

FIRST PRIZE ESSAY: 2023 CHURCHILL ESSAY CONTEST

**From “Unexpected” to “Necessary”:  
Winston Churchill, *The Vancouver Sun*, and  
the Making of a Hero**

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Although Winston Churchill only visited Vancouver once in 1929, his name lives on in the annals of Vancouver history through the lasting tenacity of his wartime leadership.<sup>1</sup> Taking Paul Addison's *Churchill: The Unexpected Hero* as my starting point, how was Churchill's leadership portrayed in the pages of the *Vancouver Sun*? Addison's central argument is that although Churchill was not the popular choice as Britain's Prime Minister in May 1940, he was the best man for the job because Churchill was right about Hitler when others had been wrong.<sup>2</sup> Although Churchill's reputation was hampered by the ghosts of his past, especially the failure of the Dardanelles campaign, his personal qualities - a mixture of ego, determination, duty and historical destiny - saw him through the distressing days of appeasement and laid the foundations for the necessity of his leadership under the most difficult circumstances.<sup>3</sup> But how was his leadership portrayed in Canada? Focussed as he was on the survival of Britain and her Empire, Churchill only made four wartime visits to Canada. This essay will focus on two of them: his 1941 visit to Ottawa and the Second Quebec Conference of 1944. At these moments, Churchill played a key role in global affairs. How were these moments seen by the journalists and editors based in Vancouver? With the advent of war in 1939 and Churchill's elevation to the prime minister of the United Kingdom and leader of the British Empire in 1940, it will come as no

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<sup>1</sup> Chris Gainor, "Churchill's Turn in Canadian Politics," International Churchill Society, June 23, 2013, <https://winstonchurchill.org/publications/finest-hour/finest-hour-137/churchills-turn-in-canadian-politics/>.

<sup>2</sup> Paul Addison, *Churchill: The Unexpected Hero* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005), 1, 4, 153.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 3-4, 153.

surprise to learn that the Vancouver Sun participated in the portrayal of Churchill as the ‘necessary hero’ and the man who led the free world against the menace of dictators.

February 12, 1912, was the day *The Vancouver Sun* was born, typified by the statement, “*The Sun* rises over Vancouver.”<sup>4</sup> *The Vancouver Sun* was a breath of fresh air for an already crowded newspaper market.<sup>5</sup> It was a time when individual opinions ruled the printed page through “political and religious ambitions and beliefs.”<sup>6</sup> According to *Vancouver Sun* columnist and historian Shelley Fralic, local issues fell to the wayside under the weight of prominent men who wanted to hear themselves rather than tell their readers about issues affecting Vancouver.<sup>7</sup> As Vancouver was a growing city, “taxes and growth, resource exploitation, provincial and civic governance, immigration, trade and local services” took centre stage in the people’s minds.<sup>8</sup> Vancouverites were not reading for opinions – they were reading to be informed. John P. McConnell, the owner of *The Vancouver Sun*, realized this “and promised a newspaper that would be Reliable, The Latest and Best Informed, Just Out, Smart and Up-to-Date.”<sup>9</sup> McConnell’s campaign worked as “[a]bout 20,000 people” flocked to buy “a copy of [t]he [newspaper’s] first issue.”<sup>10</sup> However, two global conflicts would meet *The Vancouver Sun* over its first thirty-three years of existence, giving the newspaper its baptism by fire moment in terms of its survivability among the unease of the world.

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<sup>4</sup> Shelley Fralic and Kate Bird, *Making Headlines: 100 Years of The Vancouver Sun* (Vancouver: *The Vancouver Sun*, 2012), 12.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

*The Vancouver Sun*, in the ideological war for relevancy, was given “a Liberal voice” to silence “the conservative editorial positions promulgated by . . . rival [newspapers],” including *The Province*.<sup>11</sup> According to an Editorial from *The Province*, the 1911 federal election, won by Conservative Robert Borden over Liberal Wilfrid Laurier, was seen as a means of restoring faith in the country as Laurier’s continuance of “reciprocity” was selling out Canadian industry to the United States.<sup>12</sup> *The Province* Editorial made Laurier into a statesman of broken promises through his words “that the twentieth century belonged to Canada,” even though he was selling out Canada to the United States, with Canadians, through Borden’s election, restoring “the [lost] esteem and confidence of the country.”<sup>13</sup> However, transitioning to the end of the Great War, McConnell jumped ship due to *The Vancouver Sun* being “on the verge of bankruptcy,” with Robert Cromie, a hotel bellhop turned newspaperman, taking the reins, followed by his son Don, who took over in 1942 after his father’s death six years prior.<sup>14</sup> Upon Mackenzie King’s victory at the polls in 1921, *The Vancouver Sun* headline proclaimed, “Liberals Sweep Canada: King’s 122 Control House,” with the headline alone giving the newspaper its assuredly liberal orientation.<sup>15</sup>

As was *The Vancouver Sun*’s job in war and peace, the newspaper carried on providing information to its readers, “reminding them] that newspapers ‘are couriers of progress providing intimate contact between the man in the street and all phases of human endeavour.’”<sup>16</sup> The newspaper followed the credo described in an Editorial on August 9, 1941, “A newspaper

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> “Yesterday’s Result,” *The Province*, September 22, 1911, 6, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Province.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Fralic and Bird, *Making Headlines*, 21, 45, 182. 44.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., 29.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., 52.

devoted to progress and democracy, tolerance and the freedom of human thought.”<sup>17</sup> As such, *The Vancouver Sun* seemed like the epitome of what Nazi Germany was not and advocated for those who supported those aims. *The Vancouver Sun* found its hero in Churchill, who received celebrity status in the annals of the newspaper, as he was described in an Editorial upon his ascension to power as “One of those rare spirits beyond classification, which England produces at intervals as if to disprove the theory that the English are a dull, slow race.”<sup>18</sup> The Editorial even refers to Churchill as “Unsinkable Winny Churchill,” with all his past and current lives as “a statesman, soldier, writer, orator, painter, bricklayer,” coming together to produce a narrative of unity that placed victory at its centre.<sup>19</sup> Through the war, *The Vancouver Sun*’s agenda would fulfill itself, as “The value rendered by the newspaper is greater now than at any time in history.”<sup>20</sup> *The Vancouver Sun* was not an extension of the Goebbels propaganda arm in Berlin, where facts and educated opinions had no place in the public discourse as party rhetoric and groupthink controlled all. Instead, *The Vancouver Sun* was a bastion of free speech, where everyday Vancouverites could read the newspaper with patriotic vigour that they were doing their utmost to put down Nazism and secure the freedom of Europe and the world from Hitler and company. Through *The Vancouver Sun*’s origins, a framework for examination exists in how the newspaper’s coverage of Churchill alludes to Addison’s title of Churchill as “The Unexpected Hero.”<sup>21</sup> Churchill’s Gallipoli debacle enabled Addison to give Churchill such a title due to the improbability of a man recovering from such a loss of prestige.<sup>22</sup> However, Churchill

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<sup>17</sup> “Mr. Hanson’s Axis,” *The Vancouver Sun*, August 9, 1941, 4, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>18</sup> “Britain’s New Leader,” *The Vancouver Sun*, May 11, 1940, 4, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Fralic and Bird, *Making Headlines*, 52.

