

# BEST QUOTES ON WAR

Remember me.

(14-Year-Old Polish Girl About to be Hanged, Ravensbruck Concentration Camp.)

--Quoted in Howard  
Blum,  
*Wanted!*, 1976

At a makeshift morgue, ...guards handed me paper tissues to block some of the smell. Many of the bodies...were mutilated...but one very little girl, I remember, still wore a tidy blue dress, white socks, shiny black shoes, and tiny gold bangles on her wrist. On a slab nearby, a young mother continued to clutch her baby as she had done at the moment they died. [From an Iranian airliner downed by missile fire]

--Christopher Dickey

There's this mistaken notion that wars end, but they don't end. What about the women that married the veterans and had to sit through silent dinner after silent dinner? Somewhere in this country there's a 95-year-old woman who will wake up at night and say, 'Where's my baby?' The answer is, her baby has been dead for 45 years. But the war's not over for that Gold Star mother. It'll never be over, and you can't expect it to be over.

—Tim O'Brien

With guns you can kill terrorists. With education, you can kill terrorism.

—Malala Yousafzai

I noticed an old doll baby with only one leg lying by the side of a Federal soldier just as it dropped from his pocket when he fell writhing in the agony of death. It was obviously a memento of some little loved one at home which he had brought so far with him and had worn close to his heart on this day of danger and death. It was strange to see that emblem of childhood, that token of a father's love lying there amidst the dead and dying...I dismounted, picked it up and stuffed it back into the poor fellow's cold bosom that it might rest with him in the bloody grave which was to be forever unknown to those who loved and mourned him in his distant home.

--Confederate  
Soldier Charles  
Minor Blackford

I see little hope for a peaceful world until men are excluded from the realm of foreign policy altogether and all decisions concerning international relations are reserved for women, preferably married ones.

--W. H. Auden

All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.

--Edmund Burke

Two in particular I can see in my mind's eye to this day. Young kids—very young—with shrapnel wounds. One of the two was silent; the other guy spoke for them both. I asked them to wait while I finished preparing their beds, but they just collapsed together on one unmade bed, too exhausted to keep standing. 'Take care of my buddy, take care of my buddy,' said the one who could still talk. I turned to the soldier who hadn't said a word and noticed he had a chest tube in place with no seal to prevent his lung from collapsing. It was a nightmare scenario, because we didn't have the right equipment or respirators to help him, and he was already going in and out of consciousness. Another nurse came over, and our faces must have given us away. 'Is he going to make it?' the talking soldier asked. I still remember his tired eyes. Now, when he thought he'd gotten his buddy to safety, he suddenly realized how serious things were. 'Definitely!' the other nurse and I replied, but in truth we were praying to God that he would make it, and I think his buddy knew that. That's when I saw true bravery. Tenderly, the soldier held his buddy's hand and whispered to him that they had made it, that we would take care of him and that everything would be OK. It was that night that I realized I would never return to being a civilian nurse again, that this was where I wanted to be.

—Linda Schwartz

War is one of the constants of history, and has not diminished with civilization and democracy. In the last 3,421 years of recorded history, only 268 have seen no war.

--William and Ariel  
Durant

The only defensible war is a war of defense.

--Gilbert K. Chesterton

They were learning the reality of war, these youngsters, getting face to face with the sickening realization that men get killed uselessly because their generals are stupid, so that desperate encounters where the last drop of courage has been given serve the country not at all and make a patriot look a fool.

--Bruce Catton

It is the Soldier, not the minister  
Who has given us freedom of religion.  
It is the Soldier, not the reporter  
Who has given us freedom of the press.  
It is the Soldier, not the poet  
Who has given us freedom of speech.  
It is the Soldier, not the campus organizer  
Who has given us freedom to protest.  
It is the Soldier, not the lawyer  
Who has given us the right to a fair trial.  
It is the Soldier, not the politician  
Who has given us the right to vote.  
It is the Soldier who salutes the flag,  
Who serves beneath the flag,  
And whose coffin is draped by the flag,  
Who allows the protester to burn the flag.

--Charles M. Province

Give me the money that has been spent in war, and I will purchase every foot of land upon the globe. I will clothe every man, woman and child in an attire of which kings and queens would be proud. I will build a school house on every hillside, and in every valley over the whole earth; I will build an academy in every town, and endow it; a college in every State, and fill it with able professors; I will crown every hill with a place of worship, consecrated to the promulgation of the gospel of peace; I will support in every pulpit an able teacher of righteousness, so that on every Sabbath morning the chime on one hill should answer to the chime on another round the earth's wide circumference; and the voice of prayer, and the song of praise, should ascend like an universal holocaust to heaven.

--Henry Richard

Lice, rats, barbed wire, fleas, shells, bombs, underground caves, corpses, blood, liquor, mice, cats, artillery, filth, bullets, mortars, fire, steel: That is what war is.

