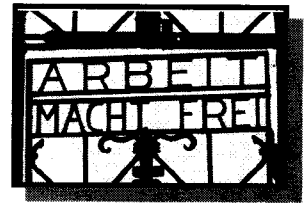




## Winnie the Pooh and his Connections to two World Wars



**In 1914, during World War I, troops from Winnipeg (Manitoba, Canada) were being transported to eastern Canada on their way overseas to Europe. When the train stopped at White River, Ontario, on the platform was a trapper with an orphaned bear cub.**

**Captain Harry Colebourn, a Canadian Army veteran, bought the cub for \$20 and named her "Winnipeg", or "Winnie" for short. Winnie became the mascot of the Second Canadian Infantry Brigade and travelled with them to Britain. When the Brigade was later posted to France it was decided that it would be better for Winnie to stay in Britain and she was placed in London Zoo.**



**Winnie was a favourite with children visiting the zoo because she was so tame and had such a gentle nature. The bear had a favourite meal, known as "Winnie's cocktail," a mixture of condensed milk and syrup which was often brought to her by her visitors. Winnie remained at London Zoo until her death in 1934.**

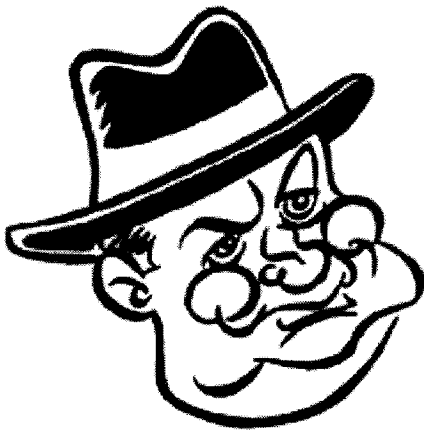
(Source: <http://www.teddy-bear-uk.com/learning/famous/pname.htm>)



**Later on, during World War II . . .**

**On June 4, 1940, Churchill delivered his "We shall fight on the beaches ..." speech to the House of Commons. Afterward the Prime Minister went to the BBC studio at Shepherd's Bush to deliver the same address, which would be beamed to the Commonwealth nations and the United States.**

**Unfortunately, the transcription apparatus broke down at the BBC. Although it went out live, the BBC did not have an oral recording. They asked Churchill to come back and deliver it again. Churchill refused. So Norman Shelley, the voice of Winnie-the-Pooh on the BBC, who was known for his clever mimicking of Churchill, delivered -- unbeknownst to Churchill -- the address. The Shelley rendition was for excerpts in later news and for records to be played at bond rallies and patriotic events.**



***"We shall go on to the end, we shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds . . . and Pooh will be there, and Owl, and of course little Piglet . . ."***