<sup>21</sup> Addison, *Churchill*, title page, 4.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid., 3-4.

was not just “any man,” and his pure Churchillian effort enabled him to transform from “The Unexpected Hero” to “The Necessary Hero” through his fight against appeasement, which immortalized Churchill within the annals of history as the man who did what was necessary for humanity’s survival.<sup>23</sup>

As described by Addison, Churchill’s involvement in the Dardanelles expedition “all but destroyed his career in 1915.”<sup>24</sup> In a January 1916 article in *The Vancouver Sun*, titled, “War Correspondent Tells of Campaign against the Turks,” Ashmead Bartlett told the Canadian Club at the Hotel Vancouver of “the ill-fated Dardanelles campaign . . . and the gallant conduct of the forces taking part,” making Churchill the centrepiece of a decades-long problem that permeated his political legacy.<sup>25</sup> In a 1931 *Vancouver Sun* Editorial, Churchill was referred to as being “the most discredited man in England,” with his “Gallipoli War Plan” sacrificing “ships and lives and money” for the purpose of wartime adventurism.<sup>26</sup> It was as Addison described: Churchill was “out of office for most of the 1930s,” both “ageing and restless,” making him an easy target for the press.<sup>27</sup> The Gallipoli failure allowed Churchill’s opponents to label him as a “shameless egotist, an opportunist without principles or convictions, an unreliable colleague, an erratic policy-maker who lacked judgment, and a reckless amateur strategist with a dangerous passion for war and bloodshed.”<sup>28</sup> However, for better or worse, Churchill proved that everyone could be short-sighted as Neville Chamberlain’s appeasement of Hitler became associated with those

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<sup>23</sup> Ibid., 153.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid., 3.

<sup>25</sup> “War Correspondent Tells of Campaign against the Turks,” *The Vancouver Sun*, January 19, 1916, 4, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>26</sup> “Churchill and England; Bennett and Canada,” *The Vancouver Sun*, October 1, 1931, 6, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>27</sup> Addison, *Churchill*, 166, 134.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid., 3-4.

same criticisms through his “dangerous passion” for pacifism leading to war and his severe lack of judgement surrounding Hitler’s control of European affairs through continuously pushing against Europe’s tenuous peace.<sup>29</sup>

Gallipoli was an exercise in the strength of the British Empire to take out the Turks.<sup>30</sup> Bartlett, in *The Vancouver Sun* article, went on to describe the “absolute nonsense” surrounding “the rather odd opinion that England was letting her allies bear the brunt of the fighting,” employing the entirety of its army and fleet while creating a “new army” of Empire troops to effectively counter the Central Powers, perhaps being the only strength of the Gallipoli debacle: The cohesiveness of Empire.<sup>31</sup> However, Gallipoli resulted in the deaths of “46,000 allied troops,” with Australia and New Zealand bearing the brunt of Churchill’s experiment in Empire.<sup>32</sup> Churchill, as First Lord of the Admiralty, took most of the blame for Gallipoli, even though Herbert Henry Asquith, the British prime minister, authorized the operation to go ahead and senior leadership, including Lord Kitchener, “pressed for a naval operation” in the first place.<sup>33</sup> Although Churchill was wrong about Gallipoli, he realized “he stood to gain credit from successful actions by the Royal Navy, [but] he was sure to get the blame when things went wrong,” giving him the strength to persevere through overwhelming criticism.<sup>34</sup>

Perhaps Gallipoli gave Churchill Addison’s title of “Unexpected Hero” decades before his correct predilections of Hitler, of which Churchill’s lone but resonant voice permeated among the loud voices comprising Britain’s avoidance of another world war through the appeasement of

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<sup>29</sup> Ibid., 153, 4.

<sup>30</sup> “War Correspondent Tells of Campaign,” 4.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> Addison, *Churchill*, 80.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid., 59, 80.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid., 80, 70.

a dictator.<sup>35</sup> Churchill's perseverance alongside the burden of war, resting most heavily on his shoulders as the guarantor of life or death, allowed him to prize freedom over tyranny, becoming a casualty and survivor of conflict. Whether it be rallying the Canadian people toward victory from his podium inside the Canadian House of Commons or ending the war in the Second Quebec Conference, victory was Churchill's manta, with the spirit of Gallipoli strengthening Churchill's fighting spirit through the traumas of his past.

According to Addison, Churchill truly garnered the title of "Unexpected Hero" during Chamberlain's appeasement of Hitler during the late 1930s and early 1940s.<sup>36</sup> In a way Churchill became the "Necessary Hero," as he was in the minority of voices against Chamberlain's "Munich agreement . . . that would bring 'peace in our time,'" which German troops trampled under their boots as they annexed all of Czechoslovakia into the Nazi orbit.<sup>37</sup> Churchill debased the primary criticism "that he lacked judgement," perhaps going back to his Gallipoli past, instead putting the blame on "Chamberlain and his colleagues" surrounding their lack of judgement.<sup>38</sup> In a *London Daily Mail* "Exclusive Interview," reprinted in *The Vancouver Sun* in 1934, titled "Abjuring War" by Adolph Hitler, he stated how, "It is the disciplined conviction of the Nazi movement that war can benefit no one, but only bring general ruin in its train."<sup>39</sup> It was those words with which Chamberlain gained his certainty that Hitler could be trusted, and that peace could be maintained in Europe and the world. However, Chamberlain's policy of appeasement was a far cry from his predecessor Stanley Baldwin's "gigantic rearmament

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<sup>35</sup> Ibid., title page, 153.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid., 153.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> Adolph Hitler, "Abjuring War," *The Vancouver Sun*, September 1, 1934, 2, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.