--Otto Dix

Wars were not made by generations and their special stupidities, but wars were made instead by something ignorant in the human heart.

—John Knowles

War is the cemetery of futures promised.

—John Cory

The Army might screw you and your girlfriend might dump you and the enemy might kill you, but the shared commitment to safeguard one another's lives is unnegotiable and only deepens with time. The willingness to die for another person is a form of love that even religions fail to inspire, and the experience of it changes a person profoundly.

—Sebastian Junger

[Astrid] Lindgren is intent on bearing sharp-eyed witness to the real world. The incongruities are jarring. Chaos spreads in Europe, while neutral Sweden remains a surreal oasis of comparative calm and comfort. In back-to-back [diary] entries in 1942, she takes note of 'completely lunatic amounts of blood' in Stalingrad and of her cozy family Christmas in Stockholm.

—Ann Hulbert

[A survivor of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima describes he and his schoolmates singing the school song to bolster their courage while his school crumbled] But then the singing and the cries grew weaker. My classmates were dying one by one. That made me very frightened. I struggled to free myself from the broken fragments and looked around. Through a hole in the roof I could see clouds swirling in a cone; some were black, some pink. There were fires in the middle of the clouds. I checked my body. Three upper teeth were chipped off—perhaps a roof tile had hit me. My left arm was pierced by a piece of wood that stuck in my flesh like an arrow. Unable to pull it out, I tied a tourniquet around my upper arm to stanch the flow of blood. We were taught that it was cowardly to desert one's classmates. So I crawled about the rubble calling, 'Is there anyone alive?'

—Yoshitaka Kawamoto

We read our mail and counted up our missions—  
In bombers named for girls, we burned  
The cities we had learned about in school—Till our lives wore out; our bodies lay  
among  
The people we had killed and never seen.  
When we lasted long enough they gave us medals;  
When we died they said, 'Our casualties were low.'

—Randall Jarrell

War is just a racket... I believe in adequate defense at the coastline and nothing else.

—Smedley Butler

I was wounded. I was lying on the ground and had him across the sights of my M16. I remember clearly wishing I could speak Vietnamese. I couldn't. I can remember whispering out loud, 'Don't throw it. I won't pull the trigger.' And the kid snarled at me—literally—and threw the grenade right at me. And I pulled the trigger. It was years later that I was driving down I-5, the interstate that goes through Oregon and Washington. Dark, middle of the night, country music on the radio. And his eyes appeared in the windshield.

—Karl Marlantes

It was insanity. There would be these perfectly wonderful and healthy young men, and they were blown up for no reason. Being the naive person I was, I thought the Army was supposed to take care of you. But they were just using these young men up. They were disposable. When I came back, you couldn't even tell anybody you'd been there—1969 was the height of the anti-war protests. They were beating up on the wrong people—the soldiers—instead of the people in Congress who were sending them there. You were warned by the nurses who flew over from the States, to take your place, that you should take your uniform off before you walk the streets. When I got to San Francisco Airport, I took a dress I'd packed into the ladies' room, took my uniform off and threw it in the trash.

—Army Nurse Edie  
Meeks

A U.S. Air Force plane dropped two cans of napalm on us. I felt the fire on my face immediately. I looked and there were two guys dancing in the fire, screaming. I don't know what got into me, but I ran into the fire. I grabbed the feet of this kid, and as I pulled him up his boots crumbled and the skin over his ankle bones sloughed off. I could feel those bones in the palms of my hands. [The soldier, Jim Nakayama, died two days later.] For years I was haunted. How can I explain it to somebody who hasn't been there? You live with it. You carry so many ghosts. I thought for a while they'd drive me crazy.

—UPI Reporter Joe  
Galloway

Civil War combat was concentrated and personal, featuring large-scale battles in which bullets rather than bombs or missiles caused over 90 percent of the carnage. Most troops fought on foot, marching in tight formation and firing at relatively close range, as they had in Napoleonic times. But by the 1860s, they wielded newly accurate and deadly rifles, as well as improved cannons. As a result, units were often cut down *en masse*, showering survivors with the blood, brains and body parts of their comrades.

—Tony Horwitz

Many soldiers regarded the aftermath of battle as even more horrific, describing landscapes so body-strewn that one could cross them without touching the ground. When over 5,000 Confederates fell in a failed assault at Malvern Hill in Virginia, a Union colonel wrote: 'A third of them were dead or dying, but enough were alive to give the field a singularly crawling effect.'

—Tony Horwitz

It's become too easy to go to war. Citizens notice when crime is going up, or school quality is going down, or the water is unsafe to drink, or when other public functions are not working as they should. Not enough citizens are made to notice when things go wrong, or right, with the military. The country thinks too rarely, and too highly, of the 1 percent under fire in our name.

