



THE END OF THE BEGINNING

[1943]

(Cohen A178) (Woods A94)

The nadir of Churchill's war is captured in this collection of speeches, broadcasts and messages for January through December 1942. The onslaught of Japan; the quick loss of Malaya, Rangoon, Singapore and two capital ships; defeats in Africa, where Rommel sent his motorized cadres deep into Libya and threatened Egypt; the continued U-boat threat to Britain's North Atlantic lifeline; the German siege of major Russian cities: all tried Churchill's courage and Britain's faith. Over twenty-pages of *The End of the Beginning* comprise the Prime Minister's response to a no-confidence motion in the House.

"All will come right," Churchill said again and again, and the book ends on a tide of hope, captured in the speech at the Lord Mayor's Day luncheon in London on 9 November 1942, with the Battle of Alamein now history:

"I have never promised anything but blood, tears, toil and sweat. Now, however, we have a new experience. We have victory—a remarkable and definite victory. The bright gleam has caught the helmets of our soldiers, and warmed and cheered all our hearts....Rommel's army has been defeated. It has been routed. It has been very largely destroyed as a fighting force....The Germans have received back again that measure of fire and steel which they have so often meted out to others. Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning. Henceforth Hitler's Nazis will meet equally well armed, and perhaps better armed troops. Henceforth they will have to face in many theatres of war that superiority in the air which they have so often used without mercy against others of which they boasted all round the world and which they intended to use as instrument for convincing all other peoples that all resistance to them was useless."

Sombre it may be, but like all Churchill's books this one is not without levity. On one of the last pages, an oft-repeated Churchill quip is published. A Member of Parliament had asked whether the titles "Minister of Defence" and "Secretary of State for War" were logical, whether they shouldn't be changed to "Minister for War" and "Secretary of State for the Army."

Churchill responded: "Sir, we must beware of needless innovation, especially when guided by logic."

-Richard M. Langworth

From the Reviews

"My first impression is of this great man's astonishing vitality. I fancy this quality is less rare among politicians here than in England. It is not always a desirable quality: unless yoked with intelligence, it can be as much a nuisance as a tornado: unless coupled with honesty, it can be a willful menace. In Mr. Churchill you have it combined with exceptional intelligence, honesty so great that he has suffered political exile and the contemptuous condescension of men infinitely his inferiors, and a gift for direct speech unequalled in our time: and the consequence is a great statesman.

"The great speeches in this book are familiar. To reread them is to be struck again by the exactness of Mr. Churchill's thought, his weighed use of words, the fine eloquence of his more vivid passages, and his uncanny skill in a certain half-savage, half-playful bantering. How good he is in his comments on 'that bad man's' oratory in last October. 'The most striking and curious part of Hitler's speech was his complaint that no one pays sufficient attention to his victories. Look at all the victories I have won, he

exclaims in effect. Look at all the countries I have invaded and struck down. Look at the thousands of kilometers that I have advanced into the lands of other people. Look at the booty I have gathered, and all the men I have killed and captured. Contrast these exploits with the performances of the Allies. Why are they not downhearted and dismayed? How do they dare to keep up their spirits in the face of my great successes and their many misfortunes?' And a little after comes the bold and prophetic sentence, 'He sees with chagrin and amazement that our defeats are but stepping-stones to victory, and that his victories are only the stepping-stones to ruin.'"

-R. Ellis Roberts, *Saturday Review of Literature*, 28 August 1943

Comments

A companion to the previous war speech volumes, this is an important chronicle of the war and the bleakest period for the Coalition Government, including particularly WSC's masterly twenty-one page defence of his Government in the vote of confidence debate (July 1942), which he eventually won by 475 votes to 25.

Appraisal

Although this speech volume is easy to find in ordinary condition, fine, unspotted, jacketed first editions have become scarce and will continue to rise in price rapidly.

-EDITIONS-

[THE END OF THE BEGINNING]
First Edition: Cohen A178.1 / ICS A94a

Publisher: Cassell and Company Ltd., London 1943

Light blue cloth blocked gilt with title, author's name (with titles C.H., M.P.) and CASSELL on spine. 8vo, 272 pages numbered (i) -xiv and 1-258, with frontispiece (Walter Stoneman photo of the author) and four internal photographs on two coated paper leaves inserted between pages 66-67 and 162-63. Published 29 July 1943 at 11s. 6d. (\$2.30)—not 12s. 6d. as per Woods.

