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# THE CHURCHILLIAN

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Churchill Society of Tennessee

September 2019

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## Churchill's Artist Holiday

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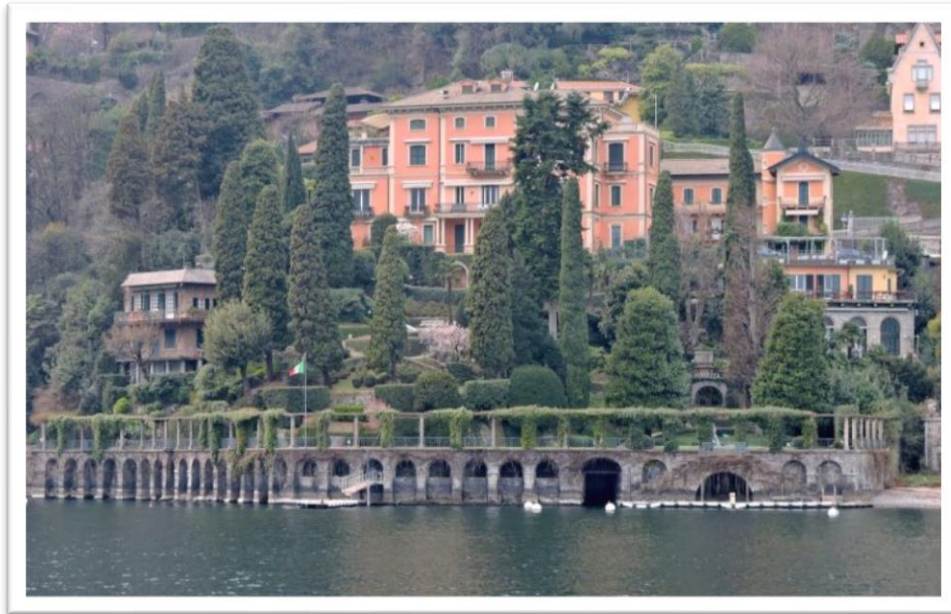
### Upcoming Events:

September 28 - Annual CSOT Banquet and Brunch at the Brentwood Country Club

September 28 - AGM at the Brentwood Country Club after brunch.

## *Churchill's Artist Holiday*

### *Lake Como, 1945*



*Villa Le Rose, Lake Como ©photo Elios Amati*

It is late summer 1945. At the age of 70, Winston Churchill is war weary. Earlier in July he lost his premiership to Clement Attlee in the general election. Churchill needs a holiday. So... where does a man who can vacation anywhere in the world choose to go? Well if he appreciates natural beauty, magnificent villas, wonderful food and enjoys picking up a paint brush, Lake Como will do nicely. From the days of the Roman Emperors and Pliny the younger, Lake Como was known for its relaxing and restorative properties.

His wife Clementine is to remain behind in London. She will oversee the move from their temporary accommodations in Claridges to their new home at 28 Hyde Park Gate in Kensington. At this point, Winston and Clemmie are both exhausted and as their daughter Mary notes, "*she was the more fortunate of the two for Winston, bereft of office - temporarily - of occupation, there was a dismal void.*"<sup>1</sup>

On September 2, 1945 Winston Churchill departs Northolt Aerodrome, west of London, aboard a Douglas C-47 Dakota generously provided by his longtime friend Field Marshal Harold Alexander (Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean). He is accompanied by his daughter Sarah (on leave from WAAF), Lord Moran his doctor, a secretary, a detective and his valet Frank Sawyers. Lord Moran recorded the following description of the flight in his diary. "*All the time Winston remained buried in a printed copy of the minutes which for five years he had sent out month by month to the Chiefs of Staff and the Cabinet. Even during luncheon, he went on reading, only taking his eyes off the script to light a cigar.*"<sup>2</sup> Churchill's mind was apparently still held captive by the war.

Flying at 200 mph the Dakota, carrying Churchill and company, arrives in Milan five and a half hours later. They then drive the remaining 50 miles to Lake Como by car.

<sup>1</sup> Mary Soames, *Winston Churchill His Life as a Painter*, Houghton Mifflin, Boston 1990: p 140

<sup>2</sup> Lord Moran, *Churchill Taken from the Diaries of Lord Moran*, Houghton Mifflin, Boston 1966: pp 313- 314



*RAF Douglas C-47 Dakota*

Churchill settles into Field Marshal Alexander's Villa Le Rose in the small, picturesque village of Moltrasio on Lake Como. Alex, as the Churchill family call him, has graciously allowed them the use of his charming villa on the lake for the next couple of weeks.

The next day Winston wrote to Clementine, describing their abode:

*My darling Clemmie,*

*This is really one of the most pleasant and delectable places I have ever struck. It is a small palace almost entirely constructed of marble inside. It abuts on the lake with bathing steps reached by a lift. It is of course completely modernized, and must have been finished just before the War, by one of Mussolini's rich commercants who have fled, whither it is not known...Every conceivable arrangement has been made for our pleasure and convenience. Sarah and I have magnificent rooms covering a whole floor, with large marble baths and floods of hot and cold water...the weather is delightful, being bright and warm with cool breezes. Yesterday we motored over the mountains to Lake Lugano, where I found quite a good subject for a picture. I made a good beginning and hope to go back there tomorrow, missing one day. I have spotted another place for this afternoon. These lakeshore subjects run a great risk of degenerating into 'chocolate box', even if successfully executed.*

To this dictated letter, he added in his own hand:

*I have been thinking a lot about you. I do hope you will not let the work of moving in to these 2 houses wear you down.*

*Please take plenty of rest.*

*With fondest love.*

*Your devoted husband*  
W<sup>3</sup>

They were indeed splendidly installed, and Winston's large marble bathroom did double duty as a studio. To make sure all the arrangements were perfect, and also for company, Field Marshal Alexander had ordained that two young officers – John Ogier and Tim Rogers, both from Winston's old regiment the 4<sup>th</sup> Hussars – should act as his ADCs; it was a thoughtful gesture. Winston warmed instantly to these gallant young men who had 'done' the war, and Sarah described how 'Night after night Charles [Moran] and I would sit back while the boys fought the battles from Omdurman to Alamein.'