—James Fallows

Simply killing everyone who is already a terrorist today won't solve the problem.

—Brent Scowcroft

Religious wars are not caused by the fact that there is more than one religion, but by the spirit of intolerance... the spread of which can only be regarded as the total eclipse of human reason.

--Charles de Secondat

The real war will never get in the books.

--Walt Whitman

It doesn't take a hero to order men into battle. It takes a hero to be one of those men who goes into battle.

--Norman Schwarzkopf

The dazzling clarity of the drone's optics does have a downside. As a B-1 pilot, Dan wouldn't learn details about the effects of his weapons until a post-mission briefing. But flying a drone, he sees the carnage close-up, in real time—the blood and severed body parts, the arrival of emergency responders, the anguish of friends and family. Often he's been watching the people he kills for a long time before pulling the trigger. Drone pilots become familiar with their victims. They see them in the ordinary rhythms of their lives—with their wives and friends, with their children. War by remote control turns out to be intimate and disturbing.

--Mark Bowden

If anything, I often think, perhaps we should grieve for the living. Those left behind, without a father or a mother. Those who must now face the rest of their days living a war without end.

--Michael Ware

How many men, over how many millennia, have wanted to know how they would do in combat? Would they be brave and fight? Or would they cringe and run? War has been, for almost all peoples and all times, the purest test of manhood.

--Evan Thomas

None of the things that make life feel worth living back home are present..., so the entire range of a young man's self-worth has to be found within the ragged choreography of a firefight. The men talk about it and dream about it and rehearse for it and analyze it afterward but never plumb its depths enough to lose interest. It's the ultimate test, and some of the men worry they'll never again be satisfied with a 'normal life'—whatever that is—after the amount of combat they've been in. They worry that they may have been ruined for anything else.

--Sebastian Junger

War is a lot of things, and it's useless to pretend that exciting isn't one of them. It's insanely exciting. The machinery of war and the sound it makes and the urgency of its use and the consequences of almost everything about it are the most exciting things anyone engaged in war will ever know.

--Sebastian Junger

All evil comes from the old. They grow fat on ideas and young men die of them.

--Jean Anouilh

I have known war as few men now living know it, and nothing to me is more revolting. It's very destructiveness on both friend and foe has rendered it useless as a means of settling international disputes.

--Douglas MacArthur

Do you know what it's like to stare in horror, and fascination, at a human head so thoroughly perforated by bullets that it's folded in on itself like a melon rotted in the field? Or to watch, helpless, as refugee babies die of dehydration, their mouths opening and closing like fish gasping in the air? Maybe you're interested in the taste of sweat and dirt when you're under fire and trying to get low on the ground, and lower, impossibly low, with your face crushed against the earth?

--Christopher Dickey

What a cruel thing is war...to fill our hearts with hatred instead of love for our neighbors, and to devastate the fair face of this beautiful world.

--Robert E. Lee

Where is it written in the Constitution, in what article or section is it contained, that you may take children from their parents, and parents from their children, and compel them to fight the battles of any war in which the folly or the wickedness of government may engage it?

--Daniel Webster

War can be abolished forever by providing clothing, food, and housing, instead of bombers, destroyers, and rockets.

--Trygve Lie

No soldier wants a war—they only give their lives to it. Wars are started by you and me, by bankers and politicians, excitable women, newspaper editors, clergymen who are expacifists, and Congressmen with vertebrae of putty. The youngsters in the streets, poor kids,...pay the price.

--Father Francis P. Duffy

I have seen the science I worshipped, and the aircraft I loved, destroying the civilization I expected them to serve.

--Charles A. Lindbergh

The voice of protest, of warning, of appeal is never more needed than when the clamor of fife and drum, echoed by the press and too often by the pulpit, is bidding all men fall in and keep step and obey in silence the tyrannous word of command. Then, more than ever, it is the duty of the good citizen not to be silent.

--Charles Eliot Norton

In war, there are no unwounded soldiers.

--José Narosky

We often say how impressive power is. But I do not find it impressive at all. The guns and the bombs, the rockets and the warships, are all symbols of human failure. They are necessary symbols. They protect what we cherish. But they are witness to human folly.

--Lyndon Baines Johnson

All wars are popular for the first 30 days.

--Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.

Only two great groups of animals, men and ants, indulge in highly organized mass warfare.

--Charles H. Maskins

More people were killed by machetes in Rwanda than by the A-bomb in both Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

—Roger Rosenblatt

I have studied the enemy all my life. I have read the memoirs of his generals and his leaders. I have even read his philosophers and listened to his music. I have studied in detail the account of every damned one of his battles. I know exactly how he will react under any given set of circumstances. And he hasn't the slightest idea of when I'm going to whip the hell out of him.

