

# WINSTON CHURCHILL

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**DOES CHURCHILL DESERVE HIS STATUS AS THE GREATEST  
BRITON EVER?**

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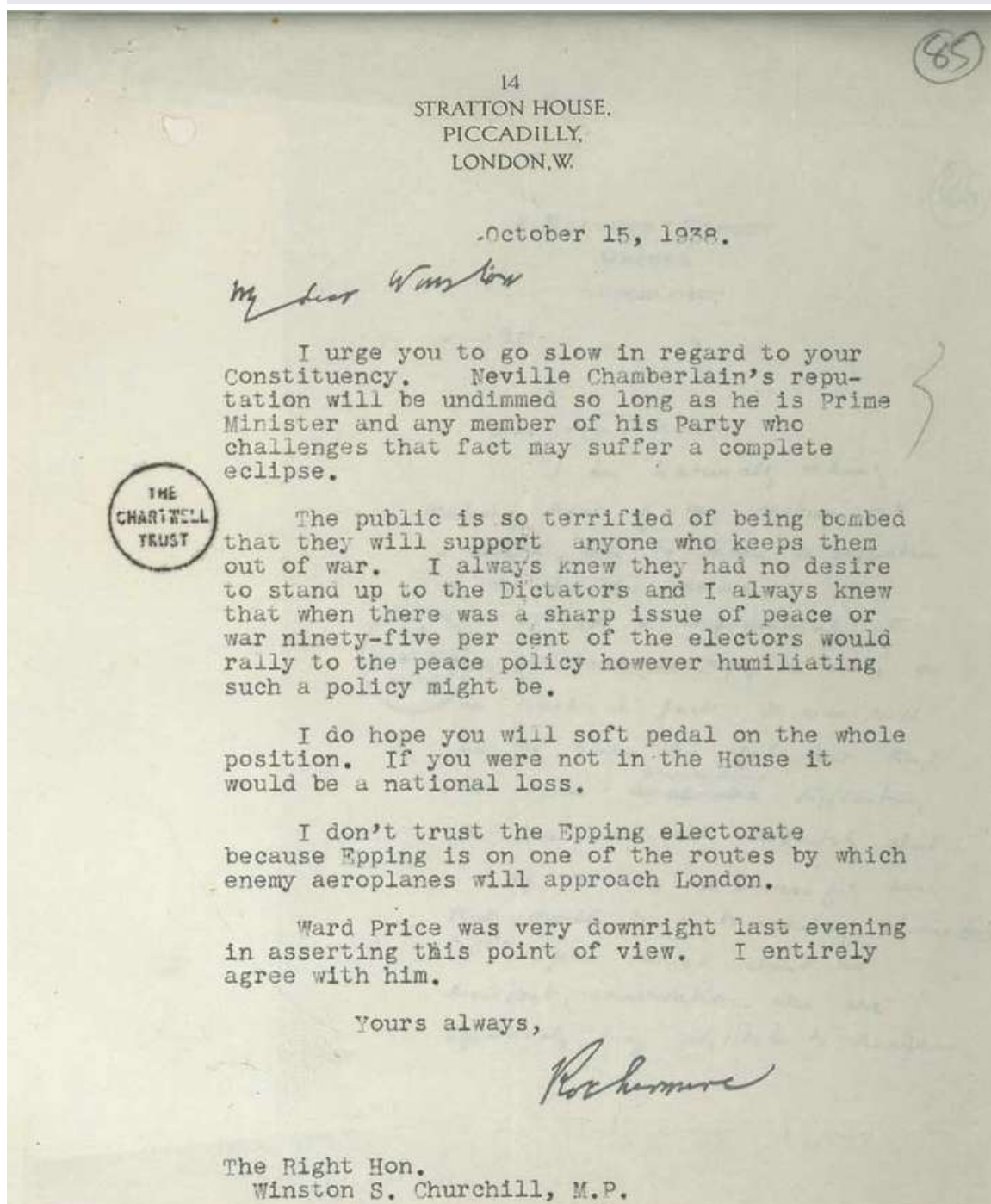
# He saw the threat of Nazism from the start and opposed appeasement