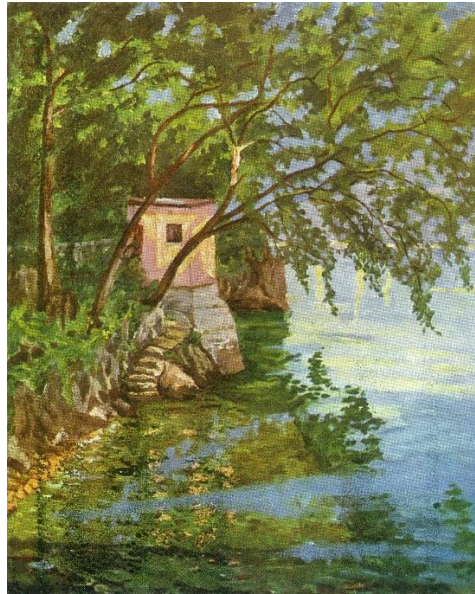
<sup>3</sup> Spencer-Churchill papers. Quoted in Gilbert, *Churchill VIII*, p134

The very next day after his arrival, Sarah finds him painting on the lakeside. Lord Moran reported that his patient was so impressed by the views and the scenery of Lake Como that he painted 5 hours without a break.

Sarah was the best of correspondents, keeping her mother and all of us at home supplied with news of the holiday. Her first letter recalled that it was the anniversary of the declaration of war:

*Just six years ago today...I wish you were here with us. I was so distressed to see you so unhappy and tired when we left and so was he. We never see a lovely sight that he doesn't say 'I wish your mother were here.'*

*The days are filled with painting and picnics. The weather is perfect...We shall be very happy here. Now at last one can sit in the sun without the thought of war sitting beside one.*<sup>4</sup>



*Lakeside at Lake Como, September 1945*  
*Now hanging at Chartwell House, Westerham, Kent*

On September 7, Field Marshal Alexander pays a visit and accompanies Winston on a joint painting expedition. Churchill has found a charming scene of willows overhanging and reflecting off the lake and a little yellow building. Both men are painters and they have more to talk about other than past campaigns, and they spend pleasant hours painting together.

Churchill's and Alexander's "Lakeside at Lake Como" now both hang side by side at Chartwell.

Alexander had the following recollection about Churchill's painting:

*It was a tremendous business when he painted. First there was an enormous easel, the sort that portrait painters have in their studios. Then there was a small table with whisky and cigars. Then there were the paints. He loved colours and used far too many. That's why his paintings are so crude. He couldn't resist using all of the colours on his palette.*

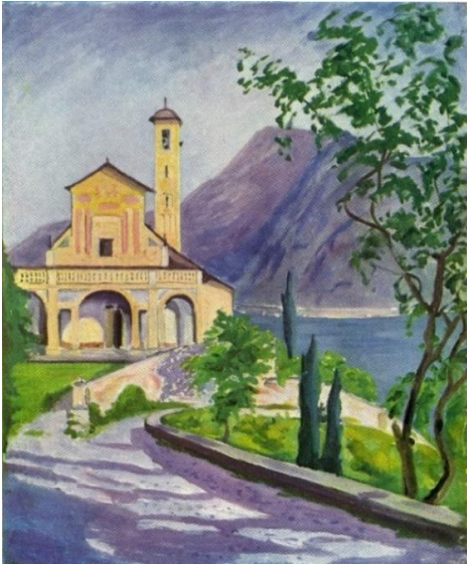
Churchill had no illusion about his paintings, Alexander added.

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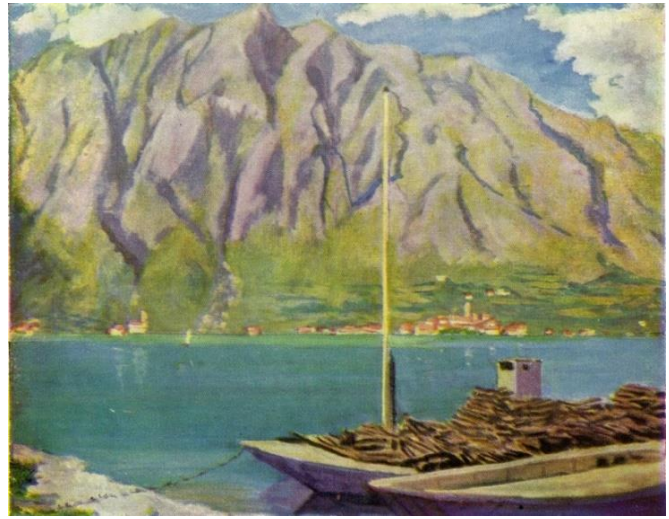
<sup>4</sup> Mary Soames, *Winston Churchill His Life as a Painter*, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston 1990, pp. 140-142



