



100 YEARS

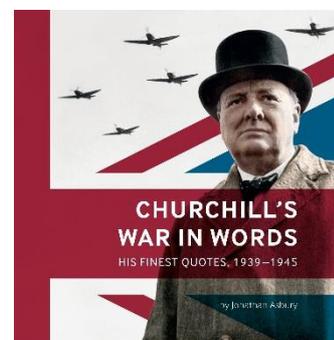
## ***Churchill's War in Words: His Finest Quotes, 1939–1945***

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£9.99

ISBN 978-1-904897-36-1

**New book brings to life the atmosphere and events of the Second World War through the words of Winston Churchill and his contemporaries**



*Churchill's War in Words* transports the reader back to the Second World War through a selection of some of the most poignant and powerful words delivered during the years 1939–1945. Featuring Winston Churchill's most famous quotes – many that still have resonance today – the book also includes previously unpublished perspectives on the wartime leader which have been discovered in IWM's archives.

Presented in chronological order and accompanied by 100 images, *Churchill's War in Words* helps readers understand year-by-year how the war evolved and how it was talked about both in public and in private. As well as illustrating the full force of Churchill's inspirational oratory, quotes from family, friends, politicians, allies and enemies offer a more nuanced picture of the wartime Prime Minister.

Highlights include extracts from Churchill's 'fighting on the beaches' speech (4 June 1940) published alongside the reaction of a contemporary who described it as 'the speech of a thousand years'. Also featured is Churchill's now iconic 'Finest Hour' speech (18 June 1940) alongside criticism from a fellow politician who said 'I wasn't very impressed, but I suppose that the nation will be.'

In addition to extracts that shed light on Churchill's wartime leadership, the book also features lighter moments which reveal more private aspects of his life and personality. In a diary entry of 26 March 1943, General Sir Alan Brooke, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, describes how on one occasion the Prime Minister received him 'looking like a Roman centurion with nothing on except a large bath towel draped around him!' He goes on to say that Churchill looked 'rather like "Humpty Dumpty", with a large body and small thin legs'

Another unexpected moment in the book is a description of Winston Churchill dancing and singing "lustily" on Christmas Day 1940, the year of Britain's 'darkest hour'. Churchill's Private Secretary goes on to describe how, in spite of these festivities, he found the Prime Minister as 'brisk as ever' the next day.

### **Jonathan Asbury, author, *Churchill's War in Words* says**

*"In this book I hope to take readers back in time to glimpse the fear, uncertainty, determination and courage that inspired some of the most famous lines ever delivered. Alongside these iconic quotes, extracts from the diaries and letters of colleagues, family, friends and ordinary citizens – some previously unpublished – provide insights into the impact of Churchill's oratory and the personality of the man behind the words. I hope readers will find the book surprising, inspiring, thought-provoking and occasionally quite amusing."*

Quotations in the book are taken from a range of different media, including speeches, articles, letters, secret memos and diaries. Many of the previously unpublished quotes come from ordinary men and women, rather than high-ranking military and political figures, to offer readers fresh and varied contemporary perspectives on Britain's wartime leader.

**Ends**

## Notes to editors

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*NB. PDF and print copies of the book can be requested from the Press Office (print copies will be limited). Please note that use of all quotes included in the book have been cleared for reproduction in the book only. Therefore, the decision and responsibility to publish any quotes in the press sits with each journalist and publication, as does any rights clearance required to reproduce lengthy extracts in press articles.*

### About the author

Jonathan Asbury is the author of *Secrets of Churchill's War Rooms* as well as the official Churchill War Rooms guidebook. He is a graduate of Churchill College, Cambridge – founded in honour of the wartime Prime Minister – and has enjoyed a life-long fascination with the way that the Second World War was won.

### IWM

IWM (Imperial War Museums) tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War.

Our unique collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people, places, ideas and events. Using these, we tell vivid personal stories and create powerful physical experiences across our five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force. We challenge people to look at conflict from different perspectives, enriching their understanding of the causes, course and consequences of war and its impact on people's lives.

IWM's five branches which attract over 2 million visitors each year are **IWM London**, IWM's flagship branch that recently transformed with new, permanent and free First World War Galleries alongside new displays across the iconic Atrium to mark the Centenary of the First World War; **IWM North**, housed in an iconic award-winning building designed by Daniel Libeskind; **IWM Duxford**, a world renowned aviation museum and Britain's best preserved wartime airfield; **Churchill War Rooms**, housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall; and the Second World War cruiser **HMS Belfast**.

### Churchill War Rooms

Churchill War Rooms was the secret underground headquarters where Winston Churchill and his team directed the course of the Second World War. We show visitors where the staff lived and worked, explain how the decisions made here changed the course of history and reveal Churchill himself and his role in British history.

Regular opening hours: 9.30am – 6pm. Last admission 5pm.

Closed 24 – 26 December

Admission\*: £19 Adults; £15.20 Concessions (Senior, Student, Disabled); £9.50 Child (5- 16); Free Child (under 5); Family tickets available; Special rates for groups of ten plus.

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\* Please note entry prices include a voluntary donation, making a valuable contribution to the care and conservation of this historic site

### **IWM Centenary**

2017 marks Imperial War Museums (IWM) centenary. IWM was established while the First World War was still being fought. Since its establishment people have entrusted IWM with their stories of war from 1917 to the present day, in the knowledge it will continue to share these stories with future generations. IWM will commemorate its 100 years through a centenary of stories from its rich collections across its five branches (IWM London, IWM North, IWM Duxford, Churchill War Rooms and HMS *Belfast*).



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### **First World War Centenary**

2014 – 2018 marks the centenary of the First World War, a landmark anniversary for Britain and the world. IWM is marking the centenary by leading a vibrant, four year programme of cultural activities across the world. For more information visit [www.1914.org](http://www.1914.org)

