

# WINSTON CHURCHILL

After a career in the army, Winston Churchill went into politics, first as a Conservative, then as a Liberal M.P. He held several posts in the reforming Liberal Government of the pre-war years; President of the Board of Trade, Home Secretary and, from 1911, First Lord of the Admiralty. In July 1914, as the crisis in Europe developed, he made the decision not to disperse the Fleet at the end of peace time exercises so that the British Navy was ready when war broke out. He also gave his support to the development of the tank, at a time when the generals at the War Office saw little use in the project.



It was Churchill who pushed the idea of an attack [originally by the navy] on Turkey through the Dardanelles. This led to the disastrous military campaign in Gallipoli. Churchill became the scapegoat for the failure and resigned. He re-joined the army serving at the front as a Colonel with the Royal Scots Fusiliers. He returned to government in 1917 as Minister for Munitions, then as Secretary for War 1918-21 and as Colonial Secretary 1921-2. However, he broke with the Liberal party in 1922 and returned to the Conservative Party.