

"Never Give In"

Last year (2008), I had the distinct pleasure of watching a movie about Winston Churchill entitled, *The Gathering Storm* (2002). Though not qualified as a critic, I thought that Albert Finney played an excellent role - as always - as the prime minister. Finney also played in the movies, *Amazing Grace* and *Annie*, among others.

In a time prior to the WWII, the movie captures the relationship between the leader and his wife, Clementine. I liked the particular relationship between them; a sincere loving relationship so different from his rough, iron-willed persona as a publican.

**"Never give-in-never...
never in nothing great
or small, large or
petty...Never yield to
force; never yield to
apparently overwhelming
might of the enemy."
- Winston Churchill**

Away from the home however, Winston is struggling in the House of Commons to draw attention (and concerned) for the rising Third Reich. Though many do not share his opinion (and fear) of this development in Germany, Churchill remains resolute to expose the details (of the development) through some espionage of his own.

On the *home-front* (his home or manner), Churchill is having some personal challenges in both his finances and his relationship with Clementine. Pressures from both his public and personal life present more than a pickle; and through most of the movie or story, he is working diligently to shore-up his home life and marriage in the midst of the *dirty work* at the office.

Moving ahead a few years (to 1939), Churchill is first appointed to Lord of the Admiralty (Royal Navy); but following the resignation of the Prime Minister Chamberlain in 1940, becomes Prime Minister.

It is during the War that Churchill offers this famous speech or quote. From a source on the Internet, the speech (the complete speech) was given on October 29th, 1941 - at a time when England was under threat of invasion by the undaunted Nazi aggression.

To describe the details of the condition would not be enough. England has a much more extensive history than our own nation, and had (or has) endured loss and threats in ancient days; but this aggression was coupled with air raids, rocket attacks and the brilliance of a superior military.

In one sense, Churchill must have developed some bitterness over his years of raising the issue (of Germany's intentions) and, only now, to lead the nation against the outcome. He had tried to warn them - against the tide of appeasement and disinterest; but now, he had to be the champion of his belated cause.

Beyond the section of the speech featured in the quote, Churchill expressed:

We stood alone a year ago, and to many countries it seemed that our account was closed, we were finished.

...very different is the mood today...

Do not let us speak of darker days; let us speak of sterner days. These are not dark days; these are great days - the greatest days our country has ever lived; and we must thank God that we have been allowed, each of us according to our stations, to play a part in making these days memorable in the history of our race.

As is sometimes conveniently said, "The rest is history".

Closing with a return to his personal life, as portrayed in the movie, *The Coming Storm*; Churchill depended much on the marriage to Clementine. She seemed to be the anchor that kept him properly moored or founded. During a touching moment, her return from an international trip is met with the anticipation and exuberance of a child to his mother. A touching moment to be sure but one that stands on the possibility that his own courage was tested on the most personal level; **whereby, love sometimes means letting go...for the sake of Providence.**

"Never give in", but *stay the course* for which a Soldier Boy must do his duty..