Health. The cheering crowds continually demanded to see the Prime Minister and his leader happily acquiesced, appearing on the balcony and giving a few words. By 10:30 the crowd demanded another speech. Churchill re-emerged on the balcony of the Ministry of Health and delivered a recounting of Britain’s perilous year fighting the constant threat of German invasion. “There we stood, alone. Did anyone want to give in?” “No!” the crowd roared back. “Were we downhearted?” “No!” “Now we have emerged from one deadly struggle – a terrible foe has been cast on the ground and awaits our judgement and our mercy.” The crowds in Parliament Street celebrated through the night and into the next day. [CBC #005257]
This original wartime press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill, accompanied by his daughter, Mary, making a toast to the Soviet Embassy on 9 May 1945, the day after VE Day.

On May 9th, the Prime Minister visited the Soviet Embassy at Kensington Palace Gardens, where he and the Soviet Ambassador M. Gusev, toasted the Soviet Union, the British Empire and Marshal Stalin in Russian champagne. Junior Commander Mary Churchill was with her father.*

Despite Churchill’s substantial concerns and mistrust, Clementine Churchill was in Moscow on a humanitarian trip associated with her Red Cross Aid to Russia Fund. Churchill wrote the speech she broadcast to the Russian people on 8 May: “It is my firm belief that on the friendship and understanding between the British and Russian peoples depends the future of mankind.” (Gilbert, VII, p.1278)

The 8th of May 1945 was a public holiday in Britain. The previous day, General Alfred Jodl and Admiral Doenitz signed Germany’s unconditional surrender at Eisenhower’s headquarters in Reims; the war officially ended at midnight on 8 May. Alliance with the Soviet Union had been dictated by survival and necessity rather than kindled ideologies and perspectives. Churchill had long been an unreservedly anti-communist and wartime alliance was set against profligate Soviet duplicity, bracketed by the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact and the pre and post-victory Soviet grab for Eastern European territory. The month before this image was captured, Churchill warned those attending a 3 April 1945 War Cabinet, “Relations with Russia, which had offered such fair promise at the Crimea Conference, had grown less cordial during the ensuing weeks…” It was by no means clear that we could count on Russia as a beneficent influence in Europe, or as a willing partner in maintaining the peace of the world. Yet at the end of the war, Russia would be left in a position of preponderant power and influence throughout the whole of Europe.” (Gilbert, VIII, p.178)

Churchill’s opening words of celebration turned sharply to the reality at hand, “The great victory in Europe has been won. Enormous problems lie before us.” Churchill had warned with his own Conservative Party throughout the 1930s. Now, despite his personal popularity and a resounding personal victory in his Woodford constituency, his Conservative Party would cost him the premiership. On 26 July 1945, despite having done so much to win the war, Churchill faced frustration of his postwar plans when his wartime government fell to Labour’s landslide General Election victory over the Conservatives. He would be relegated to Leader of the Opposition for more than six years until the October 1951 General Election, when Churchill’s Conservatives outpaced Labour, returning Churchill to his first and final premiership. [CBC #005560]

The Original Press Photograph

This original wartime press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill accompanied by his wife, Clementine, in his Woodford constituency on 26 May 1945 giving his first speech of the 1945 General Election that would end his wartime premiership two months later on 26 July 1945.

This original wartime press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill, accompanied by his wife, Clementine, in his Woodford constituency on 26 May 1945 giving his first speech of the 1945 General Election that would end his wartime premiership two months later on 26 July 1945.

$200 USD

$300 USD
The General Election of July 1945 was Britain’s first since 1935. Churchill began campaigning on 26 May, just eighteen days after Britain celebrated VE Day. His first speech characterized the moment, opening with words of celebration before pivoting sharply to the reality at hand: “The great victory in Europe has been won. Enormous problems lie before us.” This photograph was taken on 25 June, as Churchill embarked on a five-day election tour. Here he is captured waving his hat to the crowd from the back of an open-top car. A newspaper article from this tour reports a similar scene: “The front ranks clambered on to the back of the car attempting to shake the Premier’s hand or at least to touch his coat. His cigar was snatched from his hand… At one point it seemed impossible for the car to proceed but when asked ‘will you turn back?’ the typically Churchillian reply ‘No, go on,’ and on the car went at a snail’s pace with the, by this time, nearly hysterical crowd singing, shouting, cheering, in fact, doing anything to make a noise.’ (Uxbridge & W. Drayton Gazette, 29 June 1945)

He reflected on this trip in a broadcast of 30 June, “It was wonderful to see the beauty of so many human faces lighting up often in a flash with welcome and joy, and this continued day after day along hundreds of miles through crowded towns and cities and also along high roads, where there were arrayed every few hundred yards groups and often large parties of men, women and children displaying the national flags and flags of other nations, and showering down their blessings and acclamations.” (Complete Speeches, Vol VII, p 797) Churchill warred with his own Conservative Party throughout the 1930s. Now, despite his personal popularity, his Conservative Party cost him the premiership. On 26 July 1945, Churchill faced frustration of his postwar plans when his wartime government fell to Labour’s landslide General Election victory over the Conservatives. He would be relegated to Leader of the Opposition for more than six years until the October 1951 General Election, when Churchill’s Conservatives outpaced Labour, returning Churchill to 10 Downing Street for his second and final premiership. [CBC #005243]

$280 USD
The General Election of July 1945 was Britain's first since 1935. Churchill began campaigning on 26 May, just eighteen days after Britain celebrated VE Day. This photograph was taken on 2 July, as Churchill embarked on a two-day tour of London during which he was met with both adoring crowds and detractors. Though this image shows an apparently enthusiastic throng, some among the crowd "were rowdy and there was some stone-throwing". (Gilbert & Arno, Documents Vol XXI, p 1810) Though Churchill had led the nation to victory, the Conservative Party’s ability to lead a postwar recovery was viewed with growing skepticism.

The following day Churchill delivered his final campaign speech before a crowd of over 20,000 at a stadium in Walthamstow at which a vehemently hostile faction was present. His 28-minute speech was interrupted throughout by catcalls and booing, as well as by cheers and applause. The environment was stormy enough that Churchill remarked upon the crowd’s participation many times throughout his speech. At the end of his speech he directly called out the opposition, “Where I think the booing party are making such a mistake is dragging all this stuff across the practical tasks we have to fulfil [sic]... They are going to be defeated at this election...” (Complete Speeches, Vol VII, p 7203)

The opposite outcome shortly came to pass. Churchill hadwarred with his own Conservative Party throughout the 1930s. Now, despite his personal popularity, his Conservative Party would cost him the premiership. On 26 July 1945, despite having done so much to win the war, Churchill faced frustration of his postwar plans when his wartime government fell to Labour’s landslide General Election victory. He was relegated to Leader of the Opposition for more than six years until the October 1951 General Election, when Churchill’s Conservatives outpaced Labour, returning Churchill to 10 Downing Street for his second and final premiership. [CBC #005198]

$260 USD

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$200 USD
An original wartime press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill on 3 July 1945, keeping the sun out of his eyes with a borrowed hat while delivering his final campaign speech for the General Election that ended his wartime premiership

Evening Standard
London, 1945

This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill on 3 July 1945 delivering his final campaign speech of the 1945 General Election. Churchill is keeping the sun out of his eyes with a borrowed hat, befitting his borrowed time; his wartime premiership ended weeks later on 26 July 1945. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 11.625 x 10 inches (29.5 x 25.4 cm). Condition is very good minus. The paper is crisp with some edge wear, creases to the corners, a .25 x .1 inch area of loss in the center of the upper edge, and light scuffing visible only under raking light. The verso bears two stamps of the Evening Standard, and a received stamp dated 4 JUL 1945.

The General Election of July 1945 was Britain’s first since 1935. Churchill began campaigning on 26 May, just eighteen days after Britain celebrated VE Day. His first speech characterized the moment, opening with words of celebration before pivoting sharply to the reality at hand: “The great victory in Europe has been won. Enormous problems lie before us.” This photograph was taken on 3 July at the end of a two day election tour of the London area during which Churchill was met with both adoring crowds and detractors. In his speech before, some among the crowd “were rowdy and there was some stone-throwing”. (Gilbert & Armn, Documents Vol XXI, p 1810) Though Churchill had led the nation to victory, the Conservative party’s ability to achieve postwar reconstruction was viewed with growing skepticism.

For both Sandys and Churchill the vote did not go the “right way.” Sandys lost his seat. Churchill retained his own seat with a commanding majority, but lost his premiership owing to a national Labour landslide. Having done so much to win the war, Churchill resigned his premiership on 26 July 1945. He would be relegated to Leader of the Opposition for more than six years until the October 1951 General Election, when Churchill’s Conservatives outpaced Labour, returning Churchill to 10 Downing Street for his second and final premiership (1951-1955). Sandys returned to Parliament in 1950, serving successively in the Cabinets of Prime Ministers Churchill, Eden, and Macmillan. (CBC #005358)
An original wartime press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill shaking hands with President Harry S. Truman at the Potsdam Conference on 23 July 1945, three days before the end of Churchill’s wartime premiership.

**British Official Photograph issued by Photographic News Agencies Ltd., published by The Daily Telegraph**

London, 25 July 1945

This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill and President Harry S. Truman at the Potsdam Conference. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 6 x 8 inches (15.3 x 20.3 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scuffing with only light edge wear, and some cockling along the bottom edge. This press photo once belonged to the working archives of The Daily Telegraph and their Art Department added gray paint to the background for increased contrast as well as crop markings. The verso bears a copyright stamp reading “British Official Photograph No.____ Issued by Photographic News Agencies, Ltd.”, a received stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated 25 JUL, a published stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated 22 OCT 1947, handwritten printing notations, and a typed caption titled, “BIG THREE CONFERENCE, BERLIN.” The photograph was apparently specifically embargoed; above the caption title is printed “FOR FIRST PUBLICATION DAILY PAPERS, WEDNESDAY, 25.7.45. BRITISH OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH NO. BU. 9193 (XP) War Office Photograph – Crown Copyright Reserved”. The caption itself reads, “Mr. Churchill, entertained President Truman and Generalissimo Stalin to a dinner party at the Prime Minister’s Residence, at Potsdam, 23rd July, 1945.” This photograph is housed in a removable, archival mylar sleeve within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.

Following the German surrender on 8 May 1945, the three allied leaders, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, the new U.S. President Harry Truman, and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin, agreed to a summer meeting to negotiate postwar reconstruction in Europe. The conference was held in Potsdam, in occupied Germany, from 17 July to 2 August 1945. The death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt on 12 April struck a blow to Churchill’s carefully cultivated relationship with the US. Truman was FDR’s vice-president for only 82 days before he became the 33rd U.S. president. As Churchill remarked to the King, “Ties have been shorn asunder which years had woven. We have to begin again in many ways.” Nevertheless, Churchill was impressed with the new President, whom he described as “A man of immense determination. He takes no notice of delicate ground, he just plants his foot down firmly upon it.” At the conference Truman officially told Stalin about the existence of the Atomic Bomb, which had been tested in Alamogordo, New Mexico, just a day before the conference began on 16 July. Stalin, who had spies inside the Manhattan Project and was fully informed, feigned surprise. The conference concluded with the issuing of the Potsdam Declaration, which demanded that Japan surrender or face “prompt and utter destruction”.

