



War Diaries, 1939-1945: Field Marshall Lord Alanbrooke

By Alan Brooke Viscount Alanbrooke

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Alanbrooke was CIGS - Chief of the Imperial General Staff - for the greater part of the Second World War. He acted as mentor to Montgomery and military adviser to Churchill, with whom he clashed. As chairman of the Chiefs of Staff committee he also led for the British side in the bargaining and the brokering of the Grand Alliance, notably during the great conferences with Roosevelt and Stalin and their retinue at Casablanca, Teheran, Malta and elsewhere. As CIGS Alanbrooke was indispensable to the British and the Allied war effort. The diaries were sanitised by Arthur Bryant for his two books he wrote with Alanbrooke. Unexpurgated, says Danchev, they are explosive. The American generals, in particular, come in for attack. Danchev proposes to centre his edition on the Second World War. Pre and post-war entries are to be reduced to a Prologue and Epilogue). John Keegan says they are the military equivalent of the Colville Diaries (Churchill's private secretary), *THE FRINGES OF POWER*. These sold 24,000 in hardback at Hodder in 1985.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

John Keegan in his review of *ALCHEMIST OF WAR* in *The Spectator* described Danchev as "one of the two most brilliant people [he] taught at Sandhurst". He is currently Professor of International Relations at Keele.

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