Impressions and Quantities

Four impressions (incorrectly termed "Editions" in the volumes). Woods records three impressions, 16,000 of the first and 16,500 reprints, but his dates are not confirmed by the volumes. *Identifying first editions*: title page verso contains the line, "First Published..1943" with no reprints indicated, and the code "F.543" (printed in May).

Variants

A minority of copies, including some first editions, were bound in smooth, medium blue cloth. Publisher's presentation copies were bound in full black pebble grain morocco.

In December 1943, some second impressions were bound in navy half morocco and blue cloth, top edges gilt for corporate presentation. Many bear a gift bookplate from the General Fire Appliance Company Ltd., London.

Dust Jackets

Jackets are printed black and yellow fading into mauve on white paper. First impression jackets advertise *Into Battle* ("Ninth Edition") and *The Unrelenting Struggle* ("Second Edition") on front flap; by the third impression, jackets advertised the "Tenth" and "Third Editions" respectively. The rear flap advertises the BBC ("BRITAIN CALLS THE WORLD"), the back face contains notes about this volume. Since later jackets often find their way onto first editions, buyers of firsts should be certain the jacket is correct.

[THE END OF THE BEGINNING]
American Edition: Cohen A178.2 / ICS A94b

Publisher: Little, Brown and Company, Boston 1943

Red cloth blocked gilt and black. Title and author's name separated by thick rule blocked gilt on black inside thin gilt frame on top board and spine. Also on spine are wavy lines top and bottom and publisher's name, all gilt. 8vo, 336 pages numbered (i) -(xiv) and (1)-322. Published 19 August 1943 at \$3.50.

Impressions and Quantities

The first impression (6000 copies) was the same size (5 3/4 x 8 3/4") as the American *Unrelenting Struggle*, but with wartime restrictions, later impressions were trimmed (5 5/8 x 8 1/4") to save paper. There were six later impressions, all in 1943: August (1000 and 1000); September (2000 and 1000) October (1000) and December (1000). *Identifying first editions:* title page verso contains the line FIRST EDITION with no reprints listed.

Variants

None noted

Dust Jackets

Jackets are printed black and red on white stock with a silhouetted photograph of Churchill demonstrating his "Siren Suit" (taken at the White House). All jackets contain a book blurb on the front flap, *Unrelenting Struggle* blurb on back flap, and praise of Churchill by Raymond Gram Swing on the back face. Later impression jackets are of course smaller, and front flaps indicate the impression, e.g. FIFTH PRINTING.

Comments

Uniformly and attractively bound with the Little Brown *Unrelenting Struggle*, this edition was reset but the contents were not altered; there is no frontispiece nor internal illustrations.

Appraisal

First editions are very scarce. Reprints, on the other hand, are in reasonably good supply and sell for less than one-fourth as much.

[THE END OF THE BEGINNING]
Canadian Issue: Cohen A178.3 / ICS A94c

Publisher: McClelland and Stewart Ltd., Toronto 1943

An offprint from the Little, Brown American Edition, the Canadian Issue differs only in detail: the McClelland and Stewart name in place of Little, Brown on the spine and title page, no price on jacket flap, and McCLELLAND | AND STEWART printed black on a red panel on the jacket spine. The binding is coarser and lighter red than the American, and the gilding is duller. One impression known.

[THE END OF THE BEGINNING]
Australian Edition: Cohen A178.4 / ICS A94d

Publisher: Cassell and Company Ltd., Melbourne 1943

Bound in rough red cloth blocked black on spine with more words than the English Edition: title, "Speeches | by the | Right Hon. WINSTON S. | CHURCHILL | space | Compiled by CHARLES EADE. and CASSELL at bottom. Although wholly set and printed in Australia by Wilke & Co. of Melbourne, it follows the pagination of the English Edition and contains the same frontispiece and four internal photographs. However, the frontispiece faces the half title, not the title page; and the internal illustrations are between pages 114-15 and 146-47. Published 1943 at A 12s. 6d.