The conference – the last of the “Big Three” meetings during the Second World War – coincided with the UK General Election of 1945. As the conference began, Churchill did not know that Roosevelt’s death would not be the only dramatic change in leadership. Having done so much to win the war, Churchill faced frustration of his postwar plans when his wartime government fell to a Labour General Election landslide. On 26 July 1945, only three days after this photo was taken, Churchill resigned his premiership. He would be relegated to Leader of the Opposition for more than six years until the October 1951 General Election, when Churchill’s Conservatives outpaced Labour, returning Churchill to 10 Downing Street for his second and final premiership. By this time, only 15 months remained in President Truman’s second and final term as President. [CB #005563]
This original press photo captures the Churchill, Stalin, and Truman at the Potsdam conference, just three days before Churchill was replaced as wartime Prime Minister. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 6 x 8 inches (15.3 x 20.3 cm). Condition is good plus, its chief flaw being a strong horizontal crease through the center of the photograph. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scuffing with light edge wear, some softening to the corners, pin holes to the four corners, and light cockling. The verso bears a copyright stamp reading “British Official Photograph No. issued by Photographic News Agencies, Ltd.” with the hand-written designation “B.U. 9195”. The verso also bears a published stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated 25 JUL 1945, handwritten printing notations, and an original typed caption reading, “Mr. Churchill, President Truman, and Marshal Stalin link hands after the state banquet held by the Prime Minister in Potsdam on Monday night.”

Following Germany’s unconditional surrender on 8 May 1945, the three allied leaders, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, the new U.S. President Harry Truman, and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin, agreed to a summer meeting to negotiate postwar reconstruction in Europe. The conference was held in Potsdam, in occupied Germany, from 17 July to 2 August 1945. This photograph captures the three leaders on 23 July at an evening banquet hosted by Churchill. Churchill would later recount the dinner in his memoirs of the war years, “I had another very friendly talk with Stalin, who was in the best of tempers and seemed to have no inkling of the momentous information about the new bomb the President had given me. He spoke with enthusiasm about the Russian intervention against Japan, and seemed to expect a good many months of war, which Russia would wage on an ever increasing scale.” (Vol. VI, p379) Before the conference’s end Truman officially told Stalin about the existence of the Atomic Bomb. Stalin, who had spies inside the Manhattan Project and was fully informed, feigned surprise. The conference concluded with the issuing of the Potsdam Declaration which demanded that Japan surrender or face “prompt and utter destruction”.

The conference - the last of the “Big Three” meetings during the Second World War - coincided with the UK General Election of 1945. Having done so much to win the war, Churchill faced frustration of his postwar plans when his wartime government fell to Labour in the General Election on 26 July 1945, only three days after this photo was taken. Churchill was replaced as Prime Minister by Clement Attlee, who represented Britain for the rest of the conference. In view of the coming election, on 15 June Churchill had formally invited Attlee to the Conference: “His Majesty’s Government must, of course, bear the responsibility for all decisions. But my idea was that you should come as a friend and counsellor, and help us on the subjects on which we have been so long agreed…” This invitation turned out to be not only gracious, but practical.

Churchill was gracious once again in his 26 July statement from 10 Downing Street: “It only remains for me to express to the British people, for whom I have acted in these perilous years, my profound gratitude for the unflinching, unswerving support which they have given me during my task, and of the many expressions of kindness which they have shown towards their servant.” Churchill was relegated to Leader of the Opposition for more than six years until the October 1951 General Election, when Churchill’s Conservatives outpaced Labour, returning Churchill to 10 Downing Street for his second and final premiership. By the time Churchill returned to 10 Downing Street, the always uneasy and fraught relations with Stalin had devolved to the open contest of the Cold War. Stalin would die as Soviet Premier on 5 March 1953. Truman’s Presidency, bookended by Churchill’s two premierships, ended on 20 January 1953. [CBC #005566]

$450 USD
This original press photograph captures Winston S. Churchill and a remarkable convocation of senior British war leaders at the London Victory Celebration on 8 June 1946. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 8 x 10 inches (20.3 x 25.4 cm). Condition is very good plus. The paper is clean, crisp, and free of scratches with sharp corners save the upper left which has a crease in the margins and some light cockling. The verso bears a copyright stamp reading "Fox Photos Ltd.", a received stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated 11 JUN 1946, and a typed caption reading "MR. CHURCHILL chats with war Leaders at the Saluting Base before the arrival of the King. From left to right, ADMIRAL LORD MOUNTBATTEN, GENERAL HASTINGS ISMAY, FIELD MARSHAL "JUMBO" WILSON, AIR MARSHAL LORD PORTAL, FIELD MARSHAL LORD ALEXANDER, GENERAL LORD ALANBROOKE, MR. CHURCHILL (standing behind a Rear Admiral) AND ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET LORD CUNNINGHAM. FOX June 8. 46."

Less than a year earlier, on 26 July 1945, Churchill, the prime architect, had lost his wartime premiership to a landslide General Election victory for the Labour Party. He faced frustration of his postwar plans and more than six years as Leader of the Opposition during the premiership of his former Deputy Prime Minister, Clement Attlee. The London Victory Celebrations of 1946 were part of British Commonwealth, Empire, and Allied victory commemorations. In London there was a military parade and a night time fireworks display. At The Mall stood a saluting stand where the royal family and the leaders of the war were honored. Among them were leaders whose importance exceeds our ability to encapsulate.

Of General Lord Hastings Lionel "Pug" Ismay, 1st Baron Ismay (1887–1965), Churchill said: "We became hand in glove and much more..." (Churchill, The Gathering Storm). Churchill had traveled to North Africa to promote Field Marshal Earl Alexander of Tunis (1891–1969), who repaid Churchill by securing the Allied victory in North Africa, and of whom Churchill would write "Nothing ever disturbed or rattled him, and duty was a full satisfaction in itself, especially if it seemed perilous and hard... this was combined with so gay and easy a manner that the pleasure and honour of his friendship was prized by all those who enjoyed it, among whom I could count myself." (THoF, p.167). Field Marshal Lord Alanbrooke (1883–1963) served as wartime Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, professional head of the army, and Churchill's foremost wartime military advisor. Admiral of the Fleet Viscount Cunningham of Hyndhope (1883–1963) was favorably compared to Nelson for both temperament and Mediterranean mastery, "by common consent" ranked "with the greatest of British admirals", and earned a reputation for energy, fearlessness, decisiveness, and the ability to both maintain exacting standards and cultivate loyalty of peers and subordinates. (ODNB) Each of the men in this photograph had, at turns and consonant with their respective roles and character, both ably supported and constructively thwarted their Prime Minister. Individually and collectively they bore great responsibility for the victory they were assembled to commemorate. [CBC #005597]

$300 USD
DON’T FEINT – IT’S LEFT v RIGHT - A striking and highly amusing original press photograph of Leader of the Opposition Winston Churchill and Prime Minister Clement Attlee edited to create the appearance of the two boxing with one another

Keystone Press Agency Ltd.
London, c.1946

This compellingly unusual original press photograph is an altered image depicting Winston Churchill and Clement Attlee as if the two are boxing. The original, typed, tongue-in-cheek caption on the verso says it all. The caption is titled “DON’T FEINT – IT’S LEFT v RIGHT” and reads “Political battle rages. Tempers Run High In House. Churchill Slashes Gvt. Attlee Punishes Opposition…. Ever thought what the Parliamentary Headlines might mean, translated into reality. Take a look…. then have another look. Yes, it’s Mr. Churchill versus the Premier, Slogger Attlee. Only we’ve taken a few liberties, and superimposed famous heads on not-so-famous torsoes. The picture was made in the parliamentary gymnasium, where M.P’s were limbering up for the “Week in Westminster”. 825/Keystone. FD.” The gelatin silver image on heavy matte photo paper measures 8.125 x 10 inches (20.7 x 25.4 cm). Condition is very good, the image clear and the paper with light wear to extremities and a .75 inch (1.9 cm) closed tear to the left edge. The verso also bears the ink stamp of “KEYSTONE PRESS AGENCY LTD.” of London, as well as a twice-repeated number of “37400” and a date of “1946?”. This photograph is housed in protective mylar within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.

We do not know if this clever bit of journalistic license was ever published. Clement Richard Attlee (1883-1967) and Winston S. Churchill (1874-1965) served as the Prime Ministers of Great Britain from May 1940 to April 1955, spending the entirely of these 15 years either in Government or in Opposition. Attlee was the socialist Labour leader who famously replaced Churchill as Prime Minister in July 1945 and whom Churchill would in turn defeat and replace in October 1951.

When Churchill became wartime Prime Minister in 1940, Attlee joined his coalition government, serving as Deputy Prime Minister from 1942-1945. The Second World War proved transformational for the Labour Party, and hence for Attlee as well. As the war drew toward conclusion, the British population was hungry for reform and tired of austerity. The General Election of July 1945 brought victory for Labour and the premiership for Attlee. During Attlee’s premiership (1945-1951) “Attlee governments combined a forthright international position, backed by force, with an equally self-confident domestic policy which combined the difficult transition from a war to a peacetime economy with radical developments in social welfare.” (ODNB) Economic conditions, key Labour resignations, and other factors diminished Labour’s electoral fortunes by the end of the decade. Elections of February 1950 reduced Labour’s majority to five seats and saw Attlee change his own constituency. The 1951 General Election 1951 saw the Conservatives return to majority and Churchill to Downing Street. Attlee continued as party leader until May 1955, entering the House of Lords as Earl Attlee later that year. Attlee resigned just a month after Churchill relinquished his second and final premiership. [CBC #005238]

$500 USD

www.churchillbookcollector.com
An original press photograph of Winston S. Churchill, accompanied by French Prime Minister Paul Ramadier, meeting with war-wounded veterans in Paris on 10 May 1947

**Keystone Press Agency Ltd.**

London, 12 May 1947

This original press photograph captures Winston S. Churchill, accompanied by French Prime Minister Paul Ramadier, meeting war-wounded veterans in Paris on 10 May 1947. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 7.25 x 9.5 in (18.4 x 24.1 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is crisp and clean with only minor edge wear, and light cockling. This press photo was once a part of the working archives of The Daily Telegraph and features their Art Department's original hand-applied retouching to the figures' clothes and hands, as well as original crop markings. The verso bears a copyright stamp of "Keystone Press Agency Ltd.", a second copyright stamp from Keystone's Paris agency, a reproduction fee stamp, a published stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated 12 May 1947, handwritten printing notations, a French caption typed directly onto the photograph, and a typed caption reading "M. CHURCHILL shaking hands with an ex-Serviceman one of the war-wounded men whom he greeted in the courtyard of the Invalides, Paris, Previously Mr. Churchill had been decorated with the Medaille Militaire by M. Ramadier who can be seen behind him."

As a young cavalry officer and war correspondent half a century before, Churchill had actively sought battlefields "glory" and witnessed the devastation of war first hand. Despite an appreciation for the notional virtues of war, Churchill was sensitive to war's gruesome toll and deprivations. Long before the Second World War, he wrote "War, which used to be cruel and magnificent, has now become cruel and squalid... Instead of a small number of well-trained professionals championing their country's cause with ancient weapons and a beautiful intricacy of atraic maneuvre, sustained at every moment by the applause of their nation, we now have entire populations, including even women and children, pitted against one another in brutish mutual extermination, and only a set of bleary-eyed clerks left to add up the butcher's bill." ([My Early Life], p.79)

As the deadliest military conflict in history, WWII left no shortage of war-wounded veterans. On 10 May 1947 Churchill was presented with the Médaille Militaire, a French military honor, at the Cour des Invalides in Paris. This photograph captures Churchill after the presentation of the Médaille Militaire, a French military honor, at the Cour des Invalides in Paris. The verso bears a copyright stamp of "Keystone Press Agency Ltd.", a second copyright stamp from Keystone's Paris agency, a reproduction fee stamp, a published stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated 12 May 1947, handwritten printing notations, a French caption typed directly onto the photograph, and a typed caption reading "M. CHURCHILL shaking hands with an ex-Serviceman one of the war-wounded men whom he greeted in the courtyard of the Invalides, Paris, Previously Mr. Churchill had been decorated with the Medaille Militaire by M. Ramadier who can be seen behind him."

