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## Another word for sluggish

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... All of us were obsessed with the German peril and the nakedness of our country to meet it, and Winston was galvanic in collecting the latest information to place before us. I have vivid recollections of his prophetic warnings couched in such terms of urgency that none of us could fail to realise that here was a patriot who was prepared to stake everything in pursuing his countrymen to action. I can see the great man now pacing the floor of my drawing room...delivering short puerile sentences such as, "at this moment all through Germany the factories are lit up, the clanging of hammers goes on all night, and the only answering British sound is the snoring of 'X'!" Lord Croft, My Life of Strife (1946), p. 285 He is much more attractive than the Edens and other gentlemanly wishy-washies. He is a real tough and at the moment talking our language. Labour MP Hugh Dalton's diary entry (3 October 1938), quoted in Ben Pimlott, Hugh Dalton (1986), p. 259 He was quite magnificent. The man, and the only man we have, for this hour. ... As we separated several of us went up and spoke to him. He had risen from the long table and was standing in front of the fireplace. I patted him on the back and said: 'Well done, Prime Minister! You ought to get that cartoon of Lord, showing us all rolling up our sleeves and falling in behind you, and frame it and stick it up there'. He answered with a broad grin, 'Yes, that was a good one, wasn't it?' Hugh Dalton's diary entry on Churchill's declaration that Britain would fight on (28 May 1940), quoted in Martin Gilbert, Finest Hour: Winston S. Churchill, 1939-1941 (1983), pp. 419-420 A British soldier once described Winston Spencer Churchill as "a pugnacious looking [bastard]." Others mistakenly regarded Churchill's plump figure as the affirmation of a jolly fat man. One historian has aptly described him as resembling a cherubic, jumbo-size baby with a cigar stuck in his mouth. There are hardly sufficient adjectives in the English language to describe the British wartime prime minister, but a descriptive (and contradictory) few will suffice. Churchill was brilliant, pampered, petulant, romantic, pragmatic, courageous, egotistical, eccentric, possessed of enormous perseverance, opinionated beyond measure, and impossibly demanding; furthermore, he drank too much, suffered from depression (his "black dog"), "waddled rather than walked," and by any criterion ought to have been too old to carry the enormous burden of a prolonged war that threatened Britain's very existence. His mood swings were legion and ranged from tears to jokes- on occasion at one and the same time. Eisenhower tells the tale of meetings during which "I've seen tears run over his chin." During one such encounter Eisenhower had just rejected as impossible something Churchill wanted done in Italy. "He painted a terrible picture if we didn't do it... He said, 'if that should happen I should have to go to His Majesty and lay down the mantle of my high office.' And here we were tears running down. But within ten seconds he was telling a joke. ... The man could use pathos, humor, anecdote, history, anything to get his way." Warts and all, Winston Churchill nevertheless represented the indomitable spirit of a defiant nation under siege. His oratory was stirring, and like FDR's, it galvanized an entire nation. In 1939 when Lord Halifax suggested that Britain make peace with Hitler, Churchill not only declined but instead vowed to rescue "mankind from the foulest and most soul-destroying tyranny which has ever darkened the stained pages of history." Carlo D'Este, Eisenhower: A Soldier's Life (2002), p. 328-329 Winston Churchill was unlike anyone Eisenhower had ever met. Though he was a megalomaniac on a par with MacArthur, Churchill elicited a wholly contrary response from Eisenhower, whose aversion to big egos was built on a lifetime of experience with such men. With Churchill, Eisenhower found himself up against a powerful personality- with a penchant for the dramatic gesture- in whom were combined political, statesman, warlord, and frustrated soldier would much rather have been on the battlefield commanding troops: The latter he had in common with Eisenhower. Carlo D'Este, Eisenhower: A Soldier's Life (2002), p. Winston Churchill, who worried about the "pan-Asian malaise" ad the looming "shadow of Asiatic solidarity," was himself inordinately fond of the racial slurs that were guaranteed to alienate Asian peoples. His Chinese allies remained "little yellow men" to him, even as the same phrase became an everyday expression in discussions of the Japanese enemy. John W. Dower, War Without Mercy: Race & Power in the Pacific War (1986), p. 161-162 All my thoughts are with you on this day which is so essentially your day. It is you who have led, uplifted and inspired us through the worst days. Without you this day could not have been. Anthony Eden's telegram to Churchill (8 May 1945), quoted in Martin Gilbert, Road to Victory: Winston S. Churchill, 1941-1945 (1986), p. 1351 A later call on President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill, a guest at the White House, was no more than an informal chat. It had no military significance, but it was the first time I ever had a personal talk with either of these two men. Tobruk, in the African desert, had just fallen to the Germans and the whole Allied world was thrown into gloom. These two leaders, however, showed no signs of pessimism. It was gratifying to note that they were thinking of attack and victory, not of defense and defeat. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Crusade in Europe (1948), p. 51 An inspirational leader, he seemed to typify Britain's courage and perseverance in adversity and its conservatism in success. ... He was a great war leader and he is a great man. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Churchill as an Ally in War, Charles Eade (ed.), Churchill By His Contemporaries (1953), pp. 128-129 His vitality, his brainpower, his endurance, his wit, his eloquence, his industry, his application were superabundant, superhuman. The first and last impression left by the Colosseum concerns its size. So with Churchill: the man was huge. Then, also, for the bulk of the British adult population, the moment which must stand out most proudly in their collective memory was 1940. More deliberately than at any other time in its history the nation united in a good cause. ... That was their finest hour. Churchill was the prime organiser, the voice, the symbol and the historian of those great days. ... His precise virtue then was that he represented his countrymen in that crisis better than at any other moment in his career. He exemplified, in word and deed - more, in every inflection and gesture - the untrining, resplendent courage which the hour demanded. ... Rarely were the needs of a nation and the chief quality of its leader better matched than in 1940. Nothing can ever take that from him. No one in his senses will ever try. Michael Foot, Loyalists and Loners (1986), pp. 168-169 I have got a good recollection of Mr. Churchill when he was in the Colonial Office and somehow or other since then I have held the opinion that I can always rely on his sympathy and goodwill. Mahatma Gandhi in conversation with G. D. Birla, quoted in Birla's letter to Churchill (23 September 1935), quoted in Martin Gilbert, Prophet of Truth: Winston S. Churchill, 1922-1939 (1979), p. 619 As early as 1919, Churchill, then a cabinet minister in Lloyd George's government, foresaw the potential for German-Soviet collaboration. James C. Humes, Churchill: The Prophetic Statesman, Regency History, Washington DC, 2012, p. 136 He ought to be the Minister of Supply if we are in for a crisis. His energy and fiery brain seem unimpaired with age. He is certainly not dismayed by our difficulties. He says that our rulers are now beginning to get frightened. ... He said that sometimes he couldn't sleep at night thinking of our dangers, how all this wonderful Empire which had been built up so slowly and so steadily might all be dissipated in a minute. He was just the stuff required in an emergency. The thing is to say when the emergency has arrived. General Ironside's diary entry (6 December 1937), quoted in Colonel Roderick Macleod and Denis Kelly (eds.), Time Unguarded: The Ironside Diaries, 1937-1940 (1962), p. 42 I keep thinking of Winston Churchill down at Westerham, full of patriotism and ideas for saving the Empire. A man who knows that you must act to win. You cannot remain supine and allow yourself to be hit indefinitely. Winston must be chafing at the inaction. I keep thinking of him walking up and down the room. General Ironside's diary entry (27 July 1939), quoted in Colonel Roderick Macleod and Denis Kelly (eds.), Time Unguarded: The Ironside Diaries, 1937-1940 (1962), p. 86 In Winston Churchill we have a man capable of keeping up the courage of the people. Thank God for that. I know no one else amongst our political leaders who can do it. General Ironside's diary entry (18 August 1940), quoted in Colonel Roderick Macleod and Denis Kelly (eds.), Time Unguarded: The Ironside Diaries, 1937-1940 (1962), p. 390 [T]he upsurge of the national spirit was largely his own creation. The great qualities of the British race had seemed almost dormant until he had aroused them. The people then saw themselves as he portrayed them. They put their trust in him. They were ready to do anything that he asked, make any sacrifice that he demanded, and follow wherever he led. Hastings Ismay, The Memoirs of General The Lord Ismay, K.G., P.C., G.C.B., C.H., D.S.O. (1960), p. 155 To the occupied nations in Europe he was already the living symbol of resistance and hope. Only if Britain was victorious could they regain their freedom, and they felt that if anyone could bring about that victory, it was Churchill. Travelling in Scandinavia and the Low Countries after the war, this was the sort of thing that I heard on all sides. "You in England had no idea what Churchill meant to us. We used to sit in dark cellars with the wireless turned on as low as possible, and while one of our number patrolling the streets would keep a look out for the Gestapo, we