

Paul Ryan – Duke of Marlborough - Soldier and Statesman

John Churchill (1650 – 1722), who became the first Duke of Marlborough, is regarded by many as one of Britain's greatest generals.

To quote his distant grandson, Winston Churchill, *'He commanded the armies of Europe against France for ten campaigns. He fought four great battles and many important actions. It is the common boast of his champions that he never fought a battle that he did not win, nor besieged a fortress he did not take. Until the advent of Napoleon no commander wielded such widespread power in Europe. Upon his person centred the union of nearly twenty confederate states.'*

The talk takes one through John Churchill's early military career at a time when there was much turmoil in England, from the time of Cromwell to the Glorious Revolution and the reign of William and Mary. It was within Queen's Anne's reign that, as the Duke of Marlborough, he achieved his greatest glory, but then, his downfall.