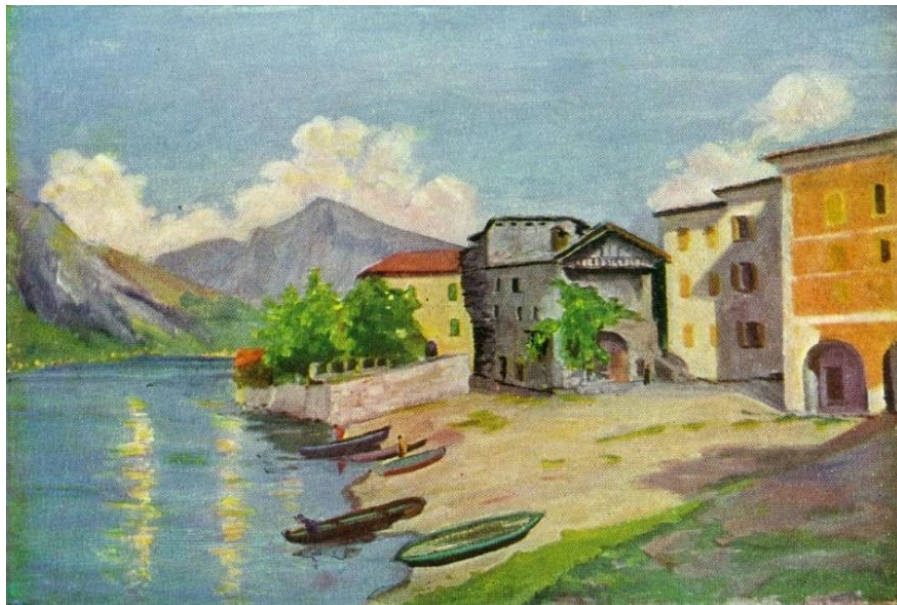
He once told me: “Now don’t go out and imagine you are going to paint a masterpiece, because you won’t. Go out and paint for the fun and enjoyment of it.” That’s what he did.<sup>5</sup>



*Chiesa di San Sisinnio, Argegno, Como - September 1945*



*Lake Lugano - September 1945*



*Lake Lugano - September 1945*

Churchill also spent time at Lake Lugano just a short drive over the mountains northeast of Moltrasio. There he painted several canvases in his typically colorful style. At this moment in time, Winston undoubtedly enjoyed wielding a paint brush as much as the pen. Perhaps more...

<sup>5</sup> Recollections of Field Marshal Lord Alexander of Tunis, in conversation with Martin Gilbert. Gilbert, *Churchill VIII*, p 142

Although Alexander judged Churchill's paints "crude", Sarah found their styles similar; on 8 September she wrote to her mother about them:

*Darling Mummie,*

*Time flies too quickly, we have already been here a week. He is looking tremendously well and is much happier with every lovely picture and they are really lovely. Care slips away, we've had no newspapers or letters for five days, he was completely resigned about the newspapers, not so about the letters. Thank goodness Alex arrived and brought a lovely one from you. Alex can stay only one day which is very sad but long enough to do one lovely picture. They painted the same scene. It's amazing how their styles are very similar, and the painting and conversation has been a delight.<sup>6</sup>*

The painting aspect of Churchill's holiday is going from success to success. On his daughter Mary's birthday Churchill wrote to her. *Here it is sunshine & calm. I paint all day & every day & have banished care & disillusionment to the shades. Alex came & painted too. He is v[er]y good. I have 3 nice pictures so far, & am now off to seek for another...<sup>7</sup>*

Eventually, with nine paintings completed and to return home with Sarah, this portion of Churchill's holiday is coming to an end. Lord Moran must return to his medical practice and Sarah's leave is just about over. It is time to leave Villa Le Rose which had proven to be a restorative haven for Winston during his much-needed rest. The remaining party including the two young officers, Sawyers and his detective set out with Winston on their next adventure. Their new destination is the Villa Pirelli near Genoa. The great man is now rejuvenated. Lake Como had done its job of providing the perfect location for an artist's holiday.

Later Sarah Churchill was to write: "*Painting means complete distraction for him. He said that nothing occupies the spirit stronger, without exhausting the body.*"<sup>8</sup>

This sentiment is well placed as we will see in the next article. Churchill's visit to Lake Como was not without incident.

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<sup>6</sup> Sarah Churchill to CSC, 8 September 1945. Mary Soames Papers; Sarah Churchill, *A Thread in the Tapestry*, pp 94-95

<sup>7</sup> WCS to Mary Soames 10 September 1945 Mary Soames Papers, Gilbert, Churchill VIII, p. 144

<sup>8</sup> Sarah Churchill to CSC, 3 September 1945. Spencer-Churchill papers; Sarah Churchill, *A Thread in the Tapestry*, p. 91

## Winston Churchill develops an inguinal hernia in September 1945 while holidaying on Lake Como

*Allister Vale MD and John Scadding OBE MD*

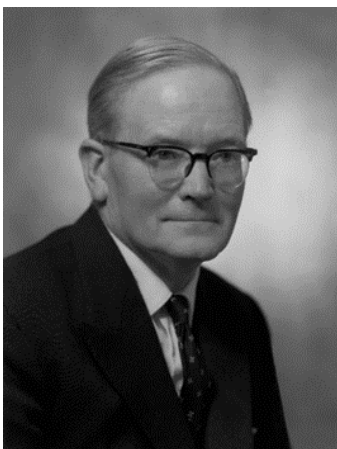
At the General Election in 1945, the Conservatives (213 seats) were defeated heavily by Labour (393 seats), though Winston Churchill retained his seat at Woodford with a majority of 17,000 over his one opponent. He demitted office as Prime Minister on the evening of 26 July 1945. The Second World War ended on 14 August 1945 when Japan accepted the Allied terms.