**Source 1:** Oswald Mosley, the leader of the British Union of Fascists, being saluted by his supporters in Bristol, England, 1934



# He saw the threat of Nazism from the start and opposed appeasement

**Source 2:** A letter from Viscount Rothermere, the owner of the Daily Mail, 15 October 1938



# He saw the threat of Nazism from the start and opposed appeasement

**Source 3:** Winston Churchill's speech about the threat of Nazi Germany, broadcast on BBC Radio on 16 November 1934

*...After all, my friends, only a few hours away by air there dwell a nation of nearly seventy millions of the most educated, industrious, scientific, disciplined people in the world, who are being taught from childhood to think of war as a glorious exercise and death in battle as the noblest fate for man.*

*There is a nation which has abandoned all its liberties in order to augment its collective strength. There is a nation which, with all its strength and virtue, is in the grip of a group of ruthless men, preaching a gospel of intolerance and racial pride, unrestrained by law, by parliament, or by public opinion. In that country all pacifist speeches, all morbid war books are forbidden or suppressed, and their authors rigorously imprisoned. From their new table of commandments they have omitted "thou shall not kill."...*

*Nay, worse still, for with the new weapon has come a new method...namely, the possibility of compelling the submission of nations by terrorizing their civil population; and, worst of all, the more civilized the country is, the larger and more splendid its cities, the more intricate the structure of its civil and economic life, the more is it vulnerable and at the mercy of those who may make it their prey.*

*Now, these are facts, hard, grim, indisputable facts, and in the face of these facts, I ask again, what are we to do?*



# Churchill was a racist imperialist

**Source 4:** Franklin D. Roosevelt and Churchill discuss colonial questions, August 10th 1941. An excerpt from Elliott Roosevelt, *As he Saw It*, 1946

Father broke in. "Yes. Those Empire trade agreements are a case in point. It's because of them that the people of India and Africa, of all the colonial Near East and Far East, are still as backward as they are."

Churchill's neck reddened and he crouched forward. "Mr. President, England does not propose for a moment to lose its favored position among the British Dominions. The trade that has made England great shall continue, and under conditions prescribed by England's ministers."

"You see," said Father slowly, "it is along in here somewhere that there is likely to be some disagreement between you, Winston, and me."

"I am firmly of the belief that if we are to arrive at a stable peace it must involve the development of backward countries. Backward peoples. How can this be done? It can't be done, obviously, by eighteenth-century methods. Now--"

"Who's talking eighteenth-century methods?"

"Whichever of your ministers recommends a policy which takes wealth in raw materials out of a colonial country, but which returns nothing to the people of that country in consideration. *Twentieth-century* methods involve bringing industry to these colonies. *Twentieth-century* methods include increasing the wealth of a people by increasing their standard of living, by educating them, by bringing them sanitation-by making sure that they get a return for the raw wealth of their community."

...

"You mentioned India," he growled.

"Yes. I can't believe that we can fight a war against fascist slavery, and at the same time not work to free people all over the world from a backward colonial policy"

"There can be no tampering with the Empire's economic agreements."

"They're artificial ..."

"They're the foundation of our greatness."

