

Winston Churchill was 90 years old, living in his home at Hyde Park Gate in London, when he experienced a massive stroke. Fighting back for ten days, Britain's great wartime leader died on January 24, 1965.

His death came on the same day, nearly at the same minute, that his father—Lord Randolph Churchill—had died 70 years before.

In this video clip, Sir Winston's granddaughter, Emma Soames, recalls what it was like for a 14-year-old to lose the man whom his country later voted "The Greatest Briton."

During a striking moment in her story, Emma relates the split-second when the sun shone on her Grandpapa's coffin ... while the funeral congregation was singing "Battle Hymn of the Republic." It was otherwise a very bleak and dreary-weather day.

In a totally unscripted event, crane operators along the Thames River lowered their cranes to a half-mast position as Sir Winston's flag-draped coffin passed by. It was just one of many signs of respect which people gave to their fallen leader on the day of his January 30th funeral.

He was laid to rest in the small graveyard of St. Martin's Parish Church—in Bladon, Oxfordshire—close to Blenheim Palace where he was born.



Twelve years later, Lady Clementine Churchill (also known as Baroness Spencer-Churchill) was buried alongside her husband.



On the 50th anniversary of VE (Victory in Europe) Day, Churchill's grave site was decorated with bouquets of flowers, bearing notes of thanks, from people around the world.

See, also:

Churchill Urges: "We Must Arm"

Churchill and "The Gathering Storm"

Winston Churchill and the U-Boat Peril

"Give Us the Tools and We Will Finish the Job"

"What Kind of People Do They Think We Are?"

Churchill Pledges "Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat"

"We Shall Never Surrender"
Churchill's Speaking Notes for BBC Broadcasts
"This Was Their Finest Hour"
"Iron Curtain" Speech

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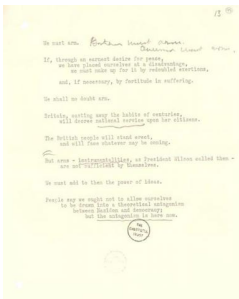
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Churchill - Speaking Notes for BBC Broadcast
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Historical Footage - The U-Boat Peril

On the 10th of May, 1940, people around the world woke-up to very distressing news. Hitler's forces had invaded Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and France. Although not part of the continent, Britain would surely be next if Hitler could mount a successful invasion. Since it was obvious no one could meaningfully negotiate with Hitler, King George VI summoned Winston Churchill to Buckingham Palace on the same day as the *Blitzkrieg* ("lightning war") was overwhelming Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland and France.

The King asked Churchill to form a government, thereby confirming Winston as Britain's new Prime Minister. This image, online via the Imperial War Museum, depicts Churchill on the day he became Prime Minister.



As former "First Lord of the Admiralty," Churchill knew something about a country's need to protect itself at sea. That knowledge was key for both Churchill and Britain when Winston assumed his new duties.

For example ... beyond invading Britain, Hitler and his military might had another way to cripple Britain and force the country's surrender.

German U-boats could attack and destroy all the supply ships on which the United Kingdom depended. Admiral Karl Doenitz, Germany's head of the U-boats, began to employ that very strategy against Britain.

German U-boats, especially during the early years of WW II, were very effective in preventing the Allies from shipping supplies to Britain.

Churchill referred to their use as "the U-boat peril."

In fact, Churchill was so concerned about the damage the U-boats were causing during the "Battle of the Atlantic" that he wrote these words in his book, *Their Finest Hour*:

The only thing that ever really frightened me during the war was the U-boat peril. (See Their Finest Hour - The Second World War, Volume II, at page 259.)



Damage caused by attacking groups of U-boats, on convoys bound for Britain, was so substantial between the start of the war (in September of 1939) and May of 1941, that people in Britain were in danger of starving if the supply ships could not make it safely to the United Kingdom.

Desperate to stop the U-boats from crippling or destroying ships traveling in the North Atlantic, Churchill needed a team of people to break the codes the U-boat crews were obviously using to communicate with each other.

As it happened, the *Kriegsmarine* (the German name for the country's Navy during the war) had a sophisticated encryption system which appeared unbreakable. All branches of the military depended on a machine, called "Enigma," which made decoding German messages nearly impossible.

Until ... a group of highly intelligent individuals began to gather at an old English country house located at Bletchley Park (around 50 miles, or so, from London). Churchill would later refer to these people as "the geese who laid the golden eggs and never cackled."

British and German historical newsreels, compiled by Celeon999A and placed online through YouTube.

Quoted reference is from Churchill's book *Their Finest Hour - The Second World War, Volume II*, at page 259. The full quote is: "The only thing that ever really frightened me during the war was the U-boat peril."

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Historical-Footage-The-U-Boat-Peril>



Churchill - Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat

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Churchill: "What Kind of a People Do They Think We Are?"

December 26, 1941 speech of Winston Churchill to a joint session of the U.S. Congress. Clip online, courtesy Library of Congress.

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