At the time this photograph was taken, Churchill was serving as Leader of the Opposition. Churchill had lost his wartime premiership to the Labour landslide victory in the General Election of July 1945. He would not return to 10 Downing Street for his second and final premiership until his Conservatives prevailed in the General Election of October 1951. Paul Ramadier (1888-1961), pictured behind and to the left of Churchill in this image, took part in the Resistance and served as France's first prime minister of the Fourth Republic in 1947. [CBC #005237]

$220 USD

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An original press photograph of Leader of the Opposition Winston S. Churchill leaving his Hyde Park Gate home for Parliament on 20 January 1948

**The Associated Press**

London, 20 January 1948

This original press photograph captures Winston S. Churchill on 20 January 1948 smiling outside of his Hyde Park Gate home en route to the reassembly of Parliament after the Christmas recess. The gelatin silver print on heavy matte photo paper measures 12 x 7.5 in (30.5 x 19 cm). Condition is very good minus. The paper is clean, crisp, and free of scratches with some fraying to the top and bottom edges, a crease on the upper left corner, and a horizontal bruise to the surface running through Churchill's hat. The verso bears the copyright stamp of "The Associated Press", a received stamp dated 20 January 1948, and a typed caption reading, "WINSTON CHURCHILL, LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, IS SEEN LEAVING HIS HOME AT HYDE PARK GATE, LONDON, THIS AFTERNOON, JAN. 20 FOR THE REASSEMBLY OF PARLIAMENT AFTER THE CHRISTMAS RECESS."

This is a charming three-quarter-length image of Churchill, a sparkle evident in his countenance and the inevitable cigar in his hand. Churchill, having done so much to win the war, faced frustration of his postwar plans when his wartime government fell to Labour in the General Election on 26 July 1945. He would be relegated to Leader of the Opposition for more than six years until the October 1951 General Election, when Churchill's Conservatives outpaced Labour, returning Churchill to 10 Downing Street for his second and final premiership. Churchill spent the Christmas break and first weeks of 1948 in Marrakech where he wrote, painted, and fell ill with bronchitis to the distress of his family and the fascinated attention of the English press. This photograph was taken the day after his return to London when his only response to the waiting journalists' questions about his health was "I am quite well". It requires no leap of imagination to correlate the laconic quip with the expression on Churchill's face in this image. [CBC #005332]

$140 USD
This original press photograph captures Winston Churchill shaking hands with Eleanor Roosevelt outside the Churchills’ London home on 13 April 1948 – three years and a day after the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The gelatin silver print on glossy photo paper measures 10.125 x 8 in (25.7 x 20.3 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is crisp and clean with only minor edge wear, lightly bumped corners, original crop markings, an impression on the top edge from a paper clip, and minor scuffing visible only under raking light. The image is sharp and Winston and Eleanor are both smiling, as is Winston’s wife Clementine, visible in the doorway at the left edge of the image. The photograph features original hand-applied retouching to the clothes and hands of the two figures. The verso bears a copyright stamp of “The Associated Press, Ltd.”, handwritten printing notations, and a typed caption reading “MRS. FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT SHAKES HANDS WITH WINSTON CHURCHILL AS SHE LEFT HIS HYDE PARK GATE (LONDON) HOME APRIL 13 AFTER LUNCHING WITH THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION AND HIS WIFE.” This photograph is housed in protective mylar within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.

Called “First Lady of the World” by President Truman for her humanitarian work, Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962) was the first US Representative to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, a prolific writer (including dozens of books, hundreds of articles and editorials, and a daily newspaper column from 1936-1962), and the longest-serving first lady of the United States. Fittingly, even as her nation transformed into “the preeminent economic and military power in the world” Eleanor transformed the substantially ceremonial and apolitical social role of First Lady into one of consequence. She held press conferences (unprecedented), appeared at labor meetings for Depression era workers, and vocally supported civil rights.

Of course, she also repeatedly hosted Winston Churchill at the White House. In March 1965, two months after Churchill’s death, The Atlantic published an article by the former First Lady recounting her memories of various interactions with Churchill. In December 1941, Franklin informed Eleanor that there would be a White House guest whose identity was kept secret for security. The president did tell his wife to “see to it that we had good champagne and brandy in the house and plenty of whiskey.” She called Churchill and his party “delightful Christmas guests”, though she confessed “that I was frightened of Mr. Churchill. So often I was his hostess or he was my host and we sat next to each other, but each time I felt inadequate to interest him.”

As testified by the smiles in this image, the relationship seemed cordial, even if sometimes uneasy. During Churchill’s 1943 US trip, Eleanor told him of her upcoming solo trip to Australia. Churchill insisted that he would “notify my people”. “I do not think”, she wrote, “Mr. Churchill understood Franklin’s calm assurance that I was quite able to take care of myself, and that I much preferred not having someone else to look after me.” She recalled an occasion at 10 Downing Street in 1941 where she expressed a dissenting opinion about the Allied relationship with Franco’s Spain. Churchill took her to task, and Clementine had Eleanor withdraw to the drawing room. At a lunch with the Churchills during a London trip after the death of FDR – likely the very lunch after which this image was captured - Eleanor recalled of Winston that “he suddenly turned to me and said, "You never have really approved of me, have you?" I was a little taken aback, because it would never have occurred to me to say I had not approved of Mr. Churchill. He seemed to me someone above approval or disapproval by an unimportant person like myself. I hesitated a moment and finally said, "I don’t think I ever disapproved, sir," but I think he remained convinced that there were things he and I did not agree upon, and perhaps there were a number!” [CBC #005570]

$400 USD
Churchill joined the Old Surrey and Burstow Hunt, a foxhunting pack that included his son Randolph and several of his grandchildren. He hunted until about age 76 when he could no longer play his last game. As Churchill's son Randolph wrote, “It really was quite an achievement, but we were all deeply relieved when, on 27 November 1948, three days before his 74th birthday, Churchill joined the Old Surrey and Burstow Hunt at Chartwell on Sat Nov 27th.”

“Chartwell” in this case refers to Chartwell Farm, Sevenoaks, Kent, the home of his daughter, Mary, and son-in-law, Christopher Soames. As the caption indicates, three generations are visible in the image, Winston in the foreground with his daughter and grandchild in the background. In addition to his numerous accomplishments, interests, and passions Churchill maintained a lifelong love of horses. At Sandhurst, training for the cavalry, Churchill graduated second in the arduous riding competition. At Omdurman he participated in “the last significant cavalry charge in British history”. He was a talented polo player who did not play his last game until age 52. And as soon as his finances allowed in the last decades of his life, Churchill kept a stable of racehorses and found some success as an owner and breeder.

On 27 November 1948, three days before his 74th birthday, Churchill joined the Old Surrey and Burstow Hunt, a foxhunting pack dating back to the 19th century, on their first ever hunt embarking from Chartwell. Though Churchill had given up riding years before, he hired a horse from a nearby stable and joined with enthusiasm. The hunt met in the morning and set off following the hounds until lunchtime. Newspapers reported that “scent was picked up, but was poor owing to the sun, and was lost.” Of her septuagenarian father’s feat Mary Soames later wrote, “It was an extraordinary feat of horse sense for a man of Churchill’s age to perform the same, and a typed caption reading “Lt to Rt Mr Churchill, baby Soames & Capt Soames at the Old Surrey & Burstow Hunt at Chartwell on Sat Nov 27th.”

This original press photo captures Winston S. Churchill dressed in his fox hunt kit on 27 November 1948. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 6.5 x 8.5 inches (16.5 x 21.6 cm). Condition is very good plus. The paper is crisp, clean, and free of scratches. This is a crisp, high contrast image. The verso bears a studio stamp of George P. King Ltd., a copyright stamp of the same, and a typed caption reading “Lt to Rt Mr Churchill, baby Soames & Capt Soames at the Old Surrey & Burstow Hunt at Chartwell on Sat Nov 27th.”

Churchill had been a soldier, war leader, politician, and statesman, and had shoulderled consequential leadership during two world wars; he could not fail to be a realist. Indeed, the very building in which Churchill spoke testifies to both the resilience and vulnerability of Britain. Guildhall spent half a millennium as a London civic and ceremonial centre before its Great Hall’s roof was razed by German air raids on the night of 29 December 1940, during Churchill’s wartime premiership. Postwar Britain was diminished economically, militarily, and territorially. Churchill’s son Randolph wrote a few years later in his introduction to a 1950 book of his father’s speeches that Britain’s “place in the world can only be regained” in part by “assumption by Britain of a leading role in promoting the unity of Europe.” In the speech that Churchill is here pictured delivering he continues to emphasize the necessity of a United Europe, “Amid many difficulties and grave perils, Britain and the Netherlands, together with their neighbours are striving toward a unity that had never existed in Europe at any time since the fall of the Roman Empire.” (Complete Speeches, Vol. VII, p. 778) [CBC #005252]

$850 USD
IMAGES FROM THE ARCHIVES

BARUCH MEETS CHURCHILL - an original press photograph of Winston S. Churchill and “Park Bench Statesman” Bernard Baruch, an old American friend and colleague, at Chartwell on 11 July 1949
London, 11 July 1949

This original press photograph captures Winston S. Churchill and “Park Bench Statesman” Bernard Baruch, an old Churchill friend and colleague, at Chartwell’s beloved country home, Chartwell, on 11 July 1949. The gelatin silver print on glossy photo paper measures 8.125 x 6 inches (20.7 x 15.2 cm). Condition is very good plus. The paper is clean and crisp with sharp corners and minor scuffing to the surface visible only under raking light. The verso bears a copyright stamp reading “New York Times Photos”, a stamp of “AB REPORTAGEBILD” of Stockholm, and an original typed caption titled “BARUCH MEETS CHURCHILL.” The caption reads “Bernard Baruch, America’s elder statesman and adviser to Presidents, to-day visited Winston Churchill at his home at Westerham, Kent. Baruch is over for a six weeks’ stay in Europe.” and is dated “11th July 1949”.

Four years earlier Churchill faced frustration of his postwar plans when his wartime government fell on 26 July 1945 to a Labour Party General Election landslide. He would be relegated to Leader of the Opposition until the October 1951 General Election returned him to 10 Downing Street. During these six years, Churchill not only wrote his war memoirs and led his Conservative Party, but also visited and hosted old friends and figures of political significance; Bernard Mannes Baruch (1870-1965) was both. Baruch and Churchill first became acquainted in 1908 when the latter as Minister of Munitions corresponded with the former as Chairman of the U.S. War Industries Board about supplies of raw materials for the war effort. Of Jewish parentage, Baruch was a New York financier, statesman, and advisor to U.S. presidents spanning Woodrow Wilson to Harry Truman. Churchill and Baruch were introduced at the 1929 Paris Peace Conference and struck up a friendship that would result in more than 750 letters and numerous meetings over the following decades.

Their friendship deepened during the two decades of interwar peace. In 1929 Churchill travelled to the US for the first time across from the White House in Lafayette Square. (ANB)

The world changed remarkably during their long friendship and collaboration, which spanned bullets and cavalry to atomic energy. Although the two men had first corresponded over their respective roles producing war materials during the First World War, Baruch’s final formal governmental role was as American Representative of the Atomic Energy Commission while Churchill presided over the first British nuclear weapons test during his second and final premiership. When this image of the two old friends was captured, Baruch’s influence was waning while Churchill had yet to reach his second political apex (his 1951-1955 premiership). Nonetheless their friendship endured. Brendan Bracken once wrote to Baruch, “Nature made you and Winston Churchill for each other and it does you both great good to meet.” Baruch and Churchill met for the last time on board Aristotle Onassis’s yacht in 1961. [CBC #005993]

$180 USD

An original press photograph of Winston S. Churchill on 17 January 1950, the first day of his campaign for the 1950 General Election
Acme Newspictures Inc.
London, 17 January 1950

This original press photograph captures Winston S. Churchill on 17 January 1950, the first day of his campaign for the 1950 General Election. The gelatin silver print on glossy photo paper measures 8 x 6 in (20.3 x 15.2 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is crisp and clean with only minor edge wear, cockling along the left edge, and light scuffing visible only under raking light. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “Acme Newspictures Inc.,” an additional illegible though apparently Swedish copyright stamp, and a typed caption reading “Mr. Winston Churchill holds a copy of to-day’s (Tuesday’s) ‘Evening Standard’ with the headline – ‘Churchill starts Tory campaign to-day’ as he arrives at Hyde Park Gate from his country home at Westerham (Kent), to start the Conservative General Election campaign. His first task, after seeing [sic] the Conservative ‘Shadow Cabinet’ is to give his final approval to the Conservative Manifesto, which will be issued next week. January 17th. 1950.”