program . . . because he feared what was in the minds of Hitler and Mussolini.”<sup>40</sup> Baldwin and Churchill seemed to think alike when it came to Hitler, with Churchill stating, “‘Never’ . . . will we have friendship between British democracy and Nazi power,” with the downfall of Western democracy seen at the negotiating table rather than on the battlefield, and only “by a supreme effort they can recover.”<sup>41</sup> It would require an effort of Churchillian proportions as the complacency of Chamberlain ruled the day, with a *Vancouver Sun* Editorial proclaiming, “the Churchills . . . do not like what Mr. Chamberlain has to offer. But they have nothing to offer on their own part.”<sup>42</sup>

In a *Vancouver Sun* segment titled, “What Vancouver Says of Munich,” Mrs. J. Z. Hall remarked, “‘Battalions of prayers instead of battalions of soldiers are the most effective guarantees of world peace.’”<sup>43</sup> Mrs. Hall’s remarks are honourable considering the proximity between the Great War and this “avoided” conflict, but negotiating with dictators came at its own peril. Hitler, during the time of the Munich standoff, already saw Churchill as an opponent, as Churchill headed the “‘Stop Hitler’ section of the Conservative Party,” calling for “the country [to] be armed to the hilt.”<sup>44</sup> However, it was Churchill’s dedication to the unseen cause that prompted many to envision Churchill “becoming Prime Minister on a ‘Stop Hitler’ program,”

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<sup>40</sup> Milton Bronner, “Chamberlain Leans to Germany In Hopes of New Locarno for Europe: Baldwin’s Tendency to Side With France and Russia Discounted,” *The Vancouver Sun*, September 1, 1937, 26, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>41</sup> Richard McMillan, “Chamberlain May Ask Election Mandate for ‘Generation of Peace’: Prime Minister Sounding Out Party Leaders in England; Churchill Pledged To Support Labor Amendment,” *The Vancouver Sun*, October 5, 1938, 1, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>42</sup> “There is No Turning Back,” *The Vancouver Sun*, October 5, 1938, 6, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>43</sup> “What Vancouver Says of Munich: ‘Battalions of Prayers Are the Most Effective Guarantees of World Peace,’ (Prayers)” *The Vancouver Sun*, September 30, 1938, 7, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>44</sup> Richard McMillan, “Hitler’s ‘Warning’ to Spur British Armament: Denunciation of Anti-Nazi Conservatives May Change Political Trends,” *The Vancouver Sun*, October 11, 1938, 10, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

which he eventually did, defeating Chamberlain's program of appeasement.<sup>45</sup> Through this development, Churchill became the "Necessary Hero" rather than the "Unexpected Hero," allowing him to direct not only the Canadian people toward victory through his Ottawa address but provide an end to the war through the Second Quebec Conference, which truly allowed "peace in our time."<sup>46</sup>

With this essay primarily focusing on two of Churchill's four wartime visits to Canada (Ottawa 1941 and Quebec 1944), Placentia Bay 1941 and Quebec 1943 will be discussed only to aid in the narrative surrounding Churchill's transformation from "Unexpected Hero" to "Necessary Hero."<sup>47</sup> Placentia Bay, off the coast of Newfoundland in August 1941, was a meeting between two great powers: Britain at war and the United States, which was at that point still "neutral."<sup>48</sup> *The Vancouver Sun* categorized the meeting as "historic" through the title "British and U.S. Pledge: To End Nazi Tyranny And Set Up Free World."<sup>49</sup> Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt agreed to do this through mutual understanding and cooperation between the two nations, respecting the rights of all free peoples, full economic integration of the world, and disarming "aggressor nations," all through a program of universal peace.<sup>50</sup> *The Vancouver Sun* also reported that the Dominions were not involved in the conference.<sup>51</sup> However, the Dominions were each sent a copy of the joint declaration to approve after Churchill and

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<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> Addison, *Churchill*, title page, 153.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid., title page.

<sup>48</sup> David Dilks, *The Great Dominion: Winston Churchill in Canada 1900-1954* (Toronto: Thomas Allen, 2005), 155.

<sup>49</sup> Sandor Klein, "British and U.S. Pledge: To End Nazi Tyranny And Set Up Free World (Washington, Roosevelt Still at Sea)," *The Vancouver Sun*, August 14, 1941, 1, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>50</sup> "Historic '8 Points,'" *The Vancouver Sun*, August 14, 1941, 1, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>51</sup> Harold Fair, "Churchill May Broadcast: Dominions Were Kept Informed," *The Vancouver Sun*, August 14, 1941, 13, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

Roosevelt informed the public.<sup>52</sup> In an Editorial titled “Keep An Eye On Iran,” the argument was made that “isolationists of the United States immediately cried out in anger that . . . the American Government” was capitulating “to Mr. Churchill’s demands that the United States enter the war.”<sup>53</sup> Roosevelt reacted, “declaring] the United States was no nearer to entering the conflict as a result of the high-seas conference,” but was “in complete agreement in all aspects of the war situation.”<sup>54</sup> The Editorial’s title, although referencing “the great British-Africa force in the Middle East . . . mov[ing] through Iran to make a junction with the Russians,” would have hidden connotations later as Iran’s capital, Tehran, would be chosen in 1943 as one of the “Big Three’s” major wartime conferences.<sup>55</sup> However, through the Placentia Bay meeting, Churchill gained a tenuous ally in the United States, with December 7, 1941, ridding the United States of its isolationist agenda, fully committing itself to the cause of freedom.<sup>56</sup>

An interesting comparative point to *The Vancouver Sun*’s press coverage of Churchill’s four wartime Canadian visits exemplifies itself in *The Globe and Mail*, a Toronto-based newspaper.<sup>57</sup> Although a merger between George Brown’s “liberal newspaper, *The Globe*,” founded in 1844, and John A. Macdonald’s *The Mail*, founded in 1872, it was a merger of liberal and conservative ideals, making for an “independent but not neutral” voice.<sup>58</sup> This phenomenon was anomalous in the press – a meeting of two Fathers of Confederation in an unsteady union of informing Canadians. *The Globe and Mail* followed a similar path to that of *The Vancouver Sun*

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<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> “Keep An Eye on Iran,” *The Vancouver Sun*, August 18, 1941, 4, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> T. Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, “The Globe and Mail,” *Encyclopedia Britannica*, July 18, 2018, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/The-Globe-and-Mail>.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

through the newspaper's enthusiastic fascination of and praise for the boldness and character of Britain's wartime leader. *The Globe and Mail's* coverage of Churchill and Roosevelt's Placentia Bay meeting was much the same as *The Vancouver Sun's* reporting. According to *The Globe and Mail*, "The sovereign rights and self-government of nations . . . are to be restored" under the policy of universal peace while removing "German militarism" in its entirety from ever resurging again.<sup>59</sup> Also, Churchill and Roosevelt's joint declaration "marks the end of isolation and the beginning of a new era in which the United States" assumes the role it has been shirking, returning to the fold of nations under the guise of a newfound internationalism.<sup>60</sup>