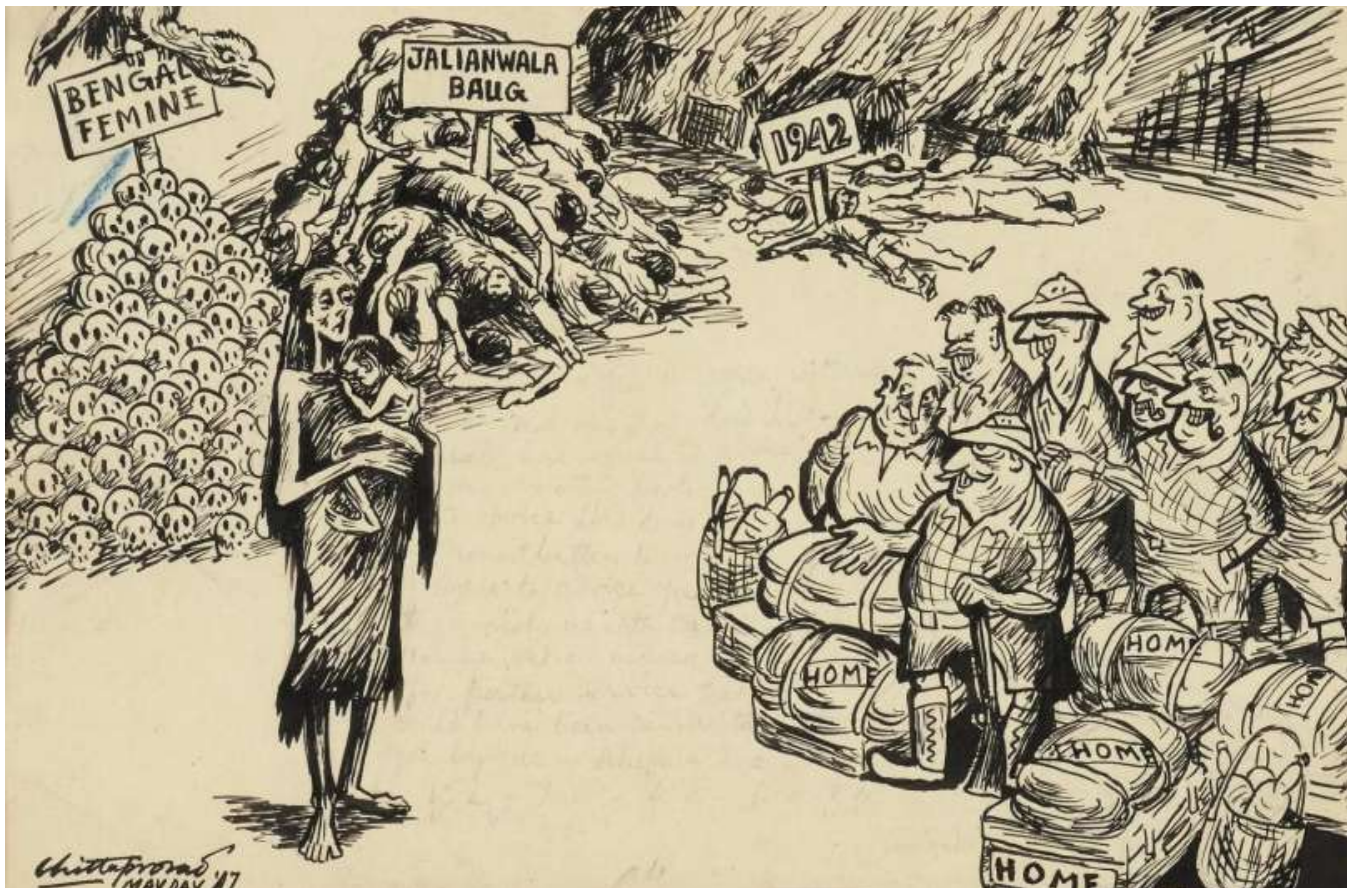
# Churchill was a racist imperialist

**Source 5:** Contribution by Churchill to the Peel Commission Report, 1937

I do not admit, for instance, that a great wrong has been done to the Red Indians of America, or the black people of Australia. I do not admit that a wrong has been done to those people by the fact that a stronger race, a higher-grade race, or, at any rate, a more worldly-wise race, to put it that way, has come in and taken their place.'

# Churchill was a racist imperialist

**Source 6:** An image from the book “Hungry Bengal”, by artist and political satirist Chittaprosad Bhattacharya





# Churchill's powerful speeches strengthened the British public's resolve



**Source 7:** A wartime Ministry of Information poster that quotes Churchill 'Let us go forward together'



# Churchill's powerful speeches strengthened the British public's resolve

**Source 8:** Lady Desborough's reaction to Churchill's "The Russian Enigma" speech, broadcast on BBC radio, 1st October 1939

Among the personal friends who wrote to Churchill after his broadcast was Lady Desborough, two of whose three sons had been killed in the First World War. 'Your broadcast last night was a touchstone,' she wrote, 'lifting up our hearts—& your beautiful Navy speech last week. Bless you. You made one feel that all that matters most is unconquerable, serenely sheltered somewhere—to hold us all together.'<sup>3</sup>