In at least one respect the Australian issue establishes a new text: Churchill's quip about logic (see introduction) is followed by his next sentence: "Statutory sanction would be required"; this appears only in the Australian issue. There may be other examples of textual changes.

Cassell Australia now adopted the dust jacket style of the English Edition, and the Australian jacket contains exactly the same material as the latter, although reset and printed in Australia. There was only one impression: its title page verso contains the line "First Australian Edition, 1943." (Do not be misled by later impressions listed on dust jackets of later Australian titles; these jackets were offprinted or copied from British jackets.)

Its place in the pantheon of Churchill's books is significant, but the Australian Issue appeals to comprehensive collectors. .

[THE END OF THE BEGINNING]
Books for Libraries Issue: ICS A94e

Publisher: Books for Libraries, New York 1978

A offprint published in hardback, listed in contemporary editions of *Books in Print*. Issued without dust jacket. Stocked until the early 1990s by the N. W. Ayer Company in Nashua, New Hampshire.

Foreign Translations of War Speech Volumes

Numerous non-English editions of Churchill war speeches were published. Some closely follow the various English editions but most do not, and even those with the same titles add or delete speeches according to the preference or politics of their publishers. Several have misleading titles. The Norwegian *Blod, Svette og Tarer* (Blood, Sweat and Tears) actually includes speeches from that title and *The Unrelenting Struggle*. Accordingly, we have found it less confusing to group them all by language. (*Secret Session Speeches*, where the translations exactly coincide, lists them in the usual manner.)

Foreign Translations of War Speech Volumes From INTO BATTLE through VICTORY:

Since few non-English editions of the first six war speech volumes precisely follow the contents of the corresponding English titles, it seems more convenient to group them separately. Readers interested in a particular language should acquire all the volumes listed. See also foreign translations uniform with the first collected edition (*War Speeches 1940-1945*, Cohen A218 / Woods A113), and translations of *Secret Session Speeches* (Cohen A221 / Woods A114).

Czech:

DO BOJE (F. R. Vorovy: Prague 1946)
NELITOSTNY ZAPAS (F. R. Vorovy: Prague 1947)
KONEC ZACATKU (Stoleti Prerdu: Prague 1947)
VZHURUK VITEZSTVI (F. R. Vorovy: Prague 1947)
CZHURU KVITEZSVI (F. R. Vorovy: Prague 1948)
COTERVA NKY OSVOZONY (F. R. Vorovy: Prague 1948)

Danish:

I KAMP (Gyldendal: Copenhagen 1948)
DEN HAARDE DYST (Gyldendal: 1948)
MAALET I SIGTE (Gyldendal: 1948)
SEJR (Gyldendal: 1948)
TALER (Gyldendal Ugleboger: Copenhagen 1965)

The 1948 titles were large softbound books with illustrated wrappers, subsequently bound in two volumes, half navy morocco and patterned paper covered boards labeled *Taler I-II* and *Taler III-IV*. The 1965 comprises 280 pages with speeches selected from the original works.

Finnish:

WINSTON CHURCHILL SOTA-KRONNIKA (2 Vols.)

Subtitled *1939-1941* and *1944-1945*. Published by W. Soderstrom: Helsinki, 1946 and 1948 respectively. These are collected editions, seen both unbound and in paper covered boards.

French:

L'ENTREE EN LUTTE (Heinemann & Zsolnay: London 1943)

LA LUTTE SANS RELÂCHE (Heinemann & Zsolnay: 1943)

LA FIN DU COMMENCEMENT (Heinemann & Zsolnay: 1943)

EN AVANT VERS LA VICTOIRE (Heinemann & Zsolnay: 1944)

L'AUBE DE LA LIBERATION (Heinemann & Zsolnay: 1945)

VICTOIRE (Heinemann & Zsolnay: 1946)

DISCOURS DE GUERRE 1940-1942 (Shevnal Press, UK 1945)

The first six titles are uniformly bound in white wrappers printed blue and red. *Discours de Guerre* is a small paperback.