Churchill's second visit to Canada came in December 1941, visiting Ottawa, with his speech to Parliament arousing the nation into a wartime fervour of doing everything possible to aid the war effort.<sup>61</sup> Before arriving in Ottawa, Churchill was in Washington, alongside Roosevelt and King, for necessary discussions surrounding the war.<sup>62</sup> Washington was a prelude to Churchill's Ottawa speech, with Churchill, Roosevelt, and eventually King "conferr[ing] . . . on a unified 'victory program' for [the] destruction of the Axis," through the transformation of the White House into "the GHQ [(general headquarters)] for" the free world's fight against fascism.<sup>63</sup> While in Washington, Churchill spoke to Congress, where "from the rows of seats where the Senators and Representatives sat came unrestrained cheers" for the British prime

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<sup>59</sup> "The Pact of the Atlantic," *The Globe and Mail*, August 15, 1941, 6, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Globe and Mail.

<sup>60</sup> "End to U.S. Isolation Is Seen In 'Rendezvous With Destiny' (End Now Seen To Isolation)," *The Globe and Mail*, August 15, 1941, 1, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Globe and Mail.

<sup>61</sup> Canadian Press, "'Proud Day For Canada'—Premier King," *The Vancouver Sun*, December 30, 1941, 13, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>62</sup> Canadian Press, "Premier King Going to White House Parley," *The Vancouver Sun*, December 23, 1941, 1, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>63</sup> J. F. Sanderson, "Churchill Brings U.S. Good Omens," *The Vancouver Sun*, December 23, 1941, 14, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

minister, who came not to “burn[] the Capitol” as “a British army” had done in 1814 but to captivate the nation “without firing a shot.”<sup>64</sup>

Churchill’s “two-day” Ottawa visit came on the heels of his rousing speech to Congress, having accepted an invitation by “the Governor General, the Earl of Athlone, and Prime Minister . . . King.”<sup>65</sup> Upon Churchill’s arrival into the city, “hundreds of Ottawans” met his “heavily guarded special train,” with their “cheers” acting as only part of the chorus that would comprise Churchill’s visit to Ottawa.<sup>66</sup> Although Churchill already had plans to return to Washington, his speech to Parliament was significant even before it began through the implementation of radio to “broadcast nationally” his voice, which was a first for the House of Commons, giving every Canadian a chance to hear Churchill’s war-winning words.<sup>67</sup> The words of unity came out of Churchill’s mouth, uniting not only the House of Commons behind ending Nazi tyranny but the nation, as “The road will be long and hard, but . . . Hitler, having sown the wind, will reap the whirlwind.”<sup>68</sup> Through this “Churchill Punch[],” the might of the Anglo-Canadian alliance was unbreakable and steadfast in its support of a free world because “If anybody likes to play rough, we can play rough too” – that was Churchill’s mantra of resistance, painting the picture that if Hitler thought the defeat of France and his engulfment of western Europe was Britain’s checkmate, he begged him to reconsider.<sup>69</sup> Britain and its Empire were beginning to rise in a leaderless world, with their banner of universal freedom metaphorically stretching to Berlin, as

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<sup>64</sup> “Churchill In Personal Triumph,” *The Vancouver Sun*, December 27, 1941, 6, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>65</sup> C. R. Blackburn, “Churchill in Ottawa for 2-Day Visit (Churchill),” *The Vancouver Sun*, December 29, 1941, 1, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.

<sup>67</sup> “Churchill To Speak At Ottawa: Commons Address Tuesday to Be Broadcast (Churchill),” *The Vancouver Sun*, December 27, 1941, 1, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>68</sup> “Churchill Punches,” *The Vancouver Sun*, December 30, 1941, 13, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

the defeat of the fascist menace was their ultimate aim, headed by Churchill, the director of the world's destiny, marshalling the Canadian nation to that of victory.

As reported in *The Vancouver Sun* on December 31, 1941, Mr. "A. D. Darlington, secretary of the Disabled Veterans' Association" of Vancouver, used "the glowing fire of . . . Churchill's words . . . when he stated, 'In this strange and terrible world there is a place for everyone, man or woman, old or young, hale or halt'" – this was the epitome of "patriotic duty" exemplified through the man who was leading it.<sup>70</sup> Churchill's speech became embodied through *The Vancouver Sun's* title, "Churchill Tells Canada: 'Danger Corner Turned; We Forge Weapons of Victory,'" putting Canada at the forefront of the war effort and signifying its importance in the "Complete Extirpation of 'Hitler Tyranny, Jap Frenzy, Mussolini Flop.'" <sup>71</sup> Prime Minister King, who spoke before Churchill, introducing him to the House of Commons, revealed Canada's praise on high for the defiant British prime minister: "she [Canada] is hono[u]red, as we especially are this afternoon, by the presence in her Halls of Parliament of the man who by his clear vision, undaunted courage, inspired utterance and heroic spirit, has given such incomparable leadership to the hosts of freedom."<sup>72</sup> King also spoke of "the prayer of the people of Canada that the Divine Power by which your [Churchill's] life has been guided and guarded amid the perils and vicissitudes of war may continue to give you the vision, the wisdom and the endurance required for your mighty task."<sup>73</sup> Through Canada's "unbreakable ties with Britain" and its "contribution . . . to the Imperial war effort, in ships, in troops, in aircraft, in food

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<sup>70</sup> "Veterans Call for Civilian Defense Force: Plenty of Men Willing to Serve Locally," *The Vancouver Sun*, December 31, 1941, 22, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>71</sup> "Churchill Tells Canada: 'Danger Corner Turned; We Forge Weapons of Victory': Now On Way to Complete Extirpation of 'Hitler Tyranny, Jap Frenzy, Mussolini Flop' (Churchill)," *The Vancouver Sun*, December 30, 1941, 1, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>72</sup> Canadian Press, "'Proud Day For Canada,'" 13.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid.

and in finance,” victory would be won, with the nation realizing through Churchill’s speech that 1942 and all the years succeeding, until the war’s end, would not be years of defeat but triumph.<sup>74</sup>