# Churchill's powerful speeches strengthened the British public's resolve

**Source 9:** An extract from a speech from Clement Attlee, the Labour leader who beat Churchill in the 1945 election, on 24th January 1965

"None of us can forget how, through all those long years, he now and again spoke exactly the phrase that crystallised the feelings of the nation...we have lost the greatest Englishman of our time - I think the greatest citizen of the world of our time"

# Churchill was a warmonger who used inhumane forms of warfare

**Source 10:** A photograph from the German Federal Archives. It shows a view of the destroyed city centre of Dresden





# Churchill was a warmonger who used inhumane forms of warfare

**Source 11:** Churchill on his experience in Afghanistan in 1911, published in *My Early Life: 1874-1904* by Winston Churchill

We proceeded systematically, village by village, and we destroyed the houses, filled up the wells, blew down the towers, cut down the great shady trees, burned the crops and broke the reservoirs in punitive devastation.

# He had a clear vision on how to bring economic growth and lasting peace to Europe

**Source 12:** Extract of a speech delivered by Churchill at the University of Zurich, 19 September 1946



I now sum up the propositions which are before you. Our constant aim must be to build and fortify the United Nations Organisation. Under and within that world concept we must recreate the European family in a regional structure called, it may be, the United States of Europe, and the first practical step will be to form a Council of Europe. If at first all the States of Europe are not willing or able to join a union we must nevertheless proceed to assemble and combine those who will and who can.

# He had a clear vision on how to bring economic growth and lasting peace to Europe

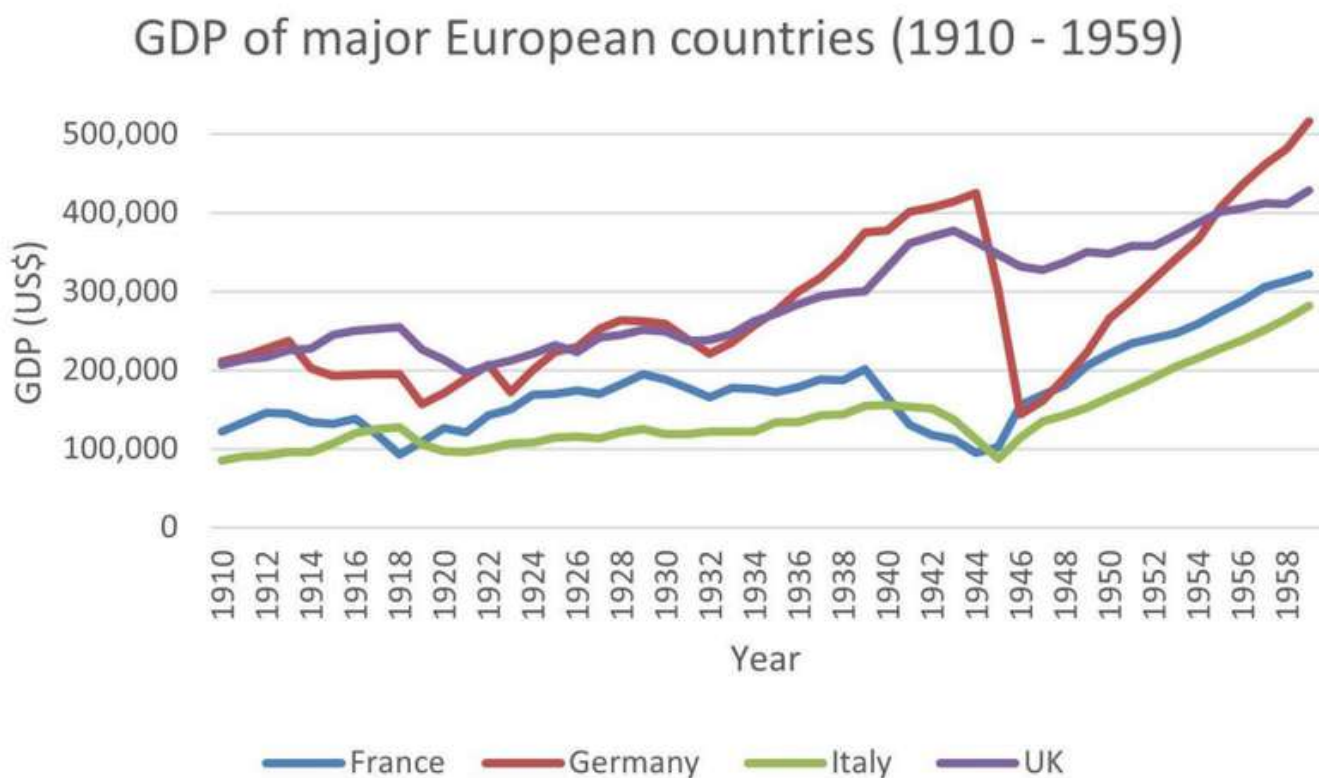
**Source 13:** Commemorative plaque for the speech of Winston Churchill on September 19th 1946 at the University of Zurich. The final sentence of his speech was: 'Therefore I say to you: let Europe arise!'





