

PATHE GAZETTE: 42/68.

PREMIER IN THE MIDDLE EAST

A Lockheed Hudson touches down at a desert aerodrome bringing a mysterious Mr. Bullfinch. No disguise but a fine collection of hats and clothing for a secret visit to the Middle East. General Auchinleck meets the Prime Minister at the start of his electric visit to the Egyptian war zone. Mr. Churchill straight away goes up the line making personal contact with South African fighting men as a very important part of his programme. Travelling up to El Alamein, the Prime Minister made a point of talking to a gun crew, men of a Royal Artillery regiment doing stout work with a four point five. Mr. Churchill's visit is a typical Winstonian surprise, the breezy friendliness goes down well with the boys, not least of all with the Aussies one of whom on discovering who the sun-hatted visitor was exclaims "Christ, it's Old Winnie"! At a base landing ground the High Commissioner for Egypt Sir Miles Lampson, Sir Alexander Cadogan and General Wavell await the Prime Minister's arrival in the giant Liberator "Commando". Mr. Churchill is now wearing the uniform of Air Commodore. The Prime Minister as guest of honour is invited to lunch at the Officers Mess. It is perhaps redundant for us to remark here but our camera records only the incidental progress of the Prime Minister's tour. Deep behind all this far reaching and important plans are being made. This is no sight-seeing tour being made by Statesman and General, it is a start of far bigger things embracing not only the Middle East but Russia and India. Mr. Churchill's talks with King Farouk and President Stalin bear this out. Meanwhile, Mr. Churchill tells his listeners much to hearten them. Surely these must be the most intimate pictures ever taken of him. After lunch he leaves the tent and makes his way through an enthusiastic crowd. Now the sombrero and the siren suit. With General Smuts in Cairo Churchill carries the baby again, the son of Sir Miles Lampson. The great South African General Smuts, General Auchinleck (since succeeded by General Alexander)

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Generals Wavell and Brooke, Mr. Casey, Admiral Harwood and Air Chief Marshal Tedder. So we leave the Embassy with the wish that much good will emerge from the journeyings of our Prime Minister.