According to an Editorial published in *The Vancouver Sun* on January 2, 1942, titled “A Guest in Ottawa,” what is most interesting about Churchill’s December 1941 Ottawa speech is that he delivered it “as the guest and the equal—and in no sense the superior of the Parliament of Canada.”<sup>75</sup> Churchill had Canada in mind as a willing partner in this relationship between nations, with no such imposition from above the demands of a surrounded Britain, alone in the world against the fascist threat, because no sense of aloneness was present in an Empire of “equals.”<sup>76</sup> It was through the unity of the British Empire that this war would be won, based on how “[Churchill] came to Ottawa not to salute the past nor to analyze the present but to face the future with us, as fellow citizens of the [Empire].”<sup>77</sup> Through Churchill’s speech, he was not looking for fame or glory – but a common cause against the vicious fascist enemy that had western Europe in its grasp, with its guns pointed toward Britain as the last bastion of freedom in a world imprisoned by fascism. This war would only end when “These gangs of bandits . . . shall themselves be cast into the pit of death and shame,” with a new world being born out of the ashes of the old, returning freedom to its primacy as the purveyor of human civilization while reducing fascism to that of extinction.<sup>78</sup>

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<sup>74</sup> Canadian Press, “Text of Winston Churchill’s Historic Speech in Canadian Parliament: Dominion’s Army in Key Position,” *The Vancouver Sun*, December 30, 1941, 13, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>75</sup> “A Guest in Ottawa,” *The Vancouver Sun*, January 2, 1942, 4, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>76</sup> Ibid.

<sup>77</sup> Ibid.

<sup>78</sup> Canadian Press, “Text of Winston Churchill’s Historic Speech in Canadian Parliament,” 13.

The necessity of Churchill's leadership was made clear in his Ottawa visit because had the British people not put their trust in him, then it could have been a very different world, perhaps with Chamberlain or Lord Halifax standing alongside the dictatorial powers, if only for the preservation of peace without the presence of reasonability.<sup>79</sup> After all, according to *The Vancouver Sun* article, "Hitler Alibis; Predicts Axis Victory in 1942: Fuehrer Says He's the Real 'Dove of Peace,'" Hitler, in his New Year's Address to the German people, blamed the war on "enemy countries . . . not want[ing] to live in the type of world we wished for," with Churchill's voice of resistance, quite rightfully so, countering the grandiose of Hitler's vision.<sup>80</sup> As seen and heard in Ottawa, and as depicted in *The Vancouver Sun* article, "'This Man of Fearsome Reputation': He Stood on Threshold of Victory," Churchill's voice carried words of victory through the airwaves, making it a shareable concept among all Canadians that their wartime unity, emboldened by its purveyor, would lead to the downfall of fascism.<sup>81</sup> Through Churchill's speech, he became "the organizer of victory" because "[w]hen he first became leader of the British people it was in their darkest hour, defeats surrounding them, and unnamed perils ahead," with leaderless Britain looking to the man whose prewar attitude of "imprudent and unbalanced rashness" came to direct the hearts and minds of the British nation toward Churchill and his brand of resistance.<sup>82</sup> This article perfectly correlates with Addison's description of Churchill as "The Unexpected Hero" because it was through his sheer unwantedness through the ghosts of his Gallipoli past and his willingness to persevere through the almost united criticisms of the British

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<sup>79</sup> G. V. Ferguson, "'This Man of Fearsome Reputation': He Stood on Threshold of Victory," *The Vancouver Sun*, December 31, 1941, 12, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>80</sup> United Press, "Hitler Alibis; Predicts Axis Victory in 1942: Fuehrer Says He's the Real 'Dove of Peace,'" *The Vancouver Sun*, December 31, 1941, 2, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>81</sup> Ferguson, "'This Man of Fearsome Reputation,'" 12.

<sup>82</sup> Ibid.



people against his anti-appeasement stance, that gave Churchill the title of “Necessary Hero” via his fateful meeting with the Canadian nation.<sup>83</sup>

*The Globe and Mail* struck a similar note to *The Vancouver Sun* over Churchill’s Ottawa speech. In an Editorial titled “Points Way for Canada,” Churchill’s “tumultuous welcome” to Ottawa proved that “there is no town in Canada which would not have sought to rival Ottawa in the enthusiasm of its greeting,” with the people of Canada awaiting the director of the world’s destiny to speak not only “to” them but “for” them in the creation of a new world.<sup>84</sup> It was through “Mr. Churchill” that “has renewed in us [the Canadian people] an eagerness to do our duty, and our Government will be better able after these conferences to tell us where our duty lies,” creating a narrative of hope that through Churchill was everlasting as to Canada’s participation in the war and its eventual victory.<sup>85</sup>

Churchill’s visit to Quebec in August 1943 formulated a united response to what Roosevelt called the removal of “gangsterism” in Europe, which was the crux of this conference.<sup>86</sup> *The Vancouver Sun* article, “London Optimistic Over Reasons for New Parleys,” described Churchill’s voyage across the Atlantic as an “optimistic” one “to lay final plans for the grand offensive in theatres of war other than the Mediterranean,” where the Allies were already making progress.<sup>87</sup> According to *The Vancouver Sun* article, “Ottawa War Cabinet Meeting Today With Britain’s Premier: Stalin Invited But Unable to Leave Big Offensive,” Churchill and

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<sup>83</sup> Addison, *Churchill*, title page, 3-4, 153.

<sup>84</sup> “Points Way for Canada,” *The Globe and Mail*, December 31, 1941, 6, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Globe and Mail.

<sup>85</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>86</sup> Merriman Smith, “Roosevelt Pledges Doom for Axis: Quebec Parleys to Make All Peoples Free From Want (Roosevelt Speech),” *The Vancouver Sun*, August 25, 1943, 1, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>87</sup> James F. King, “London Optimistic Over Reasons for New Parleys,” *The Vancouver Sun*, August 11, 1943, 1, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

Roosevelt discussed the Quebec Conference via “a trans-atlantic telephone conversation” at the beginning of August.<sup>88</sup> *The Vancouver Sun* article, “Clock Put Back: Quebec Again Canada’s Capital,” metaphorically constructed New France’s capital as Canada’s capital, with the fierce protection of the victory makers through “an anti-aircraft battery . . . set up on the Plains of Abraham . . . artillerymen billet[ing] on the historic ground” that made Canada British, also with the presence of aircraft ensuring the enemy that victory was untouchable.<sup>89</sup> Victory in Europe and in the Pacific depended on the “three eminent, respectable[,] and ruthless gentleman” running this conference (Churchill, Roosevelt, and King), with “hundreds upon hundreds of military and naval and air experts preparing blueprints” for the eventual victory over “Hitler and Hirohito.”<sup>90</sup> Churchill had “Absolute Victory” in mind as the guiding principle for a world free from fascism.<sup>91</sup> The resolve of “the United Nations” against Axis tyranny became the world’s resolve, directing its future.<sup>92</sup> Plans for the future invasion of Europe “to assist the great Red drive” of Stalin’s Red Army were also expected out of “the parley at Quebec,” with Stalin calling for a second front to open up in France.<sup>93</sup> However, the unpredictability of weather and the consumption of troops and supplies toward the Mediterranean theatre made “an invasion of