# He had a clear vision on how to bring economic growth and lasting peace to Europe

**Source 14:** Graph of historical GDP statistics taken from the Maddison Project's historical statistics



# Churchill used military force at home

**Source 15:** The American Committee for Relief in Ireland inspecting a ruined building in Balbriggan after a raid by the Black and Tans, September 1920



## Churchill used military force at home

**Source 16:** A photograph of the Siege of Sidney Street, 1911. This was the first time that the police requested military assistance in London, to deal with an armed stand-off. Churchill, then the Home secretary, personally attended





# Churchill was a pragmatist, this helped him win the war

**Source 17:** A handwritten note from Churchill to William Royle, the organizer of the Liberal party in Manchester, defending his decision to use force against strikers. Quoted in Churchill on the home front, 1900-1955 by Paul Addison, 1992

The progress of a democratic country is bound up with the maintenance of order. The working classes would be almost the only sufferers from an outbreak of riot & a general strike if it cd be effective would fall upon them & their families with its fullest severity. At the same time the wages now paid are too low and the rise in the cost of living (due mainly to the increased gold supply) makes it absolutely necessary that they shd. be raised. I have never heard of the British people complaining (as they now do) without a good & just cause.

I believe the Government is now strong enough to secure an improvement in social conditions without failing in its primary duties.<sup>93</sup>