On the morning of 2 September 1945, Churchill flew from London to Milan in Field Marshal Alexander's Dakota, a flight of five and a half hours, for a working holiday.<sup>1</sup> Churchill was to stay as Alexander's guest in a villa on Lake Como. Villa le Rose, Moltrasio, has been identified as the most likely location, but Brigadier Edwards (see below) states he went to Villa d'Este, another villa on the shore of Lake Como and now a luxury hotel, to give his surgical opinion. Churchill was accompanied by his daughter Sarah, Lord Moran his personal physician, Elizabeth Leighton his secretary, Sgt Davies his detective, and his valet, Frank Sawyers.

On the morning of 3 September 1945, Churchill sent for Moran: "He had discovered a swelling in his groin. He was keyed up and waited anxiously while I made my examination. When I told him he was ruptured, he seemed relieved it wasn't anything worse, but he immediately fired at me a stream of questions. Was an operation necessary? Would it be strangulated? Would it get worse? How long would it be before he got used to a truss? Why should he get a rupture at his age, when he hardly took exercise?"<sup>2</sup>

After the examination, Churchill went painting. The first picture was a success, according to Sarah Churchill – "a luminous lake and boats, backed by beetling Cragg, with a miniature toy village caught in the sunlight at its foot."<sup>3</sup>

On 3 September 1945 Brigadier Harold Edwards, the consulting surgeon for the Army in Italy, received a telephone call from Moran asking him to come to Como urgently to see Churchill. "A Fairchild plane was put at my disposal. We reached Milan early afternoon on the 4th, having refuelled in Rome. There I was met and taken to Villa d'Este, a beautiful house on the shore of Lake Como. The journey had taken seven hours and throughout it I had been in a fever heat of anxiety as to what I might find. I was under the impression that Churchill was seriously ill. Arrived at the house I was met by Lord Moran who told me that Churchill was out painting. What a relief! What had happened was that Churchill had suddenly developed an inguinal hernia."<sup>4</sup>



*Brigadier Harold Edwards CBE*  
© NPG 170454

Edwards recorded that Churchill "had just returned from a painting expedition, and when I entered his large bedroom in the villa, he was lying on his bed, dressed in his famous blue battle suit which later I saw to be finely cut and of nice soft material. I noted (and was thereby able to answer a question I had often asked myself) that his eyebrows were rusty red, and his remaining hair was that non-descript colour between ginger and grey. His pale blue eyes were tired, and that famous chin, and that nose, and straight mouth (inclining from the horizontal) made up the portrait one had seen so often in print and in colour."<sup>4</sup>

"He got up from the bed to shake hands and to thank me for coming, looking directly into my eyes, but not smiling. He started to answer a few questions about himself, but he was far more interested in showing Lord Moran and me the results of his labours with the brush. There were two canvases, quite large, perhaps 4 ft x 3 ft. Both were in watercolour – one which was near completion, painted at Lake Lugano and one here at Como. The latter had been done today at a three hours sitting. It seemed a lot of painting for three hours."<sup>4</sup>

"Not being anything of the painter, I could not dare be critical, and as I was averse to fulsome praise, I said very little, or turned his questions as to my opinion of the mountains, or the water, with evasive answers. I reminded him of the article he wrote in the *Strand Magazine* perhaps 20 years ago which he wrote after he first tried his hand at painting. He then had said that painting up to a reasonable standard was easier than he had imagined." <sup>4</sup>

"Finally, after perhaps 20 minutes, we returned to the physical infirmity of Winston Churchill – and this time to some purpose. He was very patient with my examination, and having finished it, and made by diagnosis, I was subjected to a cross examination – which was surely a search for knowledge and performed in a kindly way – which for detail and directness would have done credit to a member of the Court of Examiners [of the Royal College of Surgeons of England]. It was then that I had an insight into that extraordinary brain (I had much more reason later in the evening to admire it more fully). It was fortunate for me that I knew the subject well." <sup>4</sup>

"When we had finished, he twice thanked me for my kindness in coming to see him. I was quite speechless the second time. I felt I owed him so much (as do so many thousands, nay millions) and as he must have endured so much sycophantism I was fearful lest anything I said should be mistaken by him for anything having the slightest flavour of that detestable trait. But thinking back I need not have worried, for anything I said would have been too sincere to have been mistaken for anything but what I really felt: and now he is a private gentleman, axes had no grindstone on which to sharpen." <sup>4</sup>

Edwards remained at the villa for four days. "Dinner after dinner was to me wholly entertaining. I was fascinated by three things – what he said, how he said it, and his changes of expression." <sup>4</sup> A detailed record of these conversations was provided by Edwards to Gilbert and was published in *Never Despair*. <sup>1</sup>

On 5 September 1945 Churchill wrote to his wife, Clementine, from Lake Como, explaining what had happened. "Darling a tiresome thing has happened to me. When I was v[er]y young, I ruptured myself & had to wear a truss. I left it off because I went to Harrow & have managed 60 years of rough-and-tumble. Now however in the last 10 days it has come back. There is no pain, but I have had to be fitted w[ith] a truss wh[ich] I shall have to wear when not in bed for the rest of my life – Charles [Lord Moran] got a military surgeon from Rome who flew & has been w[ith] us for the last 3 days." <sup>5</sup>