Having done so much to win the war, Churchill faced frustration of his postwar plans when his wartime government fell on 26 July 1945 to a Labour landslide in the General Election. He would be relegated to Leader of the Opposition for more than six years. The 1950 General Election was the first General Election held after a full term Labour government. Churchill seems very much the “happy warrior” in this image, wearing a half smile, holding his cigar, and presenting the newspaper with the headline “Churchill starts Tory campaign to-day” almost as a challenge.

As Conservative Party Leader, “Churchill took an active part in the preparation of the Conservative Party’s election manifesto... ‘Incentive’ and ‘stimulus’ were two words Churchill wished to see given prominence in the sections on production and industry. He also tackled the style of the Party’s prose. ‘It is our intention to initiate consultations with the Unions,’ became, under Churchill’s pen, ‘We shall consult with Unions.’ (Gilbert, Vol. VII, p.501). On 19 January, two days after this image was captured, the 75-year-old Churchill wrote to his wife, Clementine, “I have an immense programme but not more than I can carry.” In his Party Political broadcast of 21 January, Churchill framed the choice before the electorate as “whether we should take another deep plunge into Socialist regimentation, or by a strong effort regain the freedom, initiative and opportunity of British life... whether we shall take another deep plunge into State ownership and State control, or whether we shall restore in person by Lloyd George at the 1919 Paris Peace Conference... ‘Incentive’ and ‘stimulus’ were two words Churchill wished to see given prominence in the sections on production and industry. He also tackled the style of the Party’s prose. ‘It is our intention to initiate consultations with the Unions,’ became, under Churchill’s pen, ‘We shall consult with Unions.’ (Gilbert, Vol. VII, p.501). On 19 January, two days after this image was captured, the 75-year-old Churchill wrote to his wife, Clementine, “I have an immense programme but not more than I can carry.” In his Party Political broadcast of 21 January, Churchill framed the choice before the electorate as “whether we should take another deep plunge into Socialist regimentation, or by a strong effort regain the freedom, initiative and opportunity of British life... whether we shall take another deep plunge into State ownership and State control, or whether we shall restore in person by Lloyd George at the 1919 Paris Peace Conference...”

The General Election of 23 February 1950 saw a major shift in favor of Churchill’s Conservatives, who gained 90 seats, leaving the Labor Government on borrowed time with a tiny majority of only 5 seats. Labour’s Prime Minister, Clement Attlee, changed his own constituency while Churchill experienced a decisive victory in his re-election at Woodford; his vote tally was double that of his challenger. The General Election of 25 October 1951 saw the Conservatives return to majority and Churchill to 10 Downing Street for his second and final premiership. [CBC #005971]

$200 USD
This original press photo captures Winston S. Churchill as Leader of the Opposition on the day of the 1950 General Election. The gelatin silver print on glossy photo paper measures 8.125 x 10 in (20.6 x 25.4 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is crisp and clean with only minor edge wear, lightly creased corners, cockling along the right edge, and light scuffing visible only under raking light. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “Planet News Ltd.”, a received stamp dated 24 Feb 1950, and a typed caption. The caption is titled “CHURCHILL IN TWO MOODS” and reads “Woodford, Eng: With ‘V’ for Victory type rosette and big cigar, Winston Churchill looks in conquering mood as he smiles at the cheering crowds outside the Conservative Club here during his election-day tour of his Woodford (Essex) constituency. The poster behind (left), shows the Conservative Party leader in a more serious vein. 23rd. February, 1950”.

Having done so much to win the war, Churchill faced frustration of his postwar plans when his wartime government fell to a landslide victory for Labour in the General Election on 26 July 1945 with 393 seats to Conservative’s 208. Clement Attlee – Churchill’s deputy prime minister during the war – became Prime Minister. Churchill would be relegated to Leader of the Opposition for more than six years. In the General Election on 26 July 1945 with 393 seats to Conservative’s 208. Clement Attlee – Churchill’s deputy prime minister during the war – became Prime Minister. Churchill would be relegated to Leader of the Opposition for more than six years. In the 1950 General Election Churchill’s Woodford constituency handed him a decisive victory; his vote tally was double that of his challenger. He also experienced a significant near-victory as Conservative Party leader. The 1950 General Election victory over the Conservatives. Churchill spent more than six years as Leader of the Opposition with his former Deputy Prime Minister, Labour leader Clement Attlee, at 10 Downing Street. The General Election of 23 February 1950 saw a major shift in favor of Churchill’s Conservatives, who gained 90 seats, leaving the Labour Government on borrowed time with a tiny majority of only 5 seats. Attlee changed his own constituency while Churchill experienced a decisive victory in his re-election at Woodford; his vote tally was double that of his challenger.

In the midst of this teetering power struggle, on 25 June 1950 communist-backed North Korea invaded South Korea, precipitating the Korean War. On 16 August 1950, Winston Churchill and Anthony Eden met at 10 Downing Street with Prime Minister Clement Attlee and Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin “for two hours” to argue that Parliament should reconvene promptly to send a British Expeditionary Force to Korea in response to the United Nations authorization for formation and dispatch of forces. This original press photograph captures Winston S. Churchill and Anthony Eden arriving at 10 Downing Street on 16 August 1950 arriving at 10 Downing Street to meet with Prime Minister Clement Attlee. The Prime Minister, after considering the reasons advanced, finds himself unable to accept them, as in his view the date already fixed, September 12, is more suitable.” (Birmingham Daily Gazette, 17 August 1950) In a Party political broadcast on 26 August, Churchill stated “It took the Socialist Government a month to make up their minds whether or not to send an expeditionary force to comply with this request of the United Nations Organization.” (Gilbert, Vol. VIII, pp.552-3) A little more than a year later, after another General Election, the Conservatives returned to power under Churchill in 1951 for his second and final premiership.

Woodford, where this image captures Churchill campaigning on 23 February 1950, would prove to be both the longest and last served constituency of Churchill’s epic political career. In the 1952 General Election, Churchill stood successfully for Epping. In 1945, Epping was subdivided and Churchill stood for the new (and politically more tenable) Woodford Division. Woodford would subsequently re-elect Churchill in 1955 and 1959 and he would serve Woodford as M.P. until October 1964. ($250 USD)

This original press photograph captures Winston S. Churchill and Anthony Eden arriving at 10 Downing Street on 16 August 1950 to press Prime Minister Clement Attlee to recall Parliament to address formation and dispatch of a British Expeditionary Force to participate in the Korean War. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 10 x 8 inches (25.4 x 20.3 cm). Condition is very good minus. The paper is clean, crisp and free of scratches with some wear to the edges, a shallow loss to the lower margin, creased corners, and a closed tear to the upper edge. This photograph belonged to the working archive of The Daily Telegraph and features their Art Department’s original, hand-applied retouching to the figures’ clothes. The verso bears a copyright stamp reading “P.A. Reuter Photos Ltd.”, a published stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated “17 AUG 1950”, a typed caption reading, “GRAVE FACES IN DOWNING STREET”, and a clipping of the caption as it was published reading, “Crowds in Downing Street yesterday afternoon rushing across to cheer the arrival for the meeting at No. 10 of Mr. Churchill (right, below), accompanied by Mr. Eden.” Having done so much to win the Second World War, Churchill lost his wartime premiership on 26 July 1945 to a Labor landslide General Election victory over the Conservatives. Churchill spent more than six years as Leader of the Opposition with his former Deputy Prime Minister, Labour leader Clement Attlee, at 10 Downing Street. The General Election of 23 February 1950 saw a major shift in favor of Churchill’s Conservatives, who gained 90 seats, leaving the Labour Government on borrowed time with a tiny majority of only 5 seats. Attlee changed his own constituency while Churchill experienced a decisive victory in his re-election at Woodford; his vote tally was double that of his challenger.

This image captures Churchill and Eden arriving at 10 Downing Street for the meeting. Attlee refused the request; after the meeting, “The Prime Minister, after considering the reasons advanced, finds himself unable to accept them, as in his view the date already fixed, September 12, is more suitable.” (Birmingham Daily Gazette, 17 August 1950) In a Party political broadcast on 26 August, Churchill stated “It took the Socialist Government a month to make up their minds whether or not to send an expeditionary force to comply with this request of the United Nations Organization.” (Gilbert, Vol. VIII, pp.552-3) A little more than a year later, after another General Election, the Conservatives returned to majority and Churchill at 10 Downing Street on 26 October 1951 for his second and final premiership. It is tempting to read into Eden and Churchill’s respective expressions in this photograph – Churchill looking away, Eden looking both downwards and somber – a metaphor for Eden’s difficulties and disappointments in their long and close association. Eden would ultimately wait in the wings to succeed Churchill – both while the Conservatives were in opposition (1945-1951) and during Churchill’s second and final premiership (1951-1955) – for nearly a decade after the end of the Second World War. And Eden’s long-awaited premiership (1955-1957) proved fraught and arguably diminished, rather than crowned, his stature and reputation. By January 1957, he had resigned the premiership he had so long sought, undone by both ill health and yet another postwar conflict - the Suez crisis.
An original press photo of Sir Winston S. Churchill
on 26 October 1950 with his champion race horse, Colonist II, who won his sixth race in succession with Churchill in attendance at Newmarket
Sport & General Press Agency, published by The Daily Telegraph
London, 27 October 1950

This original press photograph captures Winston S. Churchill, cigar in mouth, parading his champion race horse Colonist II on 26 October 1950. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 8 x 10 in (20.3 x 25.4 cm). Condition is good plus. There is some edge wear, creasing to corners, two short closed tears at the right edge, and a small loss at the top edge. The press photo once belonged to the working archives of The Daily Telegraph and features extensive original hand-applied retouching and airbrushing, as well as original crop marks. The verso bears the copyright stamp of "Sport & General", three published stamps from The Daily Telegraph dated 27 OCT 1950, 20 APR 1952, and 25 JAN 1965, numerous handwritten printing notations, and an original typed caption. The caption reads "Colonist II (T.Gosling up) battling out the finish of the Jockey Club Cup at Newmarket yesterday to win by 1 1/2 lengths [sic] from Pas de Calais. This is the sixth race in succession [sic] that he has won for Mr. Churchill, who was at Newmarket to see his victory."

Owning racehorses was a later life manifestation of Churchill's lifelong love of horses. At Sandhurst, training for the cavalry, Churchill graduated second in the arduous riding competition. At Omdurman he participated in "the last significant cavalry charge in British history". He was a talented polo player who did not play his last game until age 52. As soon as his finances allowed in the last decades of his life, Churchill kept a stable of racehorses and found some success as an owner and breeder. In 1949 the septuagenarian Churchill purchased Colonist II, a three-year-old French race horse. Colonist became something of a sensation, winning eight of his nine races in 1949, including one in which King George VI's horse, Above Board, was running.