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<sup>88</sup> J. F. Sanderson, “Ottawa War Cabinet Meeting Today With Britain’s Premier: Stalin Invited But Unable to Leave Big Offensive (Quebec),” *The Vancouver Sun*, August 11, 1943, 2, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>89</sup> “Clock Put Back: Quebec Again Canada’s Capital,” *The Vancouver Sun*, August 12, 1943, 3, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>90</sup> Roy W. Brown, “Quebec Marks ‘Great Turning Point of the War’: ‘Ruthless’ Leaders Prepare Axis Defeat,” *The Vancouver Sun*, August 20, 1943, 2, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>91</sup> Smith, “Roosevelt Pledges Doom for Axis,” 1.

<sup>92</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>93</sup> DeWitt Mackenzie, “Changing Weather Calls for Allied Invasion of Europe Soon: Fall Will Slow Down Fighting,” *The Vancouver Sun*, August 16, 1943, 5, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

France . . . a tremendous operation” that “require[d] . . . fighting men, warships and transports and air fleets” of an unprecedented nature due to the precariousness of the Allies’ situation.<sup>94</sup>

As exemplified in this title by *The Vancouver Sun*, “Roosevelt Pledges Doom for Axis: Quebec Parleys to Make All Peoples Free From Want,” the newspaper wanted peace above anything, with the Quebec Conference solidifying the Allied strategy that would bring about the downfall of the Axis powers and promote the liberal values that the newspaper holds as its cornerstone.<sup>95</sup> An American commentator in *The Vancouver Sun* labelled Quebec as “the ‘smash Germany and smash Japan’ conference,” with “Eleven and a half million enlightened, competent human beings living in one of the largest countries in the world . . . discussing the post-war world with a vigor and intensity unsurpassed anywhere.”<sup>96</sup> Upon the Quebec Conference’s end, *The Vancouver Sun* proclaimed, “‘Action’ Pledge at Quebec,” signifying “‘the necessary decisions . . . to provide for the forward action of the fleets, armies and air forces’ of Britain and the United States.”<sup>97</sup> However, “Details of the victory blueprint necessarily remain secret until revealed on the field of battle,” which left a shroud of secrecy over an otherwise imperative conference.<sup>98</sup>

*The Globe and Mail* did not deviate much from *The Vancouver Sun*’s reporting of the Quebec Conference. While the conference’s secrets were “closely guarded,” with little released to the public, “Anglo-U.S. ‘Forward Action’ Pledged in All War Zones” directed what Churchill

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<sup>94</sup> Ibid.

<sup>95</sup> Smith, “Roosevelt Pledges Doom for Axis,” 1.

<sup>96</sup> Edgar Ansel Mowrer, “A Trained American Observer’s View: Quebec Conference Has Put Canada on International Map,” *The Vancouver Sun*, August 27, 1943, 6, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>97</sup> “‘Action’ Pledge at Quebec,” *The Vancouver Sun*, August 24, 1943, 1, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>98</sup> Ibid.

and Roosevelt could release to the outside world surrounding the war's current direction.<sup>99</sup>

Aiding China also became imperative, and the Soviets declined an invitation based on “the Anglo-American powers[?] . . . belligeren[ce] against Japan” – one of the nations concerned at the conference for which Churchill and Roosevelt wanted immediate action.<sup>100</sup> However, according to Churchill, “the work done at Quebec was well done and would be a mighty contributory part toward winning the war,” which painted the legacy of Quebec as a war-winning conference that had the stamp of approval from Churchill himself.<sup>101</sup>

Churchill's second visit to Quebec in September 1944 centred on the Pacific War.<sup>102</sup> The noose was closing around Hitler, Italy was on the run, with the war's direction going toward the final defeat of the fascist threat – Japan.<sup>103</sup> Churchill and Roosevelt met again at Quebec “to deal with the knockout blow to Germany and plans to hasten the defeat of Japan,” but the Second Quebec Conference was on a much smaller scaler than the first, “where the British had a staff of 400 and the Americans about half that many.”<sup>104</sup> In *The Vancouver Sun* article, “Parley No Jamboree; Free Drinks Ruled Out,” an interesting yet unseen perspective surfaces where “Canada[, unlike at the last Quebec conference,] will provide no free drinks this year even though the meals again will be paid for by the Dominion,” adding a sense of “sober” seriousness

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<sup>99</sup> Kenneth C. Cragg, “Anglo-U.S. ‘Forward Action’ Pledged in All War Zones: Churchill, Roosevelt Stress Goal (Pledge ‘Action’ in All Theatres),” *The Globe and Mail*, August 25, 1943, 1, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Globe and Mail.

<sup>100</sup> Ibid.

<sup>101</sup> Kenneth C. Cragg, “Anglo-U.S. ‘Forward Action’ Pledged in All War Zones: Decisions at Quebec Unanimous (Decisions on War Plans Unanimous At Quebec),” *The Globe and Mail*, August 25, 1943, 1, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Globe and Mail.

<sup>102</sup> AP and BUP Dispatches, “Churchill and FDR End Parley: ‘Massive Blows’ Promised Japan (Quebec),” *The Vancouver Sun*, September 16, 1944, 1, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>103</sup> Ibid.

<sup>104</sup> Merriman Smith, “Churchill, FDR Parley in Quebec?” *The Vancouver Sun*, September 1, 1944, 1, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

to this war ending conference.<sup>105</sup> Prime Minister King saw Canada's place at the conference as monumental, as Quebec, once again chosen as the meeting place of victory, was "a sign of Canada's growing importance among the nations."<sup>106</sup> Even though King would remain in the background as he had done during the First Quebec Conference, King mirrored Canada's pride in how far the nation had come and the limitless ends the Canadian people were willing to go to in aiding the victory makers in driving the final stake through the black heart of Hitler's crumbling fascist order.<sup>107</sup> In his meeting with Roosevelt, Churchill "declar[ed] that everything of [the] British army, air and naval force . . . would be applied against Japan" upon the defeat of Germany.<sup>108</sup> According to *The Vancouver Sun*, Churchill was the "Man of the Week" based on his "prospective early crushing of Hitlerism in Europe."<sup>109</sup> Also, *The Vancouver Sun* summed up the meeting between Churchill and Roosevelt as "Churchill and FDR End Parley: 'Massive Blows' Promised Japan," with Canada promising full participation in the Pacific theatre.<sup>110</sup> *The Vancouver Sun* revered Churchill for his actions toward attaining a free world, free of animosities and replaced with the values held by the newspaper, continuously under threat, with the removal of fascist Japan being the death knell for Hitler's new world order.