Churchill wrote again to Clementine on 8 September: "I have now four pictures, three of them large, in an advanced state, and I honestly think they are better than any I have painted so far...Charles [Moran] plays golf most days...His devoted care of me is most touching..." <sup>5</sup>

Mrs Churchill responded on 11 September 1945: "My darling I'm so distressed about the truss – I hope it is comfortable & does not worry you. Did you strain yourself or stretch unduly – And will you now be able to do your exercises which are so potent a preventative of indigestion?" <sup>5</sup>

Edwards's son, Professor AWF Edwards FRS, has recorded that after his father had "advised Churchill against a hernia operation he went to Milan with his army technician to get a truss made. They found a surgical outfitter opposite the Cathedral and tried to order a truss for delivery the next morning. The owner said it that was quite impossible. Father (a Brigadier) explained that unfortunately, he would therefore have to commandeer the shop so that his technician could make the truss himself. Ah, said the owner, is it for the famous man staying on Lake Como? Then it will be ready first thing in the morning". <sup>4</sup>

Edwards wrote to Churchill on 15 September 1945: "...I hope you are not too uncomfortable. Thank you for your gracious hospitality at the Villa. It was a wonderful experience for me." <sup>6</sup> Churchill responded on 2 November 1945: "Thank you so much for your letter of September 15. It seems a long time ago that I was basking in the sunshine of the Riviera, but I am toiling on with treatment. It was good of you to write." <sup>7</sup>



On 12 June 1947 following the announcement of Churchill's operation, Edwards wrote to Churchill to wish him a "speedy recovery from operation, with a minimum of discomfort" and explained that in 1945 the astute Italian instrument maker gathered from my rank, and insistence I made about urgency, that the patient was of supreme importance-and finally asked outright if the truss was for you. Just imagine the glory that would have been his -'instrument maker to Mr Winston Churchill' in large print over his door! But I managed, not without some difficulty, to convince him that he was mistaken."<sup>8</sup>

*The whole story is told in Vale JA and Scadding JW. Winston Churchill: inguinal hernia repair on 11 June 1947. J R Soc Med 2019; 112: 140-152.*

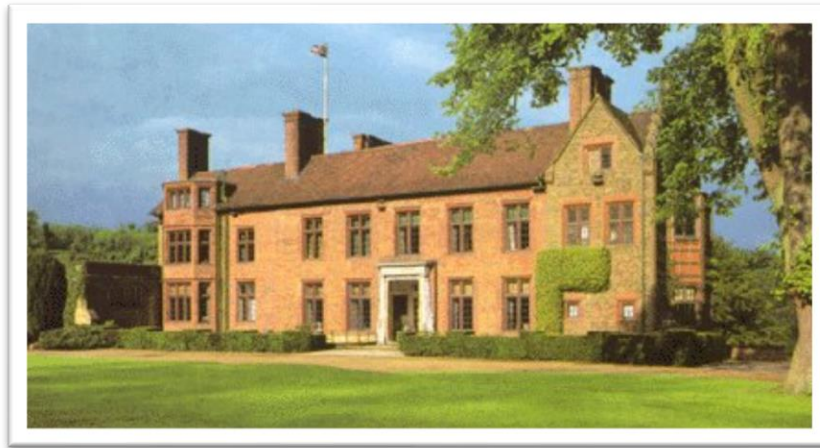
### Acknowledgement

We are most grateful to Professor AWF Edwards FRS, Life Fellow of Gonville & Caius, University of Cambridge for granting permission to include quotations from his father's correspondence.

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6. Churchill Archives Centre, Churchill College, Cambridge. CHUR 2/141A-B/16. Letter from Mr Harold Edwards FRCS to Mr Winston Churchill, 15 September 1945.
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## News from Abroad – ICS (UK) Chartwell Branch



*Chartwell House, Westerham, Kent, England*

Dear Churchillian Readers,

Thank you, Jim, for giving me the opportunity to send you the news from Chartwell and our ICS (UK) Chartwell Branch.

First of all, news about our Chartwell Branch. We have a healthy membership of 130 members, many who are also Chartwell volunteers and others who are ICS (UK) members. As well as meeting socially, we aim to educate ourselves in the life and legacy of Sir Winston Churchill.

In May we were delighted to welcome Allen Packwood, the Director of the Churchill Archive Centre who gave us an excellent talk about his recent publication *How Churchill Waged War*.



*Allen Packwood at the "Churchill" podium, Chartwell*

In June we held the final of the Public Speaking Competition. This is an annual event and run by the ICS (UK) in conjunction with the National Trust. Our Chartwell Branch also give a donation to this event as one of our aims is to promote Sir Winston's life and legacy to young people. Students come to Chartwell earlier in the year for a workshop day when they attend sessions to teach them the art of composing and delivering a short speech on a chosen subject worked around one of Sir Winston Churchill's quotes. Every year we are amazed at the standard and competence of the students aged between 16 and 18 years old.

Our next event in September will be an outing to Bletchley Park, the home of codebreaking in WWII, where many people worked and helped in a great way to change the outcome of the war.

Chartwell is extremely busy as we are at the height of our open house season. It is wonderful to welcome visitors of all ages, from a tiny baby of 4 weeks old to a lovely lady who proudly told us she was 94 years old. Chartwell continues to be a popular place for visitors from all parts of the world.

