Military Quote of the Day

"Now, gentlemen, let us do something today which the world may talk of hereafter."
- Lord Collingwood, British admiral.
- Prior to the Battle of Trafalgar, 21 Oct 1805.

"One of my superstitions had always been when I started to go anywhere, or to do anything, not to turn back, or stop until the thing intended was accomplished."
- General of the Army Ulysses S. Grant.

"They can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."
- Benjamin Franklin, 1759.

"For a people who are free, and who mean to remain so, a well-organised and armed militia is their best security."
- Thomas Jefferson: message to Congress, Nov. 1808.

"Do what you can, with what you have, where you are."
- Theodore Roosevelt.

"Do not neglect the principles of foresight and know that often, puffed up with success, armies have lost the fruit of their heroism through a feeling of false security."
- Frederick the Great,
- Instruction to His Generals, 1447.

"War is cruelty. There is no use trying to reform it. The crueller it is, the sooner it will be over."
- General William T. Sherman.

"Qui desiderat pacem, praeperat bellum. Let him who desires peace, prepare for war."
- Flavius Vegetius Renatus.

"In no other profession are the penalties for employing unprepared personnel so appalling or so irrevocable as in the military."
- General of the Army Douglas MacArthur.

"Many intelligence reports in war are contradictory; even more are false, and most are uncertain."
- Carl von Clausewitz.

"I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible and die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his honour and that of his country, Victory or death."
- LTC William B. Travis,
- Letter sent from the Alamo on 24 FEB 1836.
"The art of war is simple enough. Find out where your enemy is. Get at him as soon as you can. Strike him as hard as you can, and keep moving on."
- General of the Army Ulysses S. Grant.

"When the smoke cleared away, it was the man with the sword, or the crossbow, or the rifle, who settled the final issue on the field."
- General of the Army, George C. Marshall.

"Although soldier by profession, I have never felt any sort of fondness for war, and I have never advocated it, except as a means of peace"
- General of the Army Ulysses S. Grant.

"The god of war hates those who hesitate."
- Euripedes, Heraclidae, ca. 425 BC.

"You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word. It is victory. Victory at all costs. Victory in spite of all terrors. Victory, however long and hard the road may be, for without victory there is no survival."
- Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

"People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf"
- George Orwell.

"Why does soldiers leave the protection of his trench hole in the ground and go forward in the face of shot and shell? It is because of the leader who is in front of him and his comrades who are around him. Comradeship makes a man feel warm and courageous when all his instincts tend to make him cold and afraid."
- Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery, 1968.

"I hadn't yet realised that learning to be a staff officer is something like learning to milk a cow. The novelty soon wears off, and the job becomes burdensome, and smelly. As a boy I learned the hard way that if you demonstrated skill at milking a cow, somebody would keep you milking one. It's the same way being a good staff officer."
- MG Aubrey S. Newmann.

"In war, discipline is superior to strength; but if that discipline is neglected there is no longer any difference between the soldier and the peasant."
- Flavius Vegetius Renatus
- (4th - 5th century A.D.) DE RE MULITARI - Book I.

"In war trivial causes produce momentous events."
- Julius Cesar.

"Nothing remains static in war or military weapons, and it is consequently often dangerous to rely on courses suggested by apparent similarities in the past."
- Admiral Ernest Joseph King.
"Paper-work will ruin any military force."
- Lieutenant General Lewis "Chesty" Puller.

"In combat life is short, nasty and brutish. The issues of national policy which brought him to war are irrelevant to the combat soldier; he is concerned with his literal life changes."
- Charles E. Moskos, Jr.

"To a surprising extent the war-lords in shining armour, the apostles of martial virtues, tend not to die fighting when time comes. History is full of ignominious getaways by the great and famous."
- George Orwell.

General N. Schwarzkopf was asked if he didn’t think there was room for forgiveness toward the people who have harbored and abetted the terrorists who perpetrated the September 11th attacks on America. His answer was - “I believe that forgiving them is god’s function, our job is to arrange the meeting.”

"I cannot approve of your method of operation, you proceed like a bewildered idiot, taking not the least notice of my orders."
- Napoleon Bonaparte to Marshall Murat, 1805.

"There is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success, than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things."

"A good plan violently executed now is better than a perfect plan executed next week."
- General George S. Patton, Jr.

"The main thing is always to have a plan; if it is not the best plan, it is at least better than no plan at all."
- General Sir John Monash, 1918.

"Discipline is the soul of an army. It makes small numbers formidable; procures success from the weak and esteem to all."
- LtCol George Washington in letter to Virginia Militia, 1759.

"Great advantage is drawn from knowledge of your adversary, and when you know the measure of his intelligence and character, you can use it to play on his weakness."
- Fredrick the Great.

"There are two kind of people, those who do the work and those who take the credit. Try to be in the first group, there is less competition there."
- Indira Gandhi.

"To conquer the command in the air means victory; to be beaten in the air means defeat."
- Giulio Douhet: The Command of the air. 1921.
"Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force: You are to embark upon the Great Crusade, towards which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hope and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere are with you..."

- General Dwight D. Eisenhower, June 6th, 1944, D-Day.

"Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first."

- Ronald Reagan.

"I have always regarded the forward edge of the battlefield as the most exclusive club in the world"

- Sir Brian Horrocks.

"Stand your ground. Don't fire unless fired upon, but if they mean to have a war, let it begin here!"

- John Parker.

"Victory has a thousand fathers, but defeat is an orphan."

- John F. Kennedy.

"The mere absence of war is not peace."

- John F. Kennedy.

"In war there is no substitute for victory."

- Dwight D. Eisenhower.

"It is fatal to enter war without the will to win it."

- General Douglas McArthur.

"I say we are going to have peace even if we have to fight for it."

- Dwight D. Eisenhower.

"Old soldiers never die; they just fade away."

- General Douglas McArthur.

"When you see a rattlesnake poised to strike, you do not wait until he has struck before you crush him."

- Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"To lead an untrained people to war is to throw them away."

- Confucius.

"If you want peace, understand war."

- B.H. Liddel Hart.

"In war there is no second prize for the runner-up."

- General Omar Bradley.
"Victory has a thousand fathers, but defeat is an orphan".
  - John F. Kennedy.

"Courage is resistance of fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear".
  - Mark Twain.

"Morale is the greatest single factor in successful wars".
  - Dwight D. Eisenhower.

"The object of war is not to die for your country but to make the other bastard die for his".
  - General George S. Patton, Jr.

"The will to conquer is the first condition for victory".
  - Marshal Ferdinand Foch.

"I shall proceed from the simple to the complex. But in war more than any other subject we must begin by looking at the nature of the whole; for here more than elsewhere the part and the whole must always be thought of together".
  - Carl von Clausewitz.

"Do not hit at all if it can be avoided, but never hit softly".
  - Theodore Roosevelt.

"Although our intelligence always longs for clarity and certainty, our nature often finds uncertainty fascinating".
  - Carl von Clausewitz.

"Men grow tired of sleep, love, singing and dancing sooner than war."
  - Homer.