German:

REDEN 1938-1940 (Putnam: New York 1941. This interesting volume bears a dust jacket uniform in style to the English *Into Battle*, contains the Putnam text from *Blood, Sweat, and Tears*, and was apparently distributed by the British Legation in Berne, Switzerland. Blue cloth blocked blue on top board and spine; orange stained top page edges.

REDEN 1938-40 (Europa Verlag: Zurich 1946)

INS GEFECHT (Europa Verlag:1946)

DER UNERBITTLICHE KAMPF (Europa Verlag: 1947)

DAS ENDE DES ANFANGS (Europa Verlag:1948)

VORWARTS ZUM SIEG (Europa Verlag:1948)

ENDSIEG (Europa Verlag: 1950)

The Europa volumes are uniformly bound in coarse and smooth tan cloth with dust jackets whose colours change with the volume. Together with the German Edition of *Secret Session Speeches* (see separately under that title), these comprise seven volumes sequentially numbered "Band 1" through "Band 7."

REDEN (Ullstein Bücher: 1955; speeches 1938-45, 212 pages)

Italian:

IN GUERRA: DISCORSI PUBBLICI E SEGRETI (2 vols.)

Published by Rizzoli: Milan 1948. Subtitled *1938-1942* and *1943-1945*. Bound in white card wrappers printed black, then with medium green dust jackets with white spines. L700 per volume.

Korean:

KOZ (Seoul Newspaper Company: Seoul 1947; Institute of International Affairs: Seoul 1949).

Norwegian:

BLOD, SVETTE OG TARER (Cappelens: Oslo 1946; softbound and quarter leather)

MOT SEIER (Cappelens: 1946; softbound and quarter leather)

VED MALET (Cappelens: 1947; softbound and quarter leather)

On all quarter leather editions, two jackets have been noted: illustrated on thin paper, and unillustrated on heavy paper.

Romanian:

DISCURSURI DE RAZBOIU

Published by Pilot Press: London 1945. Subtitled *O Culegere a Discursurilor Tinute de Primul Ministrue al Maeri Britanni, intre Mai 1940 si Octombrie 1943.*

Russian:

IZBRANNIE REICHI 1938-1943

Published by H.M. Stationery Office: London 1945.

Spanish:

SANGRE, SUDOR & LÁGRIMAS (Editorial Clarid: Buenos Aires 1941)

EL FIN DEL PRINCIPIO DEL ASISMO A LA VICTORIA (Editorial Clarid: Buenos Aires 1944)

ADELANTE HACÍA LA VICTORIA (Los Libros de Nuestro Tiempo: Barcelona 1944)

ALBA DE LIBERACIÓN (Los Libros de Nuestro Tiempo: 1945)

VICTORIA (Los Libros de Nuestro Tiempo: 1947)

HACÍA LA VICTORIA (Ediciones Minerva: Mexico City 1945)

Swedish:

BLOD, SVETT OCH TÅRAR (Skoglund: Stockholm 1941; soft and clothbound; a 1941 second edition adds three May 1938 speeches.)

OFORTROTTAD KAMP (Skoglund: 1942; soft and clothbound)

SLUTET AV BORJAN (Skoglund: 1943; soft and clothbound)

FRAM MOT SEGERN (Skoglund: 1944; soft and clothbound)

BEFRIELSENS GRYNING (Skoglund: 1945; soft and clothbound)

SEGER (Skoglund: 1945; soft and clothbound)

KRIGSKRÖNIKA (2 vols., Skoglund: Stockholm and H. Schildt: Helsinki. Volume I (1945) is entitled simply Krigskrönika; Volume II (1947) is entitled Krigskrönika 1944-45. Soft and clothbound.

Soft and clothbound Swedish titles came with a dust jacket. They were later combined with the Swedish postwar speech volumes in a four volume leatherbound set.

Turkish:

BU HARVIN ICNUZY

Published by Basimeri: Istanbul 1942.

Combined Work in Korean

A Korean translation of *Blood, Sweat, and Tears* is combined with quote extrats (*The Wisdom of Winston Churchill*) in a volume published by Lim Ik yong: Seoul 1966.