We always find our visitor numbers swell when a film or television programme is screened. Although broadcast in August it was during February, on our one snowy day, a television film crew arrived at Chartwell to record *Secrets of the National Trust* presented by Alan Titchmarsh. I was privileged to be at Chartwell on that day, which was fun to see what goes on behind the scenes. Allen Packwood came from Cambridge with some very precious original letters written by Sir Winston, and Celia Sandys was interviewed by Alan Titchmarsh and told some of the stories about her Grandfather, Grandmother and family while they were living at Chartwell. Katherine Carter, our own Chartwell Project Curator and Collections Manager guided Alan Titchmarsh to some of the places where the public are not allowed, such as the air raid shelter and our Muniment Room, where more precious objects belonging to the family are stored. Alan was particularly interested in seeing one of Sir Winston's spotted bow ties, and that it was tied, ready to wear. I was interested to see a practical use of a drone for filming the panoramic views, gone are the days when these scenes were filmed with a helicopter!

Amongst our special visitors we were pleased at the beginning of June to meet up with a group from the Churchill Society of Calgary. They were visiting the Churchill sites in the UK before travelling to France for the D Day commemorations.



*The Churchill Society of Calgary visits Chartwell*

Last weekend we were delighted to be visited by James, the Duke of Marlborough and his family. They were accompanied By Randolph and Catherine Churchill and their family. They all enjoyed a visit to the house, studio and the woodland adventure area. It was the first time the Duke had visited Chartwell and he was so interested to see the home and estate that Sir Winston so loved.



*The Duke of Marlborough and Randolph Churchill walking around the Chartwell estate. August 2019*



*James the 12th Duke of Marlborough and Randolph Churchill (our CSOT Patron) in the Marlborough Pavilion at Chartwell. August 2019  
Photographs by kind permission of Catherine Churchill.*

My very best wishes to you all.

Beryl Nicholson  
Chairman of the ICS (UK) Chartwell Branch.

The Churchillian wishes to extend special thanks to Beryl Nicholson for sharing this wonderful update from Chartwell and to Catherine Churchill for her most gracious sharing of these photos of the Duke of Marlborough and Randolph Churchill.



## United States of Europe

### Winston Churchill

The following speech was delivered by Winston Church at the University of Zurich on September 19, 1946. His concept of a new future for Europe is best explained in his own words.



I wish to speak about the tragedy of Europe, this noble continent, the home of all the great parent races of the Western world, the foundation of Christian faith and ethics, the origin of most of the culture, arts, philosophy and science both of ancient and modern times. If Europe were once united in the sharing of its common inheritance there would be no limit to the happiness, prosperity and glory which its 300 million or 400 million people would enjoy. Yet it is from Europe that has sprung that series of frightful nationalistic quarrels, originated by the Teutonic nations in their rise to power, which we have seen in this 20th century and in our own lifetime wreck the peace and mar the prospects of all mankind.

What is this plight to which Europe has been reduced? Some of the smaller states have indeed made a good recovery, but over wide areas are a vast, quivering mass of tormented, hungry, careworn and bewildered human beings, who wait in the ruins of their cities and homes and scan the dark horizons for the approach of some new form of tyranny or terror. Among the victors there is a Babel of voices, among the vanquished the sullen silence of despair. That is all that Europeans, grouped in so many ancient states and nations, and that is all that the Germanic races have got by tearing each other to pieces and spreading havoc far and wide. Indeed, but for the fact that the great republic across the Atlantic realized that the ruin or enslavement of Europe would involve her own fate as well, and stretched out hands of succour and guidance, the Dark Ages would have returned in all their cruelty and squalor. They may still return.

Yet all the while there is a remedy which, if it were generally and spontaneously adopted by the great majority of people in many lands, would as by a miracle transform the whole scene and would in a few years make all Europe, or the greater part of it, as free and happy as Switzerland is today. What is this sovereign remedy? It is to recreate the European fabric, or as much of it as we can, and to provide it with a structure under which it can dwell in peace, safety and freedom. We must build a kind of United States of Europe. In this way only will hundreds of millions of toilers be able to regain the simple joys and hopes which make life worth living. The process is simple. All that is needed is the resolve of hundreds of millions of men and women to do right instead of wrong and to gain as their reward blessing instead of cursing. Therefore, I say to you "Let Europe arise!"

Much work has been done upon this task by the exertions of the Pan-European Union, which owes so much to the famous French patriot and statesman Aristide Briand. There is also that immense body which was brought into being amidst high hopes after the First World War — the League of Nations. The League did not fail because of its principles or conceptions. It failed because those principles were deserted by those states which brought it into being, because the governments of those states feared to face the facts and act while time remained. This disaster must not be repeated. There is, therefore, much knowledge and material with which to build and also bitter, dearly bought experience to spur.

There is no reason why a regional organization of Europe should in any way conflict with the world organization of the United Nations. On the contrary, I believe that the larger synthesis can only survive if it is founded upon broad natural groupings. There is already a natural grouping in the Western Hemisphere. We British have our own Commonwealth of Nations. These do not weaken, on the contrary they strengthen, the world organisation. They are in fact its main support. And why should there not be a European group which could give a sense of enlarged patriotism and common citizenship to the distracted peoples of this mighty continent? And why should it not take its rightful place with other great groupings and help to shape the honourable destiny of man? In order that this may be accomplished there must be an act of faith in which the millions of families speaking many languages must consciously take part.

