



# HISTORY BIOGS

## FIGURES FROM HISTORY

### *WINSTON CHURCHILL*

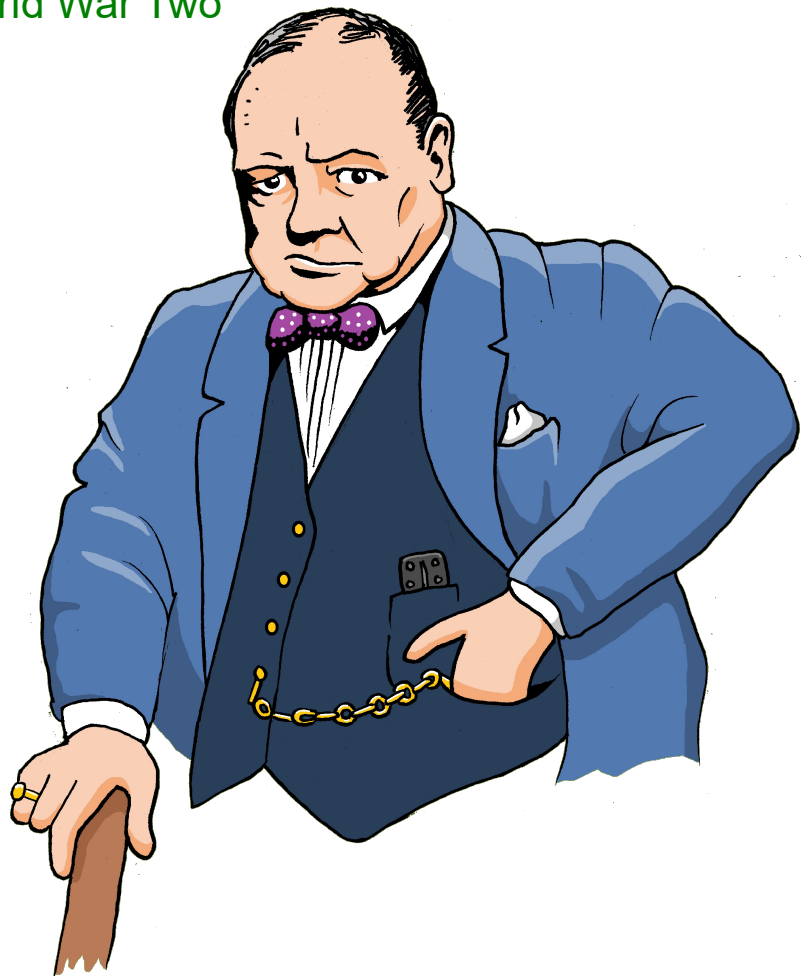
Always near the top in any pole of great Britain's, Winston Churchill at times was a contentious figure in British politics, but arguably helped Britain to win World War Two

Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill was born on the 30th November 1874.

He was a British statesman, soldier, and writer who served as Prime Minister twice, from 1940 to 1945 during the second World War, and then again from 1951 to 1955.

He was a member of the Liberal Party from 1904 to 1924 but for most of his career a member of the Conservative Party, which he led from 1940 to 1955.

He was of mixed English and American parentage, and born in Oxfordshire to the wealthy Spencer family.



He joined the British Army in 1895 and saw action in British India, the Anglo-Sudan war, and the Second Boer War, later gaining fame as a War Correspondent and writing books about his campaigns.

He became an MP in 1900 and rose to be the First Lord of the Admiralty during the First World War, where he oversaw the planning and implementation of the Gallipoli Campaign, but, after it proved such a disaster, he was demoted to Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

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He resigned in November 1915 and joined the Royal Scots Fusiliers on the Western Front for six months. In 1917, he returned to government under David Lloyd George and served in many important governmental roles for many years.

During his so-called "wilderness years" in the 1930s he left Government and took the lead in calling for British rearmament to counter the growing threat of militarism in Nazi Germany.

At the outbreak of the Second World War he was re-appointed First Lord of the Admiralty and In May 1940, he became Prime Minister, succeeding Neville Chamberlain. Churchill formed a national Government and oversaw British involvement in the war effort against the Nazi Germany and the Axis powers. Some think that Churchill's leadership style and stubbornness were the perfect attributes in this time of national crises and contributed to victory in 1945. He wrote books about his war experiences and was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1953. He returned to office in 1951. His second term was preoccupied with foreign affairs, especially the preservation of the British Empire.