*The Vancouver Sun*, in an article titled "Huns Fear Parley Seeks Surrender," described how, on the other side of the Atlantic, German radio broadcast the Second Quebec Conference as

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<sup>105</sup> "Parley No Jamboree; Free Drinks Ruled Out," *The Vancouver Sun*, September 11, 1944, 12, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>106</sup> CP and BUP Dispatches, "Victory Everywhere, Churchill Tells FDR ('Victory Everywhere')," *The Vancouver Sun*, September 11, 1944, 2, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>107</sup> Ibid.

<sup>108</sup> AP and BUP Dispatches, "Churchill and FDR End Parley," 2.

<sup>109</sup> "Man of the Week," *The Vancouver Sun*, September 16, 1944, 1, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>110</sup> AP and BUP Dispatches, "Churchill and FDR End Parley," 1.

a means to boost “morale for the final defen[c]e of the Reich.”<sup>111</sup> With the chance of defeat outdoing the ghosts of Versailles that had dissipated in the 1930s, “propagandists” implored the German people “to fight to the bitter end,” as the Nazi Party split into two sects: Hitler’s “Destruction Party,” focused on fighting to the end, and Hermann Goering’s “Peace Party,” focused on a peaceful settlement.<sup>112</sup> In another *Vancouver Sun* article, titled “Optimism at Quebec Parley: Hun Collapse ‘In Few Weeks,’” the presence of “security” seemed to have left the Second Quebec Conference, unlike the first where a question would most likely produce the answer: “‘for security reasons’ no explanation could be made,” with the conference “start[ing] two days late and . . . ending two days early.”<sup>113</sup> Also, the article’s description of how “England chose after the fall of France to follow [Churchill], to fight on the beaches, in the streets, everywhere else,” was not only England-specific but a pan-Empire, even global example of the anti-Axis coalition of nations.<sup>114</sup> Through this, Churchill, being “The Unexpected Hero” of the pre-wartime age, with his spirit undeterred by Gallipoli and appeasement, became the world’s “Necessary Hero,” destined to destroy fascism through the unity of his followers and the might of his heart against seemingly impossible odds.

According to Churchill, “the only differences of opinion between himself and the President were over the United States[’] desire to carry too much of the burden of Pacific fighting.”<sup>115</sup> Churchill did not want the United States to “‘have all the fun,’” promising full

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<sup>111</sup> “Huns Fear Parley Seeks Surrender,” *The Vancouver Sun*, September 13, 1944, 3, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>112</sup> Ibid.

<sup>113</sup> Roy W. Brown, “Optimism at Quebec Parley: Hun Collapse ‘In Few Weeks,’” *The Vancouver Sun*, September 14, 1944, 1, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>114</sup> Ibid.

<sup>115</sup> AP and BUP Dispatches, “Churchill and FDR End Parley,” 1.

support to eradicate the Japanese threat with the final embers of fascism burning out.<sup>116</sup>

According to *The Vancouver Sun*, after Churchill's second visit to Quebec concluded, rumours were swirling that the "'Big Three' May Meet in Vancouver," with the article stating, "Probably another three-way meeting, at Tehran, Fairbanks or Vancouver, is in contemplation now."<sup>117</sup>

Unfortunately, nothing concrete came out of that statement – other than the will for further cooperation between Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union to end this war for good.<sup>118</sup>

Roy Brown, Editorial Director for *The Vancouver Sun*, described in his article, titled "Nazi Obliteration Seen as Certainty," that the Second Quebec Conference signified "the inexorable determination of two of the most able and toughest citizens in the world to exterminate Naziism [(Nazism)]."<sup>119</sup> Brown also exemplified a hidden perspective surrounding how the Second Quebec Conference was "Action–In Silence," likening the conference to a silent movie where the victory makers "were making over the world in front of your eyes," but without making use of your ears, taking on the role of a thousand men with only two required to solve "the immediate problems of mankind."<sup>120</sup> While Churchill and Roosevelt were meeting, according to an article written by Eleanor Roosevelt and printed in *The Vancouver Sun*, the "'Big Two' of Feminine World" – Roosevelt and Clementine Churchill – had a similar meeting through Roosevelt's proclamation of "Ladies Get Together Too."<sup>121</sup> This perspective is interesting because while Churchill and Roosevelt "have been hard at work," even using the dinner table

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<sup>116</sup> Ibid.

<sup>117</sup> Roy W. Brown, "'Big Three' May Meet in Vancouver," *The Vancouver Sun*, September 16, 1944, 14, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>118</sup> Ibid.

<sup>119</sup> Roy W. Brown, "Nazi Obliteration Seen as Certainty," *The Vancouver Sun*, September 30, 1944, 1, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

<sup>120</sup> Ibid.

<sup>121</sup> Eleanor Roosevelt, "'Big Two' of Feminine World: Ladies Get Together Too," *The Vancouver Sun*, September 16, 1944, 14, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Vancouver Sun.

“for Conference purposes,” the men always had that constant of their wives standing side by side, shoulder to shoulder, in this struggle, with Clementine adding just as much to Winston’s legacy as the man himself did.<sup>122</sup>

*The Globe and Mail*’s reporting of Churchill’s second visit to Quebec emulated the reporting of *The Vancouver Sun*. In an Editorial piece titled “Churchill and Roosevelt,” the honour of Canada abounded for once again being chosen for another meeting between the two leaders, as “a final death-blow to the now-tottering dictatorial Powers” promised an end to fascism and the birth of a new world.<sup>123</sup> The Editorial emulated, “We tremble to think what would have been the fate of the world if the leadership of the Anglo-Saxon democracies had been in the hands of lesser men.”<sup>124</sup> Through this sentiment, Churchill’s place of “fame” in the annals of British history was secured via his commitment “to all humanity,” placing him within the annals of British history and world history.<sup>125</sup> Also, another fascinating point surrounds Clementine and Eleanor’s joint radio broadcast to the Canadian nation, “thanking the Canadian government and people for the opportunity to visit” and for their hospitality.<sup>126</sup> Clementine’s words of thanks quickly turned into words of fire as “the meaning of the Quebec Victory Conference is that the British people never forget the score they have to settle with Japan . . . ‘resolved to see it through to the end.’”<sup>127</sup> Clementine had endless thanks for Canada, as “That part which Canada has played in the great struggle for human freedom will never” disappear

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<sup>122</sup> Ibid.