TERMINOLOGY

This guide follows John Carter's *ABC for Book Collectors* commonly used terms:

Edition: "All copies of a book printed at any time or times from one setting-up of type without substantial change, including copies printed from stereotype, electrotype [we must now add 'computer scanning'] or similar plates made from that setting of type."

Impression: "The whole number of copies of that edition printed at *one* time, i.e., without the type or plates being removed from the press." A particular conundrum was posed by the discovery that the stated third impression of the Colonial *Malakand Field Force* (pressed November 1898) carried the same extensive textual corrections of the Silver Library Edition (pressed at the same time—indeed both these books used the same sheets). How then to classify the third Colonial? It is clearly not a new impression. Our solution was to make it part of a new entry, not cited by Woods, the "Second Edition," along with the Silver Library Edition.

State: "When alterations, corrections, additions or excisions are effected in a book during the process of manufacture, so that copies exhibiting variations go on sale on publication day indiscriminately, these variant copies are conveniently classified as belonging to different states of the edition." Example: the two states of the first English *My Early Life*.

Issue: "An exception [to the above] is the regular use of issue for variant title pages, usually in respect of the publisher's imprint...[also] when similar variations can be clearly shown to have originated in some action taken after the book was published, two [or more] *issues* are distinguished." Example: the two issues of *The People's Rights*, one with an index and appendix, the other with two appendices and no index.

We occasionally sidestep Carter's strict definitions for clarity. With *Savrola*, for example, Woods states that the first English "edition" was produced from a set of electroplates made up in Boston, a duplicate set to the First American Edition. The English "edition" might therefore be called an "issue," but we do not do so because no one else does, including Woods, and because this book is quite distinct in appearance.

Offprints: Carter defines this as "a separate printing of a section of a larger publication," which is not exactly how modern publishers use it. To us an offprint is a reprint, sometimes reduced but sometimes same-size, of *all* the pages of an earlier printing (for example the five Canadian offprints of American war speech volumes from *The Unrelenting Struggle through Victory*. In earlier years offprinting was accomplished by using plates from the original (like the Canadian issue of *My African Journey*) or by reproducing the type on negatives (like the Australian issue of *Secret Session Speeches*) In the latter case, the offprint usually exhibits heavy looking type, not as finely printed as the original. Offprints are not usually considered separate editions, but a contretemps arises with modern reprints of long out-of-print works made by photo-reproduction.

Proof copies: From *The World Crisis* on, proof copies bound in paper wrappers are occasionally encountered. This is a task best left to the bibliographer, except to say that in general they tend to lack illustrations, maps and plans that appear in the published volumes. Although not widely collected, proofs do usually command high prices when they are offered for sale.

Dust Jackets = Dust Wrappers: We generally use the term "dust jacket" to refer to what English bibliophiles usually call a "dust wrapper." The two terms are interchangeable, though words that describe the *parts* of the dust jacket, aside from "spine," are common to both countries. These are as follows: *Flap:* The parts of the jacket that fold in around the edge of the boards, front and rear. *Face:* The front or back panel of the jacket that you see with the book lying flat in front of you.

SIZE

Books vary—especially old books—and one finds variations between identical editions. Except where distinct size differences help identify various editions or impressions of the same title, one from another, this guide describes books by the traditional cataloguer's terms:

Folio (Fo.): Very large format, now commonly known as "coffee table" size; among Churchill folio works is the Time-Life two-volume *Second World War*, measuring 14 x 12 inches (365 x 305mm) which deserves this description.

Quarto (4to): Normally lying between folio and octavo in size, though varying considerably in this respect. A telephone directory is quarto; but so is *The Island Race*, A138(c), which measures 12 1/4 x 9 3/4 inches (310 x 248mm), although Woods calls it "octavo" and says it measures 12 x 9 1/2! Other quarto volumes are the Danish and Norwegian translations of *The Great War*, which measure 8 1/2 x 11 1/2."

Octavo (8vo): The commonest size of book since the early 17th century. A large (demy) octavo is about the size of *Frontiers and Wars*, A142/1, which measures 9 1/2 x 6 3/8 inches (232 x 162mm). A small (crown) octavo is about the size of the English *Young Winston's Wars*, A143(a), which measures 8 3/4 x 5 5/8 inches (222 x 143mm), although Woods calls it "16mo" and says it measures 8 1/2 x 5 1/2! (You see the problem...)