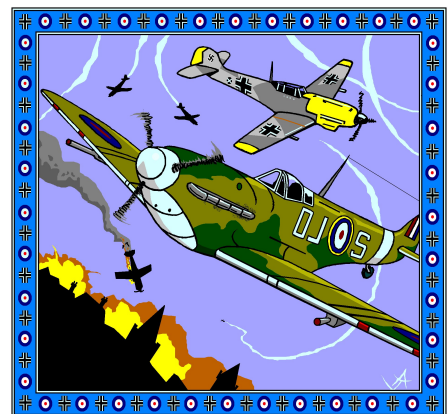
In declining health, Churchill resigned as Prime Minister in 1955, remaining an MP until 1964. After his death on January 24th 1965, he was given a state funeral.

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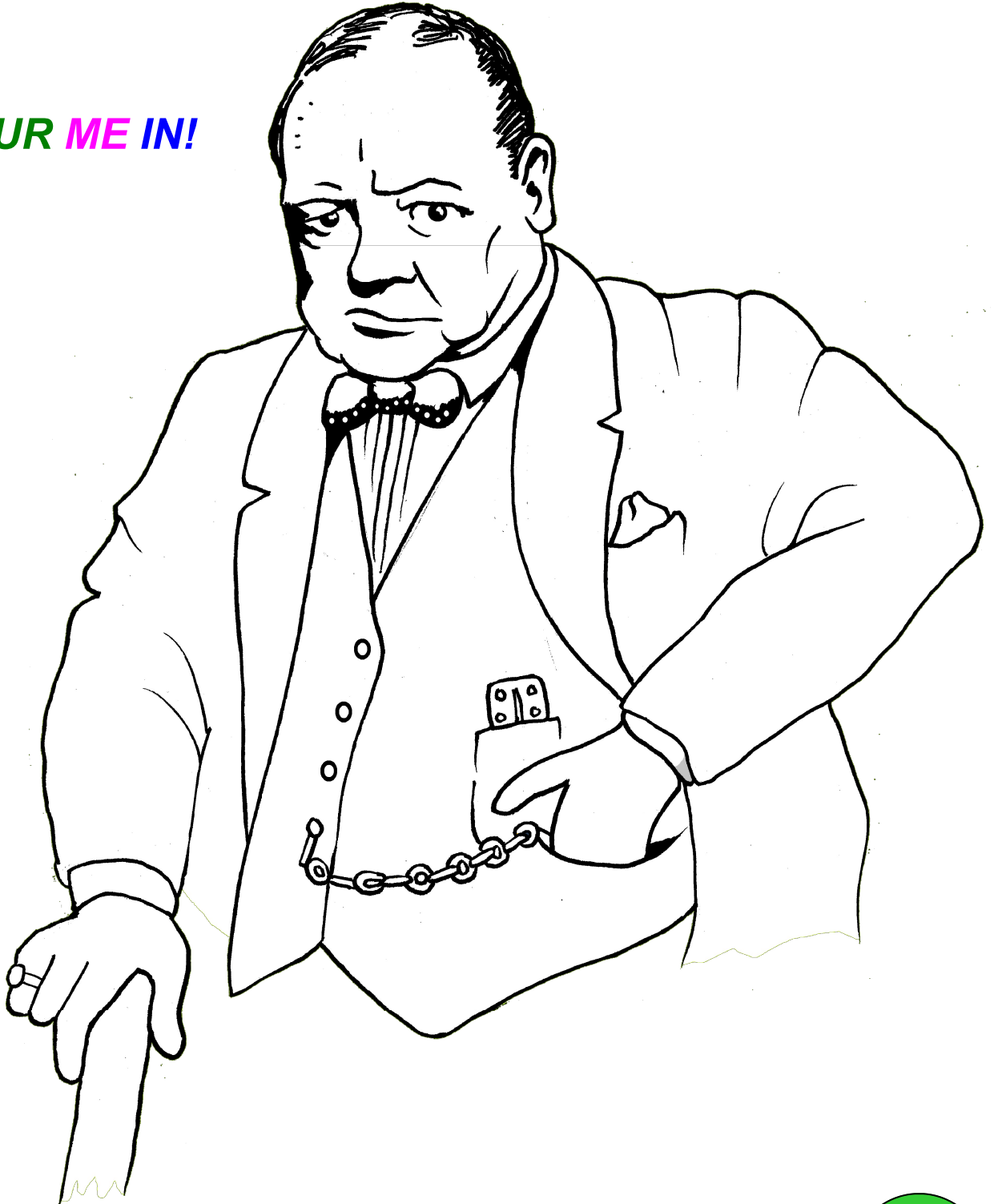


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