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France salutes Sir Winston-

Nov 7th. '58.

In Paris for a very special occasion, Sir Winston Churchill arrived at the French Premier's official residence, there to be met by General de Gaulle and to receive from him one of France's highest awards-- the Cross of Liberation, only twice before presented to a foreigner. (2)

It was a day of memories for the two ^{Statesmen} ~~great men~~ who hadn't met ^{for 14 years.} ~~since~~ ^{Then Churchill had driven} ~~1945-1944~~ in triumph through the streets of a Paris ^{de Gaulle} ~~they~~ had fought together to liberate.

The climax of an impressive ceremony.

General de Gaulle pins the medal, a ~~Cross of Lorraine on a sword~~ with green and black ribbon, on his breast ~~and then kisses him.~~

Later, inside the Hotel Matignon, General Ingold, Grand Chancellor of the Order, handed Sir Winston a Cross of Lorraine- in crystal to commemorate the occasion. It's a foot high and weighs nearly three pounds.

It was a busy day for the ^{Sir Winston} ~~great~~ statesman. After lunch with Gen de Gaulle, he was off ^{with Lady Churchill} to the Elysee Palace to be received by President Coty. ^{President Coty received him and Lady Churchill at the Elysee Palace.} ~~Lady Churchill was also welcomed by the French President.~~

Sir Winston was still wearing the Liberation Medal, given as the citation ran "For his decisive contribution to saving the freedom of the world".

There ^{was a} ~~was~~ surprise ending to the story as the Churchills came ^{on} home to London unexpectedly to celebrate Sir Winston's birthday on November 30th. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

And ~~as~~ ^{drove} they ~~drove~~ off, the grand old man finally got a breather- to catch up on the day's news.