When Colonist II beat Above Board, Churchill wrote to Princess Elizabeth "I wish indeed that we could both have been victorious - but that would be no foundation for the excitement and liveliness of the turf." (Gilbert, Vol VIII, p. 661) "One of the most popular and remarkable horses of his era, the French-bred thoroughbred won thirteen of twenty-four races and placed in five others, in all distances between one and two and one-quarter miles. Beloved by Churchill and thousands of admirers for his courage and steadfastness, Colonist II was known for preferring always to race in front of his competition and never seemed to know when he was licked—which drew comparisons to his indomitable master." (Glueckstein Finest Hour 125, Winter 2004-05, p.28)

Churchill's new hobby was not met with approval by all. Clementine wrote to a friend "I do think this is a queer new facet in Winston's variegated life. Before he bought the horse (I can't think why) he had hardly been on a racecourse in his life. I must say I don't find it madly amusing." (letter of 28 May 1951) When Colonist's trainer suggested that Colonist be put up for stud Churchill allegedly retorted, "To stud! And have it said that the Prime Minister of Great Britain is living on the immoral earnings of a horse?" (quoted in Kay Halle, The Irresistible Churchill, p. 241) Churchill continued to own horses throughout the remainder of his life, 38 in total, but none quite matched the success of his first. (CBC #005582)

$860 USD

EL ALAMEIN RE-UNION - An original press photograph of Winston S. Churchill and Field Marshal Montgomery at the El Alamein Reunion on 19 October 1951, a week before Churchill returned to 10 Downing Street for his second and final premiership
Associated Press Photo
London, 19 October 1951

This original press photograph captures Winston S. Churchill and Field Marshal Montgomery on 19 October at the El Alamein Reunion, just a week before Churchill returned to 10 Downing Street for his second and final premiership. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 10 x 8 inches (25.4 x 20.3 cm). Condition is very good minus. The paper is clean, crisp, and free of scratches with some light wear to the edges and corners. The verso bears a copyright stamp from "Associated Press Photo" and a typed caption reading, "FIELD MARSHAL THE VISCOUNT MONTGOMERY OF ALAMEIN, K.G, G.C.B., D.S.O. (RIGHT), ACCOMPANIES, THE RT. HON. WINSTON S. CHURCHILL, O.M., C.H., AS THEY WALKED THROUGH THE GARDEN OF HONOUR TO THE PLATFORM, DURING THE EL ALAMEIN RE-UNION AT THE EMPRESS HALL, LONDON, TONIGHT OCTOBER 19."

Field Marshal Bernard Law Montgomery, 1st Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, KG, GCB, DSO, PC (1887-1976) passed through Sandhurst "without distinction but without difficulty also" and began what would be fifty years in the British Army. "It was the First World War that changed Montgomery from a bumptious, querulous infantry subaltern, constantly at odds with authority, into a decorated company commander, outstanding staff officer—and trainer of men." The First World War showed Montgomery "that the whole art of war is to gain your objective with as little loss as possible." This edit made Montgomery "the outstanding British field commander of the twentieth century."

Montgomery earned his fame in North Africa during the Second World War. In August 1942, Churchill gave Montgomery command of the Eighth Army, where Montgomery famously beat Rommel and oversaw defeat of Axis forces in North Africa, a critical first Allied victory. He went on to command the Eighth Army in Sicily and Italy.

The 1951 El Alamein Reunion was held in London with Churchill, Montgomery, and Eisenhower as the guests of honor, each addressing the gathered veterans in turn. Montgomery opened, praising Churchill and Eisenhower as the greatest Englishman and the greatest American of their time. Churchill followed, giving a typically Churchillian speech ("we are marching forward in war days were great days, but we are living in greater, because we are struggling to preserve the peace for ourselves and our children." (Northern Whig, 20 October 1951)

That struggle would fail again to Churchill and Eisenhower quite literally. Just a week later, on 26 October 1951, Churchill's conservatives won the General Election returning Churchill to 10 Downing Street for his second and final premiership. Montgomery wrote to Churchill that day "Thank God" as soon as the news was known. "At last we have you back again and in charge of the ship." Eisenhower would be elected President of the United States in November 1952, assuming the presidency in January 1953. Montgomery and Churchill remained friends, but Montgomery's later years proved less elevated than those of Churchill and Eisenhower. Montgomery's uncharitable accusations in his postwar memoirs lost him the friendship of Eisenhower and forced Montgomery to publicly apologize to a fellow Field Marshal. Montgomery earned further criticism for declaring support for Apartheid and praising communist Chinese leadership. (CBC #005958)

$880 USD
An original press photo of Winston S. Churchill on a train on 23 October 1951 after speaking in support of his son Randolph Churchill for the 1951 General Election which returned Churchill to 10 Downing Street for his second and final premiership three days after this photo was taken

Copyright Planet News Ltd., published by The Daily Telegraph
London, 24 October 1951

This original press photo captures Winston S. Churchill on 23 October 1951 reading a paper and smoking a cigar on a train after giving a speech in support of the candidacy of his son, Randolph. Three days later the 1951 General election saw Randolph’s defeat, but returned the Conservatives to power and Churchill to 10 Downing Street for his second and final premiership. The gelatin silver print on glossy photo paper measures 8.125 x 10 inches (20.6 x 25.4 cm). Condition is very good minus. The paper is clean and crisp with creasing and a closed tear to the upper left corner, a small loss to the upper right corner largely confined to the margins, some edge wear, and scuffing visible only under raking light. This photo was once a part of the working archive of The Daily Telegraph and features their Art Department’s original hand-applied retouching to Churchill’s face, hands, and clothing as well as original crop markings. The verso bears the copyright stamp of ‘Planet News Ltd.’, a received stamp of ‘The Daily Telegraph’ and a clipping of the caption as it was published reading, “MR. CHURCHILL in the Plymouth train at Paddington Station yesterday. He addressed an election meeting at Devonport in support of his son, Mr. Randolph Churchill, who is contesting the seat.”

The 1951 General Election was Churchill’s fourteenth since his first parliamentary victory half a century earlier. In his speech Churchill called for national unity, saying “Never before in peacetime did we have so much need to judge policy on the merits and act in the true interests of our country”. He took pains to address the “cruel and ungrateful accusation” that he was a warmonger. “I believe that I may be able to make an important contribution to the prevention of a Third World War... this opportunity... is the last prize I seek to win.” Randolph lost the election by 2,390 votes. Churchill experienced a decisive victory. In his own Woodford constituency his vote tally was nearly double that of his challenger. Despite Randolph’s loss, Churchill’s Conservatives outpaced Labour returning Churchill to 10 Downing Street for his second and final premiership (1951-1955).

Randolph (1911-1968) ultimately failed to fully refine and apply his own Churchillian gifts. Emblematic, he lost every election he contested. (His 1951 victory was unopposed.) Historian Andrew Roberts has said: “Aside from his heroically dismal manners, his gambling, arrogance, vicious temper, indiscretions, and aggression,” Randolph “was generous, patriotic, extravagant and amazingly courageous.” Randolph dwelt in his father’s shadow and often disappointed him. Nonetheless, “Winston Churchill never let the sun go down upon his wrath, and when Randolph’s idleness ended in lecture tours and races for Parliament, he lent his support, even when his son’s campaigns were politically unhelpful to him. During World War II, when Randolph served with distinction in North Africa and Yugoslavia, Winston entrusted him with sensitive tasks which he performed with skill and discretion... After the war, Churchill willed his invaluable archive to Randolph; and in 1959, he bestowed the ultimate accolade by inviting Randolph to be his official biographer.” (Richard Langworth) Symbolically apt, Randolph completed only the first two volumes before he died in 1968.

Having done so much to win the war, Churchill faced frustration of his postwar plans when his wartime government fell to Labour in the General Election of July 1945. He would remain Leader of the Opposition until the General Election of late October 1951, Churchill’s fourteenth since his first parliamentary victory half a century earlier, which returned the Conservative Party to Parliamentary majority and Churchill to Downing Street for his second and final Premiership at the age of 77. This photograph captures Winston and Clementine Churchill on 26 October 1951, the day that his victory was announced. Churchill’s countenance in this image suits the stern but characteristically confident tone of the sentiments he expressed later that day when he addressed party workers at Conservative headquarters, “There lies ahead a difficult time - a hard time, and I have no hesitation in saying that I have seen worse. But I have no doubt we shall come through because we shall use not only Party forces, but we shall use the growing sense of the need to put Britain back in her place – a need which burns in the hearts of men far beyond these shores.” (Birmingham Daily Gazette, 27 October 1951) [CBC #005370]

$200 USD
An original press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill and his wife, Clementine, with five of their grandchildren at Chartwell on 12 November 1951, two and a half weeks after Churchill returned to 10 Downing Street and just after he established a Family Trust to benefit his children and grandchildren.

The Topical Press Agency Ltd.
London, 12 November 1951

As testified by this image, public affairs were not his only recent accomplishment. “In the second week of his Premiership, Churchill saw the fruition of the arrangements on which he had embarked five years earlier, to create a special Family Trust whereby all earnings from his war memoirs would go to the benefit of his children and grandchildren without the burden of taxation.” (Gilbert, Vol. VIII, pp. 661-2) Two days before this image was taken, Churchill’s youngest daughter, Mary, wrote that it was “hardly in the nature of things that your descendants should inherit your genius – but I earnestly hope they may share in some way in the qualities of your heart.” (letter of 10 November 1951) Churchill’s son, Randolph, wrote, “I think it wonderful that your marvelous literary industry… should cast its protection round these young lions for so many years to come.” (letter of 17 December 1951)

During the first half of the twentieth century, photojournalism grew as a practice, fundamentally changing the way the public interacted with current events. Few of the 20th century’s statesmen lent themselves to the medium with such photogenic alacrity as Winston Churchill, captured here in his beloved home wearing his signature “siren suit” and monogrammed slippers, cigar in one hand and grandchild in the other. [CBC #005603]

$180 USD
This original press photo captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill and President Harry S. Truman aboard the Presidential yacht Williamsburg on 5 January 1952. The gelatin silver print on glossy photo paper measures 6 x 8 in (15.3 x 20.3 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is clean and crisp with sharp corners save the lower right which has a crease in the margins, some light cockling, and minor scuffing to the surface visible only under raking light. The verso bears an obscured copyright stamp, a stamp of the Svenska Dagbladets Bild-Arkiv (Svenska Dagbladets is a Stockholm daily newspaper, and bild-arkiv translates to photo archive), and an original typed caption. The caption is titled "MR. CHURCHILL MEETS PRESIDENT TRUMAN ABOARD PRESIDENTIAL YACHT" and dated "10.1.52". Of note the date is incorrect; Churchill's official biographer definitively places him aboard the Williamsburg with President Truman on 5 January. The caption text reads "Churchill and President Truman stand at the mantle in the President's lounge aboard the Presidential yacht, Williamsburg, where they had talks shortly after Mr. Churchill's arrival in America. The painting in background shows the U.S. frigate Constitution battling the British H.M.S. Java, a frigate, off Brazil on Dec. 29, 1812." This photograph is housed in protective mylar within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.

Harry S. Truman had become president on 12 April 1945 following the death of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the last months of WWII. His presidency was bookended by Churchill's premierships. Only three and a half months later – in the midst of the Potsdam Conference with Truman and Stalin, Churchill was forced to resign his wartime premiership on 26 July 1945 after a landslide General Election victory for Labour. In the waning days of Truman's presidency, Churchill returned to the premiership on 26 October 1951 after a General Election victory for his Conservative Party. General Dwight Eisenhower was elected President little more than a year later, on 4 November 1952, and took office on 20 January 1953.

In January of 1952 Churchill made his first official visit to the United States since his resumption of the premiership with the explicit goal of reinforcing the special relationship between the US and Britain. At a news conference before his departure Churchill explained, "Our two governments must understand each other's points of view and do all we can to work together for the common cause." (BBC, 5 January 1952) Churchill reached New York aboard the Queen Mary on 4 January and, on 5 January "From New York, Churchill flew in the President's plane to Washington, where he was greeted at the airport by President Truman. That night they dined together on board the Presidential yacht Williamsburg." There were certainly serious issues discussed that evening, including the nature of NATO military defense integration, British trade with China, the Korean War, and control of the Suez Canal. Nonetheless, Dean Acheson later recalled a moment of jocularity over dinner. Churchill sought to compare the volume of the Williamsburg's dining saloon to the estimated volume of "vinous and spiritous liquors" consumed by the Prime Minister over his lifetime to determine if "all this liquid were poured into the dining saloon, how high would it rise? His vast disappointment when, instead of drowning us all in champagne and brandy, the flood came only up to our knees provided the high point of the performance." (Gilbert, VIII, p.675)

The taking of this photograph provided another amusing anecdote. As the caption on this photo notes, the painting behind the leaders depicts a British and an American ship in battle during the War of 1812. Rear Admiral Robert Dennison pointed out the possible issue to which Churchill replied, "Young man, that was many years ago. Go ahead and take your picture." This comment amused the President and his reaction was captured in this photograph. [CBC #005578]

$375 USD
Winston Churchill was a man of many interests and passions. Though known primarily for his roles as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and a key figure in the military history of the World War II, he also had a deep love for equestrian sports such as polo, racing, and hunting – he was well aware of his nation's love for the game. During the war, Winston Churchill never himself played football, and was not a particular fan of the game – Churchill always favored equestrian sports. However, he made a number of appearances on the field, each time shaking the hand of every player and asking if the “troops” were good. The paper is crisp and clean with only minor edge wear and light scuffing visible only under raking light. This press photo was once a part of the working archives of The Daily Telegraph. The verso bears a copyright stamp reading, “P.A. Reuter,” a received stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated 3 May 1952, and a typed caption reading, “MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL receiving Sayed Sir Abdel Rahman el Mahdi, K.B.E., C.V.O., at No. 10 Downing Street today (October 16). Sayed Sir Abdel Rahman el Mahdi [sic], together with his son, is on a visit to this country for talks.”