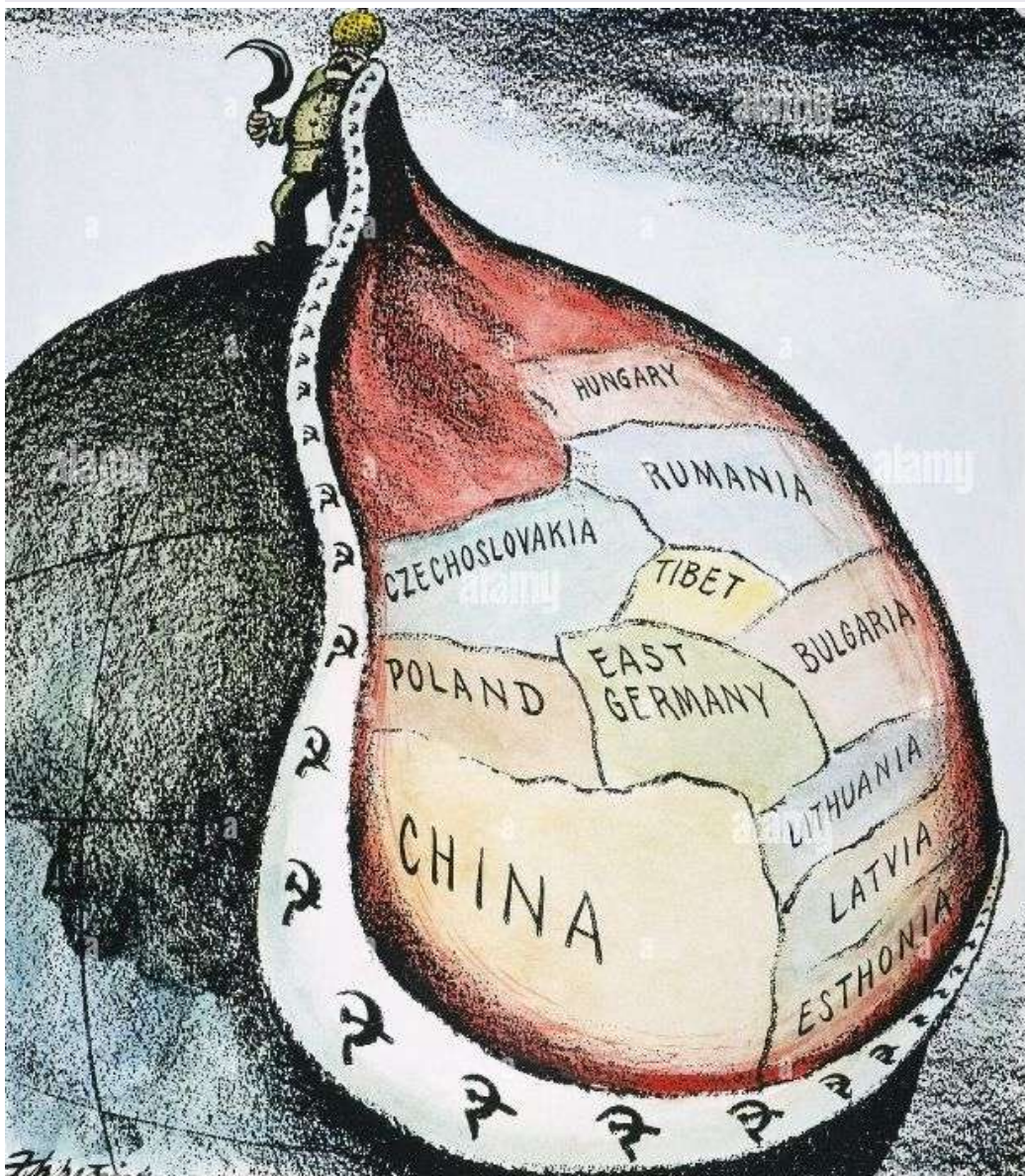
# Churchill was a pragmatist, this helped him win the war

**Source 18:** Extract from Winston Churchill and the Soviet Union during the Second World War by Martin Kitchen, *The Historical Journal* Vol. 30, No. 2 (Jun., 1987), pp. 415-436

When thinking of Churchill's attitude towards the Soviet Union one automatically thinks of him as the most outspoken of the advocates of armed intervention during the civil war, or as the author of the speech in Fulton, Missouri, which many people regard as the opening salvo in the Cold War. During the war, however, when the Soviet Union became a great ally without whose help the war in Europe could never have been won, his attitude was bound to be quite different. Even before the Germans launched 'Operation Barbarossa' thus forcing the Soviets into the Allied camp, Churchill had been thinking of the Russians as possible partners in the struggle against Nazi Germany, for however much he detested the Soviet regime, his passionate determination to destroy Nazism was a far more powerful emotion, and, as he put it, if Hitler were to invade Hell he would promptly sign a pact with the Devil.

# He was outmanoeuvred by Stalin and sacrificed Eastern Europe to the Soviets

**Source 19:** American cartoon, 1951 by D.R. Fitzpatrick on the growing empire of Joseph Stalin





## He was outmanoeuvred by Stalin and sacrificed Eastern Europe to the Soviets

**Source 20:** Taken from “Operation Keelhaul; the story of forced repatriation from 1944 to the present” by Julius Epstein, page 78-9

The first to commit suicide, by hanging, was the Cossack editor Evgenij Tarruski. The second was General Silkin, who shot himself...The Cossacks refused to board the trucks. British soldiers with pistols and clubs began using their clubs, aiming at the heads of the prisoners. They first dragged the men out of the crowd and threw them into the trucks. The men jumped out. They beat them again and threw them onto the floor of the trucks. Again, they jumped out. The British then hit them with rifle butts until they lay unconscious, and threw them, like sacks of potatoes, in the trucks.