We all know that the two World Wars through which we have passed arose out of the vain passion of Germany to play a dominating part in the world. In this last struggle crimes and massacres have been committed for which there is no parallel since the Mongol invasion of the 13th century, no equal at any time in human history. The guilty must be punished. Germany must be deprived of the power to rearm and make another aggressive war. But when all this has been done, as it will be done, as it is being done, there must be an end to retribution. There must be what Mr Gladstone many years ago called a "blessed act of oblivion". We must all turn our backs upon the horrors of the past and look to the future. We cannot afford to drag forward across the years to come hatreds and revenges which have sprung from the injuries of the past. If Europe is to be saved from infinite misery, and indeed from final doom, there must be this act of faith in the European family, this act of oblivion against all crimes and follies of the past. Can the peoples of Europe rise to the heights of the soul and of the instinct and spirit of man?

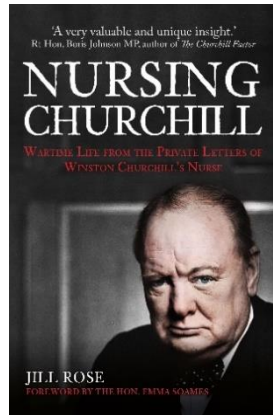
If they could, the wrongs and injuries which have been inflicted would have been washed away on all sides by the miseries which have been endured. Is there any need for further floods of agony? Is the only lesson of history to be that mankind is unteachable? Let there be justice, mercy and freedom. The peoples have only to will it and all will achieve their heart's desire.

I am now going to say something that will astonish you. The first step in the re-creation of the European family must be a partnership between France and Germany. In this way only can France recover the moral and cultural leadership of Europe. There can be no revival of Europe without a spiritually great France and a spiritually great Germany. The structure of the United States of Europe will be such as to make the material strength of a single State less important. Small nations will count as much as large ones and gain their honour by a contribution to the common cause. The ancient States and principalities of Germany, freely joined for mutual convenience in a federal system, might take their individual places among the United States of Europe.

But I must give you warning, time may be short. At present there is a breathing space. The cannons have ceased firing. The fighting has stopped. But the dangers have not stopped. If we are to form a United States of Europe, or whatever name it may take, we must begin now. In these present days we dwell strangely and precariously under the shield, and I even say protection, of the atomic bomb. The atomic bomb is still only in the hands of a nation which, we know, will never use it except in the cause of right and freedom, but it may well be that in a few years this awful agency of destruction will be widespread and that the catastrophe following from its use by several warring nations will not only bring to an end all that we call civilisation but may possibly disintegrate the globe itself.

I now sum up the propositions which are before you. Our constant aim must be to build and fortify the United Nations Organization. Under and within that world concept we must re-create the European family in a regional structure called, it may be, the United States of Europe, and the first practical step will be to form a Council of Europe. If at first all the States of Europe are not willing or able to join a union we must nevertheless proceed to assemble and combine those who will and who can. The salvation of the common people of every race and every land from war and servitude must be established on solid foundations and must be created by the readiness of all men and women to die rather than to submit to tyranny. In this urgent work France and Germany must take the lead together. Great Britain, the British Commonwealth of Nations, mighty America — and, I trust, Soviet Russia, for then indeed all would be well — must be the friends and sponsors of the new Europe and must champion its right to live. Therefore, I say to you "Let Europe arise!"

## Book Review: Nursing Churchill by Jill Rose



Jill Rose's book *Nursing Churchill* is based on the wartime letters of her mother Doris Miles, who nursed the Prime Minister during a severe bout of pneumonia in 1943. It has been praised by medical professionals and leading Churchill experts including WSC's biographer.

*"Nursing Churchill"* will be available for purchase and signing by Jill at the September 28 brunch and banquet.

### What they are saying about "Nursing Churchill".

A very valuable and unique insight.

*Boris Johnson, author of The Churchill Factor*

When Winston Churchill had severe pneumonia in 1943, Doris Miles was there to nurse him back to health. She wrote regular letters to her husband in the Royal Navy about her experience, with humour, intelligence and acute insight. These letters are of genuine historical importance to anyone interested in Churchill and the Second World War. They provide a fascinating, and occasionally moving, account of wartime Britain, by one of its 'angels'. Supported by the fine scholarship of Doris's daughter, this book reminds us of the good-nature and humanity of the Greatest Briton . . . I heartily recommend it.

*Andrew Roberts, author of Churchill: Walking with Destiny*

A top quality, outstanding read, this well written book is historically accurate and enhanced by unique photographs.

*Professor Allister Vale, biographer of Churchill's illnesses*

I read *Nursing Churchill* last night; I was originally planning to dip into it but ended up reading from cover to cover. I love the way the author interweaves Doris's personal narrative with that of Churchill and the wider war effort, and the way in which she brings the period and its characters to life (and there are some great characters in this book.)

*Allen Packwood OBE, Director, Churchill Archives Centre, Cambridge, author of How Churchill Waged War*

In 1943, unknown to the public, the PM nearly died of pneumonia. Now a riveting book reveals intimate details of his fight for life — through the letters of his no-nonsense nurse.

*Daily Mail*

In "Nursing Churchill", Jill Rose gives us a rare and fascinating look behind the scenes during a critical time for Churchill's health and the war effort. A serious bout with pneumonia almost kills him. Jill recounts this episode in a way that only someone with access to firsthand knowledge can do. *Nursing Churchill* is an exciting read with excellent period photos and documents. Highly recommended!