While history best remembers Churchill’s wartime premiership, Churchill spent an additional decade at the apex of leadership. After the General Election of July 1945 ended his wartime premiership, Churchill served as Leader of the Opposition until the October 1951 General Election, when his Conservatives outpolled Labour, returning Churchill to 10 Downing Street for his second and final premiership (1951-1955). The 1952 final was held on 3 May on a rainy day. The game saw Arsenal face off against Newcastle United, a team that one contemporary sports reporter called “one of the greatest of modern times.”

First played in the 1871-72 season, the F.A. Cup, or The Football Association Challenge Cup, is the oldest national football competition in the world. Prime Minister Winston Churchill is captured presenting the Cup to Newcastle United’s Joe Harvey (1951-52) following his team’s victory in the 1952 final. Joe Harvey began his career in 1939 playing with the Wolverhampton Wanderers. During the war he joined the Royal Artillery while still making guest appearances on the field with Aberdeen FC and Dundee United. Following the war he was recruited by Newcastle United and quickly became captain. He captained the team into the incredible feat of back to back F.A. Cup victories in the 1951 and 1952 seasons. Harvey retired in 1955, having made 224 appearances and scoring 12 goals with Newcastle, but would return to the team as manager in 1966.

Harvey’s two great victories in 1951 and 1952 and his 1955 retirement coincided with Churchill’s own demesne - his second and final premiership (1951-1955). The 1952 final was held on 3 May on a rainy day. The game saw Arsenal face off against Newcastle United, a team that one contemporary sports reporter called “one of the greatest of modern times.” (Football Post, 3 May 1952) Before kick-off Churchill made an appearance before the roaring crowd, shaking hands with each team member before seated in the Royal Box. The game was won with its only goal, scored by Newcastle’s George Robledo. (Interestingly, this goal was sketched by an eleven-year-old John Lennon, who would later use this bit of juvenilia for the cover of his 1974 album Walls and Bridges.)

Though Winston Churchill never himself played football, and was not a particular fan of the game – Churchill always favored equestrian sports such as polo, racing, and hunting – he was well aware of his nation’s love for the game. During the war Churchill made a number of appearances on the field, each time shaking the hand of every player and asking if the “troops” were ready for action. [CBC #005426]

$250 USD

An original press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill presenting the F.A. Cup to Newcastle United’s Joe Harvey on 3 May 1952

This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill presenting Joe Harvey of Newcastle United the F.A. Cup on 3 May 1952. The gelatin silver print on glossy photo paper measures 8.25 x 10 in (20.9 x 25.4 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is crisp and clean with only minor edge wear and light scuffing visible only under raking light. This press photo was once a part of the working archives of The Daily Telegraph. The verso bears a copyright stamp reading, “P.A. Reuter,” a received stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated 3 May 1952, and a typed caption reading, “MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL presenting the Football Association Cup to JOE HARVEY, captain and right-half of Newcastle United, after Newcastle had won the Cup for the second successive year by defeating Arsenal 1-0 at the Empire Stadium, Wembley, to-day (Saturday). Standing next to Mr. Churchill is Sir Stanley Robus, Secretary of the Football Association. In the line of Newcastle players waiting to receive their Cup winners’ medals is JACKIE ILBURN (extreme right), the centre forward. May 3rd 1952.”

As the game kicked off, Derby came out on top, scoring the lead goal with 90 seconds on the clock. Despite the lead, the game remained close, with both teams working hard to keep the lead. The game ended 1-1, with the Derby team securing their first goal. This press photograph captures the moment of victory and the celebration that followed.

$250 USD

An original press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill at 10 Downing Street on 16 October 1952 receiving Sayyd Abd al-Rahman al-Mahdi of Sudan, posthumous son of Muhammad Ahmad bin Abd Allah, whose forces Churchill fought as a young cavalry officer in 1889 at the Battle of Omdurman

Copyright N.P.A. Rota, published by The Daily Telegraph

London, October 1952

This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill with Sayyd Abd al-Rahman al-Mahdi, a leading religious and political figure of Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, at 10 Downing Street on 16 October 1952. The gelatin silver print on glossy photo paper measures 10 x 8.125 inches (25.4 x 20.6 cm). Condition is very good minus. The paper is clean and crisp with some light wear to the edges and corners confined to the margins, a diagonal bruise in the center of the image, and some scuffing to the surface visible only under raking light. The verso bears a copyright stamp reading “N.P.A. Rota supplied by The Times”, a received stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated OCT 1952, and an original typed caption reading, “MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL receiving Sayed Sir Abdel Rahman el Mahdi, K.B.E., C.V.O., at No. 10 Downing Street today (October 16). Sayed Sir Abdel Rahman el Mahdi [sic], together with his son, is on a visit to this country for talks.”

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Though Winston Churchill never himself played football, and was not a particular fan of the game – Churchill always favored equestrian sports such as polo, racing, and hunting – he was well aware of his nation’s love for the game. During the war Churchill made a number of appearances on the field, each time shaking the hand of every player and asking if the “troops” were ready for action. [CBC #005426]
An original press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill shaking hands with the Ooni of Ife on 8 June 1953 on the grounds of Blenheim Palace during the Commonwealth Prime Ministers Conference.

Copyright Keystone, London and Svenskt Pressfoto, Stockholm

London & Stockholm, 8 June 1953

Blenheim Palace is Winston’s birthplace and ancestral home of the Churchill family. While history best remembers Churchill’s wartime premiership, Churchill spent an additional decade at the apex of leadership. After the General Election of July 1945 ended his wartime premiership, Churchill served as Leader of the Opposition until the October 1951 General Election, when his Conservatives outpolled Labour, returning Churchill to 10 Downing Street for his second and final premiership (1951-1955). The events encompassed by these years are in many ways no less dramatic than those of the war years, including post-war recovery, onset of the Cold War, Soviet acquisition of the atomic bomb, development of the hydrogen bomb, coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, the beginning of the space age, and the unraveling of the British Empire.

The last of these events had particular poignancy for Churchill, whose early life and perspective were shaped by his service in Britain’s colonial possessions. By the time he was first elected to Parliament at the age of 25, Churchill had served as a soldier and war correspondent in British colonial campaigns on multiple continents. His first position in Government was Undersecretary of State for the Colonies and he briefly headed the Colonial Office after the First World War. During the early 1930s he broke with his own party over Indian independence. Churchill’s faith in the beneficence and destiny of the British Empire could approach obdurate strength. There was perhaps more than just characteristic wartime defiance in his 1942 utterance, “We have not entered this war for profit or expansion…Let me, however, make this clear… I have not become the King’s First Minister in order to preside over the liquidation of the British Empire. For that task, if ever it were prescribed, someone else would have to be found.” (Complete Speeches, Vol. VI, p.6695) Nevertheless, swiftly following the war India gained long-sought independence and by Churchill’s second premiership general impetus toward colonial independence was becoming inevitable.

Churchill shaking hands with Ooni of Ife Adesoji Aderemi (1889-1980) captures a poignant moment in the Empire’s twilight. The Ooni is the traditional ruler of the Yoruba people, one of Africa’s largest ethnic groups, centered in the region of British colonial Nigeria. Churchill hewed to his promise that no part of the Empire would gain independence under his watch. But soon after Churchill resigned his second and final premiership Sudan gained independence shortly followed by Ghana and Malaya in 1957. Nigerian independence followed in 1960 and Aderemi served as the first Governor of the Western Region from 1960-1962. [CBC #005572]

$300 USD

www.churchillbookcollector.com
An original press photograph of Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill and his wife, Clementine, attending the Coronation parade for Queen Elizabeth II in Churchill's Woodford constituency on 31 May 1953

This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill and his wife, Clementine, attending the Coronation parade for Queen Elizabeth II in Churchill’s Woodford constituency on 31 May 1953. The gelatin silver print on glossy photo paper measures 6 x 8.125 in (15.2 x 20.6 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is crisp and clean with only minor edge wear, some distortion to the upper edge as if it was once paperclipped, and light scuffing visible only under raking light. A scratch at Churchill’s feet appears original to the photograph’s developing out. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “Svenskt Pressfoto”, two stamps reading “Svenska Dagladets Bild-Arkiv” (Svenska Dagladets is a Stockholm daily newspaper, and bild-arkiv translates to photo archive), handwritten notations, and a typed caption reading, “SIR WINSTON [sic] CHURCHILL, accompanied by his wife, took the salute at a civic parade today, the second day of the Coronation celebrations in Woodford, his constituency.”

While shooting with King George VI in September 1948, Churchill remarked in a letter to Clementine that the King's granddaughter, Elizabeth, then two and a half, was “a character. She has an air of authority and reflectiveness astonishing in an infant.” (Personal Letters of Winston and Clementine Churchill p. 328) He could not guess that the young princess, then third in line for the throne, would become his Queen and he her first Prime Minister. Churchill continued to see early signs of promise in Elizabeth. During Churchill’s wartime premiership “In January 1944 he had proposed that when she became eighteen that April she should be given the title Elizabith, Princess of Wales.”

This photo was taken two days before the Coronation ceremony at the parade in his longtime constituency of Woodford. Newspapers reported that the Prime Minister’s appearance caused a mile-long traffic jam. On the day of the Coronation Churchill gave a speech introducing the Royal Broadcast, “Here, at the summit of our world-wide community, is the lady who we respect because she is our Queen and whom we love because she is herself.” This was not mere dutiful hyperbole. “Churchill established an early and excellent rapport with the new monarch, with whom, as all his entourage immediately spotted, he became besotted.” (Roberts, Queen and whom we love because she is herself.

The regard was mutual. It was Queen Elizabeth II who invested Churchill as a Knight Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter. The night before Churchill resigned his premiership, on 4 April 1955, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip paid Churchill his Queen and he her first Prime Minister. Churchill continued to see early signs of promise in Elizabeth. During Churchill’s wartime premiership “In January 1944 he had proposed that when she became eighteen that April she should be given the title Elizabith, Princess of Wales.”

Churchill’s time at Harrow was relatively short – he left for the Royal Military College at Sandhurst in 1872 – but the school and its most famous alumnus recalled and renewed their influence on each other. Harrow has a strong tradition of school songs; “The Harrow School Songs, sung by the houses each term and by the whole school annually, were written by masters to encourage pupils to identify with the school, its famous alumni, and Britain’s glorious past.” (Roberts, Walking With Destiny, p.24) The first Harrow Song was written by a Harrow music instructor in 1864. “They are sung in Houses every term and regularly as a whole School. Twice a year, the Harrow Association (Harrow’s Old Boys society) holds Songs in Speech Room for Old Harrovians from a particular age group.” (Harrow School)

Beginning with that 1940 visit, Churchill made it tradition to attend the Songs yearly. His 1953 visit, when this photograph was taken, was the fourteenth consecutive year. He joined in the Songs and gave a short speech to the schoolboys in attendance, saying that “listening to those boys singing all those well-remembered songs I could see myself fifty years before singing with them those tales of great deeds of great men and wandering with intensity how I could ever do something glorious for my country.” Churchill’s son “believed that “The stirring patriotism these verses evoked abided with him for ever and were the mainspring of his political conduct.”