would strain our ears to catch his every word. His voice was the only ray of light in an otherwise completely dark and hopeless world." Hastings Ismay, The Memoirs of General The Lord Ismay, K.G., P.C., G.C.B., C.H., D.S.O. (1960), p. 156 I now put Churchill, with all his idiosyncrasies, his indulgences, his occasional childishness, but also his genius, his tenacity and his persistent ability, right or wrong, successful or unsuccessful, to be larger than life, as the greatest human being ever to occupy 10 Downing Street. Roy Jenkins, Churchill (2001), p. 912 He never over-claimed his part in 1940. Disaster had united rather than disrupted the people of Britain as he knew it would. Although as a nation we were alone, as individuals we were all in it together. He felt our temper exactly. ... But it was not to his eloquence, or even to his humour, alone that we responded; disaster had struck the scales from our eyes, and suddenly we saw the towering courage that had been Churchill's all his life. We all knew, in that instinctive way that tells true from false, that here was a man who would stand to the last; and in this confidence we could stand with him. Reginald Victor Jones, Most Secret War (1979), pp. 152-153 Unlike modern military operations, whose names are chosen for their public relations value, operations in World War II were christened on the governing principle that the name should give no hint of the objective. To this, Winston Churchill added a second requirement: operations should not be given boastful or frivolous monikers. As he told Pug Ismay, "Intelligent thought will already supply an unlimited number of well-sounding names that do not suggest the character of the operation or disparage it in any way and do not enable some widow or mother to say that her son was killed in an operation called 'BUNNYHUG' or 'BALLYHOO'. Johnathan W. Jordan, in his book American Warlords: How Roosevelt's High Command Led America To Victory In World War II (2016), p. 475. Perhaps if the British people could speak, they would ask for peace. But since the official voice of England asks not for peace but for destruction, its destruction we must provide. William Joyce, telling to the listeners in 1939, that "England is ripe for invasion", and England expects the United States for help, in speech, Joyce criticized Churchill. Real-Time Diplomacy: Politics and Power in the Social Media Era, p. 113 In the dark days and darker nights when England stood alone--and most men save Englishmen despaired of England's life--he mobilized the English language and sent it into battle. John F. Kennedy, 35th President of the United States, made this remark as he signed a proclamation conferring honorary status as a United States citizen upon Winston Churchill, on April 9, 1963. Churchill is one of only eight people to be made an honorary citizen of the United States of America, and the first to receive it in history. One day during the conference King lunched alone with Mr. Churchill and enjoyed the opportunity for an extended conversation. So convincingly did the Prime Minister speak that King, as he remarked afterward, kept his hand on his watch. Had this cherished personal belonging been asked of him, he might not have known how to refuse it! Although King was not in accord with the suggestions of operations in the eastern Mediterranean and an attack on the soft underbelly of Europe, he was in hearty agreement with Mr. Churchill's desire to clear the enemy out of North Africa so that Allied shipping might freely use the Mediterranean and avoid the long voyage around the Cape of Good Hope. Ernest J. King and Walter M. Whitehill, referring to the Casablanca Conference of January 1943, in Fleet Admiral King: A Naval Record (1952), p. 425 In King's view, there could have been no finer comrades-in-arms for the President and the Joint Chiefs of Staff than the Prime Minister and the British Chiefs of Staff. King both respected and enjoyed Mr. Churchill. The two men were similar in their entire frankness and their determination in pursuing given thoughts and courses of action. From time to time they collided, but basically they understood one another. Ernest King and Walter M. Whitehill, Fleet Admiral King: A Naval Record (1952), p. 646 Take Winston Churchill into the Cabinet. Churchill is the only Englishman Hitler is afraid of. He does not take the PM or Lord Halifax seriously, but he placed Churchill in the same category as Roosevelt. The mere fact of giving him a leading ministerial post would convince Hitler that [you] really meant to stand up to him. Churchill's admission to the Cabinet would be the most effective measure. Otherwise, trouble would start again very soon. In twenty-five years' knowledge of our [Labour] movement I have known no leader whom that faith has been given in greater measure or from a fuller heart. Harold Laski, Tribune (4 October 1940), pp. 11-12, quoted in Paul Addison, The Road to 1945 (1994), p. 196 As I look at the Europe Hitler has devastated, I know very intimately that, as an Englishman of Jewish origin, I owe you the gift of life itself. 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