Duodecimo (12mo, commonly called "twelvemo"): A bit smaller than 8vo but taller than 16mo: the size of a conventional paperback, say 6 7/8 x 4 1/4 inches (175 x 107mm).

Sextodecimo (16mo, usually pronounced "sixteenmo"): The smallest size of book covered herein, shorter but perhaps wider than a paperback, for example the 1915 edition of *Savrola*, which measures 6 5/8 x 4 1/2 inches (168 x 114mm).

My only other reference to size will be when an obvious difference can be ascertained between related editions or issues: I thought it useful to mention, for example, that the first edition *Malakand* bulks about 1 1/2 inches, while the first Colonial issue bulks only about 1 1/4 inches; or that there's about a half inch difference between the first impression Macmillan *Aftermath* and the later impressions. Even here, the key word is "about," since old books swell or shrink depending on storage conditions, and many were not uniform to begin with.

FOREIGN TRANSLATIONS

Collectors of editions in foreign languages are enjoying a little-known but rewarding branch of Churchill bibliophilia, not the least for the sometimes magnificent bindings of these works (leading examples: the Monaco edition of *Savrola*, Scandinavian editions of *The Great War* and the Belgian French edition of *The Second World War*). Foreign translations also often differ importantly from the English editions, depending on what Churchill wished to emphasize or de-emphasize. For example, Sir Martin Gilbert's official biography records that the Dutch, through Churchill's foreign language impresario Emery Reves, were offended by no mention in *The Grand Alliance* of the activities of Dutch submarines in the Allied cause. Churchill replied that he would make no alteration in his English text but had no objection to an amplifying footnote on this subject in the Dutch edition, which was duly entered. (*Winston S. Churchill*, Vol. VIII, "Never Despair," London: Heinemann 1988 page 549). While we have not gone into great descriptive detail, we have indicated the broad reach of Churchill's foreign translations.

MAJOR WORKS CITED

Three works are commonly referred to in this guide:

Woods is shorthand for *A Bibliography of the Works of Sir Winston Churchill, KG, OM, CH* by the late Frederick Woods, the Second Revised Edition, second issue (Godalming, Surrey: St. Paul's Bibliographies 1975). The late Mr. Woods recognized that his work badly needed updating, and was beginning work on the update before his untimely death in 1994.

Frederick Woods, the pioneer bibliographer of Sir Winston, published his first edition in 1963, astonishing not only bibliophiles but also the Churchill family with the number of items he uncovered. Dissatisfaction with the completeness and accuracy of his work was inevitable as time passed, and Fred, to whom many of us passed our corrections and suggestions, characteristically recognized this. He was hoping to rectify the situation before his death. He can truly be said to have inspired everyone who has researched or seriously collected the works of Churchill.

Cohen is the new Ronald Cohen Bibliography, published by Continuum, a product of more than twenty-five years' labour by the author, aided and abetted by scores of bibliophiles and, through the pages of *Finest Hour*, journal of The Churchill Centre.

Both Frederick Woods, before he died, and Ronald Cohen kindly gave permission to quote their bibliographic numbers here as a cross reference.

ICS refers to a publication of the International Churchill Societies, *Churchill Bibliographic Data*, Part 1 ("Works by Churchill"). Pending release of the update, which he did not succeed in publishing, Mr. Woods also permitted the International Churchill Society to publish an "Amplified list" based on his numbers, but with more detailed sub-designations to pinpoint the various editions and issues. For example, *The World Crisis* has assigned three "Woods" numbers: A31(a) through A31(c). The ICS "Amplified Woods list" runs from A31a through A31k (in order to distinguish certain deservingly distinct editions and issues. Except for deleting the parentheses, in no case did ICS alter any basic Woods numbers. For example, even *Blenheim*, which undeservedly holds Woods number A40(c)—it is only an excerpt, and probably should not be among the "A" titles at all—is retained by ICS. Thus, "ICS" numbers are merely an extension of Woods numbers.

END