$160 USD
Churchill, having done so much to win the war, faced frustration of his postwar plans when his wartime government fell to Labour in the General Election of July 1945. After Churchill drove to Downing Street for his second and final premiership (1951-1955), the government fell to Labour in the General Election on 26 July 1945. While history best remembers the war years, Churchill spent an additional decade at the apex of leadership. The events encompassed by these years are in many ways no less dramatic than those of the war years - the unraveling of the British Empire, the post-war recovery, the onset of the Cold War, Soviet acquisition of the atomic bomb, development of the hydrogen bomb, the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, and the beginning of the space age (to name a few).

Churchill served as Leader of the Opposition for more than six years, the October 1945 General Election, when his Conservatives ou expelled Labour, returning Churchill to to Downing Street for his second and final premiership (1951-1955). Churchill would finally and irrevocably relinquish the reins of power less than fifteen months after this image was taken, on 5 April 1965 at the age of 80. During the final decade of his long life, Churchill passed “into a living national memorial” of the time he had lived and the Nation, Empire, and free world he had served, culminating in his death on 24 January 1965 and his remarkably elaborate state funeral. In attendance were “six sovereigns, six presidents and sixteen prime ministers” as well as representatives of 112 nations. Queen Elizabeth II also attended – the first time in a century that a British monarch attended a commoner’s funeral. Before the service in St. Paul’s cathedral, Churchill’s coffin had passed through the countryside on a train. The Oxford don, Dr. A. L. Rowse, recorded “The Western sky filled with the lurid glow of winter sunset; the sun setting on the British Empire.” [CBC #005444]

$150 USD

$140 USD
This original press photo captures Winston S. Churchill at 10 Downing Street smiling in front of a battery of photographers on 27 August 1954. The gelatin silver print on heavy matte photo paper measures 10 x 8 in (25.4 x 20.3 cm). The paper is clean, crisp, and free of scratches with only some light edgewear and a crease to the lower left corner all confined to the margins, and some light cockling along the right edge. This is a beautiful photograph with sharp focus and high contrast featuring original hand-applied retouching to Churchill’s clothing that has the effect of markedly sharpening his image against the photographers in the background. This press photo was once a part of the working archive of The Daily Telegraph and the hand-applied retouching was executed by their Art Department. The verso of the photograph bears the copyright stamp of “P.A.-Reuters”, a published stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated 28 August 1954, handwritten printing notations, and a clipping of the caption as it was published reading, “SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL smiling to the crowds which gathered in Downing Street when he arrived from Chartwell for yesterday’s Cabinet meeting, the first for a month.”

Churchill, having done so much to win the war, faced frustration of his postwar plans when his wartime government fell to Labour in the General Election on 26 July 1945. While history best remembers the war years, Churchill spent an additional decade at the apex of leadership. The events encompassed by these years are in many ways no less dramatic than those of the war years - the unraveling of the British Empire, the post-war recovery, the onset of the Cold War, Soviet acquisition of the atomic bomb, development of the hydrogen bomb, the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, and the beginning of the space age (to name a few). Churchill served as Leader of the Opposition for more than six years until the October 1951 General Election, when his Conservatives outpolled Labour, returning Churchill to 10 Downing Street for his second and final premiership (1951-1955).

When this image was taken, Churchill was increasingly beset by age, infirmities, and the long-delayed ambitions of his successor, Anthony Eden. Churchill faced mounting pressure to relinquish the premiership. "In May he had proposed June, in June he had intimated July, and in July he had settled for September." (Gilbert, VIII, p.1042) On 24 August, Churchill wrote to Eden a lengthy letter, the crux of which "I have no intention of abandoning my post..." On the day this image was taken, Eden and Churchill met specifically "to discuss their exchange of letters" which had revealed the increasing strain on the bonds of their long partnership. "Two days later, in Cabinet, Churchill announced his intention not to resign." (Gilbert, VIII, pp.1052-53) Churchill would finally resign on 5 April 1955. In his last remaining decade, Churchill became "a living national memorial" of the time he had lived and the Nation, Empire, and free world he had served. A decade later, in January 1965, the Queen personally directed that Churchill lie in State in Westminster Hall and attended his elaborate service in St. Paul’s Cathedral.

$250 USD
An original press photograph of Prime Minister Sir Winston S. Churchill at Westminster Hall on his 80th birthday, 30 November 1954, receiving the controversial Graham Sutherland portrait famously loathed by its subject and destroyed by his wife

Copyright by Kemsley Picture Service, published by The Daily Telegraph
London, 1 December 1954

This original press photograph captures presentation of the controversial Sutherland portrait in Westminster Hall to Prime Minister Sir Winston S. Churchill on his 80th birthday. The gelatin silver print on matte photo paper measures 10 x 8 in (25.4 x 20.3 cm). Condition is very good, the paper crisp and clean with some light edge wear and creases to the corners confined to the generous margins. This photograph belonged to the working archives of The Daily Telegraph and features their Art Department’s original hand-applied retouching to the portrait on stage and some figures in the crowd, as well as original crop markings in the upper margin. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “Kemsley Picture Service”, a published stamp of the Daily Telegraph dated 1 DEC 1954, handwritten printing notations, and a clipping of the caption as it was published. The caption reads “A general view of the scene in the Hall after Mr. Attlee had made the presentation of the portrait.” - a bit of English understatement for the striking long view of a crowded and lit Westminster Hall with Churchill, a bevy of worthies, and the controversial portrait elevated in the distance.

Churchill’s 80th birthday on 30 November 1954 was a day of national celebration. The marquee event of the day was a televised ceremony in Westminster Hall where Churchill was presented with a portrait by Graham Sutherland, gifted to him jointly by the two Houses of Parliament. Following WWII Graham Sutherland (1903-1980) emerged as one of Britain’s foremost figures in modern art. As with many of his peers, the chaos and destruction he witnessed during the war manifested itself in his paintings through twisted and broken forms, illegible landscapes, and generally disturbing imagery. As an artist favored by both the art establishment and the British elite (he had already painted portraits of Somerset Maugham and Lord Beaverbrook), Sutherland was an ideal choice for the commission.

Sutherland began the portrait in August, working from sketches and photographs he captured during a number of sittings with the Prime Minister at Chartwell. Just 10 days before Churchill’s birthday and the portrait’s official presentation, Clementine went to see the painting. She thanked Sutherland and asked for a photograph to bring back to Churchill, whose response reached the painter the following day. Churchill expressed his opinion that the portrait would “bring an element of controversy into a function that was intended to be a matter of general agreement between the Members” and was therefore “not suitable as a presentation from both Houses of Parliament.” Dismayed, Sutherland contacted Charles Doughty, the secretary of the commissioning committee, who, acting as intermediary, was able to convince Churchill that the ceremony should continue as planned for the sake of national morale. Though he was willing to publicly acquiesce, privately he made his opinion well known. He asked his solicitor, “Is it or is it not a libel? I won’t go down in history looking like that.” To his secretary he remarked “I look like a down-and-out drunk who has been picked out of the gutter in the Strand.”

At the ceremony Churchill became once again the orator of the people who inspired his nation during its time of greatest need. This photograph captures the laugher following his opening remark, “I doubt whether any of the modern democracies has shown such a degree of kindness and generosity to a party politician who has not yet retired and may at any time be involved in controversy.” He went on to thank the Houses for their gift which he called “a remarkable example of modern art”, a designation he undoubtedly intended to be pejorative and which was understood with great laughter from the audience. After the ceremony, the portrait was stored unceremoniously in a Chartwell cellar until, with Lady Churchill’s approval, Churchill’s longtime private secretary Grace Hamblin removed and burned it. [CBC #0055372]

$200 USD

An original press photograph of Prime Minister Sir Winston S. Churchill at Westminster Hall on his 80th birthday, 30 November 1954, receiving the controversial Graham Sutherland portrait famously loathed by its subject and destroyed by his wife

Supplied by BIPPA, published by The Daily Telegraph
London, 1 December 1954

This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Sir Winston S. Churchill on his 80th birthday. The gelatin silver print on glossy photo paper measures 8 x 10.25 in (20.3 x 25.4 cm). Condition is very good minus. The paper is crisp and clean with some light edge wear, creases to the corners, original crop markings, and light scuffing visible only under raking light. This press photo once belonged to the working archive of The Daily Telegraph and features their Art Department’s original hand-applied retouching to Churchill’s clothing. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “BIPPA”, two published stamps of The Daily Telegraph dated 8 DEC 1954 and 18 JAN 1965, a used stamp of the Sunday Telegraph, handwritten printing notations, and a lengthy typed caption reading, “A number of presentations were made to SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL to mark his 80th birthday – at Westminster Hall today. He received a portrait of himself – painted by MR. GRAHAM SUTHERLAND, from the Leader of the Opposition – MR. CLEMENT ATTLEE, and MR. D.R. GRENFELL ”Farther” of the House presented an illuminated book signed by nearly all M.P.s. Lord Salisbury paid the tribute of the Lords.”

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$225 USD
An original press photograph of Prime Minister Sir Winston S. Churchill escorting Queen Elizabeth II to her car outside 10 Downing Street, with Lady Churchill and Prince Philip in the background, after the four dined together on 4 April 1955, Churchill’s last night as Prime Minister

Copyright Photographic News Agencies, published by The Daily Telegraph and Sunday Telegraph

London, 12 September 1958

Sir Winston S. Churchill was 80 when he resigned as Prime Minister on 5 April 1955. Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip paid him an unprecedented honor in dining with him at 10 Downing Street on his final night as Prime Minister. “Churchill’s after-dinner speech that evening was his last as Prime Minister.” (Gilbert, VIII, p.1126) “Your Royal Highness... I was a Cavalry Subaltern in the Reign of Your Majesty’s Great-great-Grandmother, Queen Victoria... Never have the august duties wh fall upon the British Monarchy been discharged with more devotion than in the brilliant opening of Your Majesty’s reign. We thank God... and vow ourselves anew to the sacred causes and wise and kindly way of life of wh Your Majesty is the young, gleaming champion.” Raising his glass, Churchill led his guests in toasting “The Queen” after which guests departed and the Queen was escorted to her car by Churchill and his wife – the moment when this image was captured.

After the Queen left, Jock Colville, Churchill’s Private Secretary, recorded that Churchill “sat on his bed, still wearing his Garter, Order of Merit and knee-breeches. For several minutes he did not speak... Then suddenly he... said with vehemence: “I don’t believe that Anthony [Eden] can do it.” (Colville, The Fringes of Power, pages 707-9) He was right. But perhaps he was also voicing the sentiment of his secretary, Elizabeth Gilliatt: “I had wished he could die in office.” (Gilbert, Vol, VIII, p.1125) At noon the next day, Churchill held the last Cabinet of his career, “almost fifteen years after the first Cabinet of his wartime administration, and almost fifty years since he had first sat in Cabinet.” (Gilbert, VIII, p.1122) Then Churchill went to Buckingham Palace for his last Audience with the Queen as Prime Minister and formally resigned.

The Queen wrote that day to Churchill’s wife: “Though I don’t think it was intentional that your kind invitation to dinner should be a farewell occasion, in fact it could not have been more perfectly arranged, coming just before today’s resignation. I hope you will both now have time for rest and relaxation in the sun...” Less than 10 years later, the Queen redoubled the farewell dinner honour she had bestowed on Churchill. The day after Churchill died, on 25 January 1965, the Queen sent a message to Parliament announcing: “I have directed that Sir Winston’s body shall lie in State in Westminster Hall and that thereafter the funeral service shall be held in the Cathedral Church of St. Paul.” The Queen herself was among the attending “six sovereigns, six presidents and sixteen prime ministers” and representatives of 112 nations. It was the first time in a century that a British monarch attend a commoner’s funeral. [CBC #005377]

$500 USD
An original press photograph of Prime Minister Sir Winston S. Churchill on 5 April 1955 walking out the door of 10 Downing Street as Prime Minister for the last time on the way to Buckingham Palace to submit his resignation to Queen Elizabeth II. 