*The Churchill Society of Tennessee*

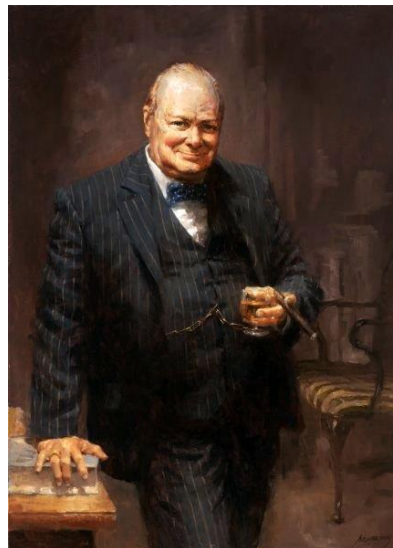
## From the President



It is with deep regret that I must announce the passing of one of our own. Dr. John A. Oates passed away on July 30, 2019. John was an early and loyal member of The Churchill Society of Tennessee. He was the Chief of Medicine at Vanderbilt University. Dr Oates was a talented teacher, researcher and a friend who will be missed. We offer our sincere condolences to his wife Meredith and the Oates family.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Churchill Society of Tennessee Banquet and Brunch

Please join us for our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Churchill Society of Tennessee Banquet on September 28, 2019. This year we have added a morning brunch. The brunch will have two guest speakers; author Jill Rose and Prof Allister Vale MD participate in a panel discussion about Churchill's health and its effects on his personal and public life. The brunch is from 10:00AM to 12:00PM. The banquet will be from 6:00PM to 9:00PM. This year our guest speaker is Prof. Allister Vale MD. His topic will be Churchill's relationship with his physicians. Both brunch and the banquet will take place at the Brentwood Country Club.



*Seating is limited so please RSVP early.*



## Meet our quest speakers for this year's banquet and brunch

### Professor Alister Vale MD and author Jill Rose

**Professor Allister Vale** is based in Birmingham, England. He is a practicing academic physician and is a former Censor of the Royal College of Physicians. Allister was awarded the President's Medal for services to postgraduate medical education. He has been elected President of professional societies in the UK, US and Europe and has received a Career Recognition Award from the American Academy of Clinical Toxicology, the only non-North American to be so honored. With John Scadding he has written 17 papers on Winston Churchill's illnesses. Their book, *The illnesses of Winston Churchill 1886-1965: Courage, Resilience, Determination* will be published in 2020.

Churchill flew to Carthage (Tunis) on 11 December 1943 to review military operations in Italy. As Packwood has written recently: "It was probably will power and adrenaline alone that had sustained him through his high-powered meetings with Roosevelt and Stalin, but by the time of his collapse in Carthage it was clear that Churchill was running on empty."<sup>1</sup> Churchill himself wrote: "I am completely at the end of my tether, and I cannot go on to the front until I have recovered my strength."<sup>2</sup> In fact, Churchill had developed severe pneumonia, which was complicated by an irregular heart rhythm (atrial fibrillation) on two occasions before he recovered.

Allister Vale has been granted exclusive access, with the right to publish, to multiple closed medical archives relating to Winston Churchill, most of which he has found. He will describe in detail Churchill's illness in Carthage, the medical and political crises faced by Lord Moran in treating Churchill, and the assistance of the US Army in providing medicines and equipment, without which Churchill would probably not have survived.



1. Packwood A. Mind or body? How did Churchill cope with the build-up to D-Day. In: Packwood A, editor. How Churchill waged war: The most challenging decisions of the Second World War. Barnsley: Frontline Books; 2018. 183-204.

2. Churchill W. In: Closing the Ring: The Second World War Vol V. London: Penguin Classics; 2005. 372-87.

**Jill Rose** was born in London in 1947 and spent part of her childhood in Jamaica. She earned a B.Sc. Degree from University College, London, and worked as a computer programmer in Canada and Washington DC before moving with her husband to Hawaii, where they spent ten years running a small macadamia nut orchard and a computer business. They have travelled by bus from Ecuador to Tierra del Fuego, by train across Australia, and have cruised across the Arctic and Antarctic Circles and the Equator. They now live in south Florida.

Jill's new book "Nursing Churchill", offers a fresh perspective on Churchill and wartime life through the eyes of the nurse, Jill's mother Doris Miles charged with looking after the Prime Minister.



In February 1943, when the course of the Second World War hung in the balance, 68-year-old Prime Minister Winston Churchill was stricken with pneumonia. Doris Miles, from St Mary's Hospital in London, was appointed as his private nurse. During her time with Churchill, she wrote regularly to her husband, a Surgeon-Lieutenant with the Royal Navy, about life at the centre of Britain's war effort, and about Churchill himself. With unrivalled intimacy, her observations show a very human and seldom-seen side of the great man and including many amusing anecdotes. She describes with wry humour their arguments and conversations, and life at Downing Street and Chequers. It is also a love story; from a newlywed young woman whose husband went to war. This exclusive wartime source is adroitly woven into the wider context of those turbulent times.



***Churchill Society of Tennessee  
Annual Banquet and Brunch  
September 28, 2019***

***at the Brentwood Country Club***

***5123 Country Club Drive, off Franklin Road, Brentwood Tennessee***

***Brunch 10:00am to 12:00pm***

***Cost \$35.00 per person***

***Including presentations from Professor Allister Vale, MD, Churchill Medical  
Historian and Jill Rose, author of "Nursing Churchill"***

***AGM immediately after brunch***

***Banquet 6:00pm to 9:00pm***

***Cost \$75 per person***

***Guest Speaker Professor Allister Vale, MD***

***"Winston Churchill's Personal Relationship with his Physicians"***

***Cost of Brunch and Banquet combo special \$95 per person***

***Banquet is Black Tie - Kilt and Trews welcome***

***To pay by credit card go to [www.churchillsocietytn.org](http://www.churchillsocietytn.org)***

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