

## **Sir Winston Churchill: The greatest Briton?**

### **1895-1899 Imperial adventures: Video transcript**

He became a subaltern in the 4th Hussars and it was then that those strange processes that set some men apart began to stir. He saw his first battle in Cuba where simply for the adventure he served with the Spanish forces in a local civil war. He managed by pleading and wangling to take part in 5 separate wars before the age of 25. He left his regiment in Bangalore and went campaigning on the North West Frontier. Here he fought wild tribesmen that had no taste for Imperial order. He was cut off from the main body by Pathans who jabbed at him with spears. He used his revolver and escaped unhurt.

In the Sudan a few months later he joined Kitchener's army just before the battle of Omdurman in which the multitudinous followers of a Muslim holy man were routed. He took part in the famous charge of the 21st Lancers and it was probably the last cavalry charge in history. These were the high, heady days of Empire.

**Extract from BBC obituary of Churchill narrated by Richard Dimbleby**