<sup>123</sup> “Churchill and Roosevelt,” *The Globe and Mail*, September 12, 1944, 6, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Globe and Mail.

<sup>124</sup> Ibid.

<sup>125</sup> Ibid.

<sup>126</sup> “Mrs. Churchill Says Britain To Settle Score With Japs,” *The Globe and Mail*, September 14, 1944, 10, ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Globe and Mail.

<sup>127</sup> Ibid.



from their shared memory, illustrating the point that perhaps Clementine had a bit of Churchill in her or maybe Churchill had a bit of Clementine in him.<sup>128</sup>

Upon the European war's end, *The Vancouver Sun* article, "Wounded of Two Wars Keep Cool at Great News," tells how those scarred by conflict united behind Churchill's vision of a new world – created through the hardship and sorrow of the years past.<sup>129</sup> At Shaughnessy Military Hospital in Vancouver, young and old veterans of the Great War and the Second World War "prayed . . . for a lasting peace, for strength to the rulers of the world who must mould that peace," implicitly implying Churchill as one of those rulers, justly deserving of prayers while trying to rebuild the world out of its destruction.<sup>130</sup> The veterans also prayed universally "for the 'wounded and the sick, for the prisoners, for the homeless and exiled.' And they prayed[] in a long minute's silence[] for dead comrades."<sup>131</sup> This prayer was not just a soldier's prayer – they were praying for the world. These grieving veterans signify the legacy of the two world wars, with one leading to the other, through the ignorance of victors unto the vanquished. Through the Versailles Treaty and the failure of the League of Nations, conflict was ripe, and no nation was willing to stand in as the protector of this newfound internationalism and unsteady peace. Isolationism reigned supreme, and tempers ran hot. Unfortunately, Canadian society would have to go on to pay the price for victory and face insurmountable losses, exemplified by these veterans. The old veterans already believed in something similar after the Great War, now reliving it through the young veterans, who lived and died through freedom's song, which was both bitter and sweet.

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<sup>128</sup> Ibid.

<sup>129</sup> "Thanksgiving at Shaughnessy: Wounded of Two Wars Keep Cool at Great News," *The Vancouver Sun*, May 7, 1945, 25.

<sup>130</sup> Ibid.

<sup>131</sup> Ibid.



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The end of the European war signified an Allied victory in Europe. Even though Japan was still a threat in the Pacific (albeit a waning one), the Allies could direct all their might at extinguishing the last holdout of Hitler's fascist order. The above photograph represents how, according to *The Vancouver Sun's* page header, "Years of Hard Fighting Brought Victory to Canada's Men in Arms."<sup>133</sup> Many Canadians, in foreign places, "gave their lives for the cause in which they believed," forever remaining part of the nation's valiant war narrative but also disconnected by the many miles where they rest eternally, separated from what they left behind

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<sup>132</sup> *The Vancouver Sun* (Peace Edition), "Fruits of Victory," May 7, 1945, 12.

<sup>133</sup> "Years of Hard Fighting Brought Victory to Canada's Men in Arms," *The Vancouver Sun* (Peace Edition), May 7, 1945, 12.

and those still waiting for them at home.<sup>134</sup> Vancouverite Corporal J. Ross, who went off to fight against the evils of “Hitlerism,” possibly never returning but willing to make the sacrifice, was one of the lucky ones who did make it back home.<sup>135</sup> Ross saw “year-old Janet Harris,” his granddaughter, for the first time, who would live to see not only her grandfather but peace and safety in a time when tyranny and oppression could have easily been the narrative of the day.<sup>136</sup> The looming spectre of Hitler, forever crossed out by the gallant efforts of Canada’s fighting men, was no longer a threat to “the future of this little Vancouver girl [Harris] or millions like her,” as Churchill, the glorious victor, metaphorically holds her up to the heavens in triumph.<sup>137</sup> This metaphor is valuable in many ways, as Harris’ recent arrival into a world of turmoil signified the world’s eventual transition away from hate through its resistance against Hitler’s new world order. Through Harris, Churchill was holding the hopes and dreams of a new world, triumphantly holding up an entire generation that would live in peace through the recent glories and sacrifices their fathers, mothers, grandparents, and so on committed, defending freedom and justice for all.

Churchill came to embody the values the free world required to defeat the great evils threatening to dismantle it through his transformation from “The Unexpected Hero” to “The Necessary Hero.”<sup>138</sup> The unexpectedness of Churchill’s leadership began in earnest at Gallipoli, destroying Churchill’s reputation but putting him on the path toward his eventual destiny as the leader of the free world. Through the fires of adversity, Churchill was reborn as “The Unexpected Hero” through his undaunted perseverance of victory over defeat, no matter the

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<sup>134</sup> *The Vancouver Sun* (Peace Edition), May 7, 1945, 1.

<sup>135</sup> *The Vancouver Sun* (Peace Edition), “Fruits of Victory,” 12.

<sup>136</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>137</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>138</sup> Addison, *Churchill*, title page.

circumstances.<sup>139</sup> Appeasement saw Churchill's transformation into "The Necessary Hero" by countering the flawed narrative that saw Hitler as the guarantor of European peace. However, the words of Churchill went unheard until the folly of appeasement made itself apparent, resulting in the unmuffling of Churchill's voice toward a program of popular resistance against the fascist threat. It was Churchill's program of resistance that allowed his 1941 Ottawa visit and the Second Quebec Conference of 1944 a place in the prevalent wartime narrative. It was also Churchill's legendary leadership directing not only the Canadian nation and the world toward victory but also his heart, finally free from the trials and tribulations of his past, that guaranteed him a spot not only as a victory maker but within the domain of historical memory, not soon to be forgotten.

With Churchill as the world's orator, *The Vancouver Sun* was the keeper of his written word, with the newspaper carefully positioning itself under the bastion of freedom that Churchill was creating. The tyranny of the Axis powers threatened the liberal messaging of *The Vancouver Sun*, necessitating war to preserve the newspaper's values, exemplified through the man who would save them. Churchill the Conservative was the protector of how *The Vancouver Sun* identified as a newspaper, which was ironic due to its liberal positioning, but was required as his unifying nature allowed various beliefs to follow the coattails of change that would come with the rebirth of the world under the guise of the newspaper's credo: "progress and democracy, tolerance and the freedom of human thought."<sup>140</sup>

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<sup>139</sup> Ibid.

<sup>140</sup> "Mr. Hanson's Axis," 4.

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