Copyright Planet News Ltd. London, April 1955

This original press photograph captures Prime Minister Sir Winston S. Churchill walking out the door of 10 Downing Street as Prime Minister for the last time on 5 April 1955 on the way to submit his resignation to Queen Elizabeth II. The gelatin silver print on glossy photo paper measures 10 x 7 in (25.4 x 17.8 cm). Condition is very good, the paper clean and crisp with some loss to the upper right corner mostly confined to the margins and light scuffing visible only under raking light. This photograph belonged to the working archives of The Daily Telegraph and features their Art Department’s original hand-applied retouching to Churchill’s face and clothing, as well as original crop markings. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “Planet News Ltd.”, a received stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated APR 1955, a used stamp of the Sunday Telegraph dated 2 August 1964, handwritten printing notations, and a partially missing original typed caption reading “Sir Winston Churchill leaves No. 10 Downing Street this afternoon on his way to Buckingham Palace where it expected that he… tender his resignation as Premier… Winston had earlier presided over a Cabinet... It is believed that the Queen will... Anthony Eden either tonight or... ng to invite him to take the vacant... nister. 5th April 1955”. This photograph is housed in a removable, archival mylar sleeve within a rigid, crimson cloth folder.

The night before this image was captured, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip paid Churchill an unprecedented honor, dining with him at 10 Downing Street. Churchill’s Private Secretary, Jock Colville, recorded that after the Queen left Churchill “sat on his bed, still wearing his Garter, Order of Merit and knee-breeches. For several minutes he did not speak... Then suddenly he... said with vehemence: “I don’t believe that Anthony [Eden] can do it.” (Colville, The Fringes of Power, pages 707-9) He was right. But perhaps he was also voicing the sentiment of his secretary, Elizabeth Gilliatt: “I had wished he could die in office.” (Gilbert, Vol, VIII, p.1121) At noon the next day, the 80 year old Churchill held his last Cabinet “almost fifteen years after the first Cabinet of his wartime administration, and almost fifty years since he had first sat in Cabinet.” (Gilbert, VIII, p.1122) Then Churchill strode out the front door of 10 Downing Street – the moment captured by this image, in which staff can be seen applauding his exit – and went to Buckingham Palace to resign.

A final bit of theater lay ahead in the hours after this photo was taken. When Churchill resigned, the Queen offered him a dukedom (having earlier ascertained from Colville that he would refuse the offer – in keeping with the notion that no further dukedoms would be given to non-Royal personages). Fortunately for all, the greater temptation of ending his life in the House of Commons caused Churchill to decline. Churchill later told Colville, “I very nearly accepted, I was so moved by her beauty and her charm and the kindness with which she made this offer... But finally I remembered that I must die as I have always been – Winston Churchill.” Unaware that Colville himself had reassured the Crown that the offer would be refused, Churchill noted “...it’s an odd thing, but she seemed almost relieved.”

The ceremonial offer of the dukedom aside, the Queen’s regard for Churchill was clearly genuine. The Queen wrote that same day to Churchill’s wife: “Though I don’t think it was intentional that your kind invitation to dinner should be a farewell occasion, in fact it could not have been more perfectly arranged, coming just before today’s resignation. I hope you will both now have time for rest and relaxation in the sun...” Churchill became “a living national memorial” of the time he had lived and the Nation, Empire, and free world he had served. A decade later, the Queen personally directed that Churchill lie in State in Westminster Hall and attended his elaborate service in St. Paul’s Cathedral. [CBC #005633]

$375 USD

www.churchillbookcollector.com
An original press photograph of Sir Winston S. Churchill, attending the christening of his tenth grandchild, Rupert Soames, on 20 July 1959

Copyright Central Press Photos Ltd.
London, July 1959

This original press photograph captures Sir Winston S. Churchill in the twilight of his life and career, attending the 20 July 1959 christening of his tenth grandchild, Rupert Soames, son of Winston's youngest daughter, Mary. The gelatin silver print on heavy matte photo paper measures 10 x 8 in (25.4 x 20.3 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is clean, crisp, and free of scratches with some light edge wear confined to the margins. This press photo once belonged to the working archive of The Daily Telegraph, whose Art Department applied crop markings in the photograph's margins, as well as the handwritten margin notation "Pic No 20". The verso bears the copyright stamp of "Central Press Photos Ltd.", a received stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated JUL 1959, a second stamp reading 15 JAN 1960, handwritten printing notations, and the remnants of an original typed caption.

Mid-year 1959 found the 84-year old Churchill spending time at Chartwell, Marrakech, the races at Ascot, and, two days after this image was captured, boarding the yacht of his friend, Aristotle Onassis, for a cruise in Greek and Turkish waters. Four years earlier Churchill had irrevocably relinquished the reins of power when he resigned his second and final premiership on 5 April 1955 at the age of 80.

During the last decade of his long life, Churchill passed “into a living national memorial” of the time he had lived and the Nation, Empire, and free world he had served, culminating in his death on 24 January 1965 and his remarkably elaborate state funeral. In attendance were “six sovereigns, six presidents and sixteen prime ministers” as well as representatives of 112 nations. Queen Elizabeth II also attended – the first time in a century that a British monarch attended a commoner’s funeral. Before the service in St. Paul’s Cathedral, Churchill’s coffin had passed through the countryside on a train. The Oxford don, Dr. A. L. Rowse, recorded “The Western sky filled with the lurid glow of winter sunset; the sun setting on the British Empire.” [CBC #005385]

$120 USD

THE OLD WARRIOR - An original press photograph of Sir Winston S. Churchill on 6 October 1959 campaigning for the 1959 General Election, the last of his long political career

P.A.-Reuter
London, October 1959

This original press photograph captures Winston S. Churchill on 6 October 1959 campaigning for his last General Election. The gelatin silver print on heavy matte photo paper measures 10 x 8 in (25.4 x 20.3 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is clean, crisp, and free of scratches with some light edge wear and minor cockling to the top edge. This press photo once belonged to the working archive of The Daily Telegraph. The verso bears the copyright stamp of "P.A.-Reuter", a received stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated OCT 1959, and a typed caption titled, “THE OLD WARRIOR”. The caption reads, “All his life he’s been a fighter, now at 84, SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL shows by the set of his jaw and the tilt of his hat that he’s still ready to do battle. This characteristic study was made to-day (Tuesday) when he toured Woodford, Essex, on a General Election campaign. Sir Winston represented the constituency as a Conservative in the last Parliament and hopes to retain the seat in Thursday’s ballot. Oct 6th, 1959.”

The 1959 General Election was the sixteenth General Election in which Churchill had participated since his first parliamentary victory in 1900 during the reign of Queen Victoria. Four and a half years earlier Churchill had irrevocably relinquished the reins of power when he resigned his second and final premiership on 5 April 1955 at the age of 80. Nonetheless, Churchill had not relinquished the last vestige of his long political life - his seat in Parliament. Churchill experienced a decisive victory in his 1959 re-election for Woodford; his vote tally was nearly two-and-a-half times that of his challenger. Woodford proved both the longest and last served constituency of Churchill’s epic political career. In the 1924 General Election, Churchill stood successfully for Epping. In 1945, Epping was subdivided and Churchill stood for the new (and politically more tenable) Woodford Division. Woodford would subsequently re-elect Churchill in 1955 and 1959 and he would serve Woodford as M.P. until October 1964.

During the final decade of his long life, Churchill passed “into a living national memorial” of the time he had lived and the Nation, Empire, and free world he had served, culminating in his death on 24 January 1965 and his remarkably elaborate state funeral. In attendance were “six sovereigns, six presidents and sixteen prime ministers” as well as representatives of 112 nations. Queen Elizabeth II also attended – the first time in a century that a British monarch attended a commoner’s funeral. Before the service in St. Paul’s Cathedral, Churchill’s coffin had passed through the countryside on a train. The Oxford don, Dr. A. L. Rowse, recorded “The Western sky filled with the lurid glow of winter sunset; the sun setting on the British Empire.” [CBC #005380]

$160 USD
An original press photograph of Sir Winston S. Churchill's dog Rufus II on the steps of Chartwell in July 1962 “waiting for his master’s homecoming” during Churchill’s hospital convalescence. This original press photograph captures Sir Winston S. Churchill’s poodle, Rufus II, on the steps of Chartwell in July 1962 “waiting for his master’s homecoming” during Churchill’s hospital convalescence. The gelatin silver print on heavy glossy photo paper measures 11.75 x 8.75 in (29.8 x 22.2 cm). Condition is very good. The paper is clean and crisp with only minor edge wear, original crop markings, and some light scuffing visible only under raking light. This a beautiful photograph with crisp focus and good contrast. This press photo was once a part of the working archive of The Daily Telegraph and bears their Art Department’s original, hand-applied retouching to Rufus’s face. The verso bears the copyright stamp of “Keystone Press Agency Ltd.”, a published stamp of The Daily Telegraph dated 17 AUG 1962, a used stamp of the Sunday Telegraph dated 15 JUL 1962, a stamp reading “EARLY PAGE”, numerous handwritten printing notations, remnants of a typed caption, and a clipping of the caption as it was published reading, “SITTING ON THE STEPS at Chartwell, Sir Winston Churchill’s poodle Rufus waits patiently for his master’s homecoming.”

Churchill carried through his life an English affinity for members of the animal kingdom. In addition to his well documented, lifelong love of horses, Churchill kept a variety of animals at Chartwell including fish, pigs, swans, and a collection of live butterflies. During the war he was well aware of propagandistic uses of animals for national morale such as his photo-op with Rora, the lion that had been gifted to him, and his attention to sustaining the Barbary macaques on Gibraltar. Most dear to him, however, were the dogs and cats he kept during and after the war. His first dog was a brown poodle named Rufus whose death by car in 1947 devastated Churchill to the point that he reportedly refused to ever speak again to the maid who let him off the leash. Rufus was replaced with Rufus II, a gift of Churchill’s editor Walter Graebner to whom he once quipped “No one should not know the companionship of a dog.” (Graebner, My Dear Mr. Churchill, p. 100)

For the next decade and a half Rufus was Churchill’s constant companion. He slept on his master’s bed, ate with the family, sat on Churchill’s lap for film nights at Chartwell, and, during Churchill’s second premiership, made himself at home at 10 Downing Street. This photograph shows Rufus on the steps of Chartwell waiting for his master’s return from convalescing at Middlesex Hospital following his fall in Monte Carlo and dramatic return to England via RAF Comet on the orders of Prime Minister Harold Macmillan. Sadly Rufus passed away on 17 August, five days before Churchill’s return from the hospital. Churchill was devastated; newspapers reported Churchill’s response to his dog’s passing, “He was my closest confidant. Rufus heard everything.” (CBC #003338)

$250 USD

This catalogue was a terrible idea.

When we initially acquired an enormous trove of original press photos, a longtime friend and customer gave us sound business advice:

“Why don’t you market the whole pile as a single archive to an institution or some wealthy customer?”

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“Won’t it take you forever to catalogue each of the photos individually?

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Catalogues take a lot of time and resources to produce. Images, writing, layout, and editing demand copious hours and attention. Design and print costs are always worse than we think they’ll be – which is already bad enough. It’s a lot like producing a book - but with absolutely no hope that Steven Spielberg will buy your movie rights, the Pulitzer folks will award a prize, or you’ll rake in the big bucks for years to come as you linger on The New York Times bestseller list.

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Whether or not you find an image to buy in this catalogue, we hope you enjoy regarding and reading about the images we’ve selected.

Oh, and one more thing – if you find any errors or typos, please keep them to yourself!

Cheers!

Churchill Book Collector

Catalogue design by: Margueritte Peterson | mdpcreates@gmail.com
“DON’T FEINT - IT’S LEFT v RIGHT”
Leader of the Opposition Winston Churchill and Prime Minister Clement Attlee edited to create the appearance of the two as pugilists contesting the premiership