--General George S.  
Patton

The military don't start wars. Politicians start wars.

--General William  
Westmoreland

It is forbidden to kill; therefore all murderers are punished unless they kill in large numbers and to the sound of trumpets.

—Francois Marie Arouet  
Voltaire

There are many humorous things in the world: among them the white man's notion that he is less savage than the other savages.

--Mark Twain

The soldier's trade, verily and essentially, is not slaying, but being slain.

--John Ruskin

It is better to die on your feet than to live on your knees!

--Emiliano Zapata

As long as there are sovereign nations possessing great power, war is inevitable

--Albert Einstein

Force is never more operative than when it is known to exist but is not brandished.

--Alfred Thayer Mahan

The art of war is simple enough. Find but where your enemy is. Get at him as soon as you can. Strike him as hard as you can, and keep moving.

--Ulysses S. Grant

We want to get rid of the militarist not simply because he hurts and kills, but because he is an intolerable thick-voiced blockhead who stands hectoring and blustering in our way to achievement.

--H. G. Wells

A huge, permanent military establishment would ultimately bankrupt and destroy the democracy it was meant to defend.

--Dwight D. Eisenhower

War makes strange giant creatures out of us little routine men who inhabit the earth.

--Ernie Pyle

I have seen children starving. I have seen the agony of mothers and wives. I hate war.

--Franklin D. Roosevelt

Can anything be more ridiculous than that a man should have the right to kill me because he lives on the other side of the water, and because his ruler has a quarrel with mine, though I have none with him?

—Blaise Pascal

They wish to hell they were someplace else, and they wish to hell they would get relief. They wish to hell the mud was dry and they wish to hell their coffee was hot. They want to go home. But they stay in their wet holes and fight, and then they climb out and crawl through minefields and fight some more.

--Bill Mauldin

A revealing light is thrown on this subject through the studies by Medical Corps psychiatrists of the combat fatigue cases in the European Theater. They found that fear of killing, rather than fear of being killed, was the most common cause of battle failure, and that fear of failure ran a strong second.

--S. L. A. Marshall

War can only be abolished through war.

--Mao Tse-tung

He who rejoices at the destruction of human life is not fit to be entrusted with power in the world.

--Lao-Tse

The noblest monument to peace and to neighborly economic and social friendship in all the world is not a monument in bronze or stone, but the boundary which unites the United States and Canada—3,000 miles of friendship with no barbed wire, no gun or soldier and no passport on the whole frontier.

--Franklin D. Roosevelt

The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure.

--Thomas Jefferson

The worst to be feared and the best to be expected can be simply stated.

The worst is atomic war.

The best would be this: a life of perpetual fear and tension; a burden of arms draining the wealth and the labor of all peoples; a wasting of strength that defies the American system or the Soviet system or any system to achieve true abundance and happiness for the peoples of this earth.

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed.

This world in arms is not spending money alone.

It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children.

The cost of one modern heavy bomber is this: a modern brick school in more than 30 cities.

It is two electric power plants, each serving a town of 60,000 population.

It is two fine, fully equipped hospitals.

It is some 50 miles of concrete highway.

We pay for a single fighter plane with a half million bushels of wheat.

We pay for a single destroyer with new homes that could have housed more than 8,000 people.

This, I repeat, is the best way of life to be found on the road the world has been taking.

This is not a way of life at all, in any true sense. Under the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron.

--Dwight D. Eisenhower

It is easy for clever governments to induce men to surrender their lives.

--Emil Ludwig

War is one of the greatest plagues that can afflict humanity; it destroys religion, it destroys states, it destroys families. Any scourge, in fact, is preferable to it. Famine and pestilence become as nothing in comparison with it.

--Martin Luther

Dear Mom and Dad,

From the people I've talked to over here I've come up with some new ideas on the war here. For the most part, nobody is particularly wild with patriotic feeling for the war. There are, of course, those who just get a real charge out of killing people. One lieutenant I talked to said what a kick it had been to roll a gook 100 yards down the beach with his machine gun. But most people generate their enthusiasm for two reasons: One is self-preservation—if I don't shoot him, he'll eventually shoot me—and the other is revenge. It's apparently quite something to see a good friend blown apart by a VC booby trap and you want to retaliate in kind.

--Robert Ransom, Jr.

*Letters from a  
Dead GI, March  
27, 1968*

Dear Mom and Dad,

I lost my first man last week. He was killed by accident by another man in the platoon. I had sent a squad out on night ambush. They had been set up in position for a few hours when the flank man crawled away to take a leak or something and as he was crawling back to position another man mistook him for a dink and shot him. He died in the chopper that dusted him off. Of course it really tears me up to lose a man, especially like that, but I must not show any emotion over it. I've got to press on, keep doing my job. Even among my men this is universal. They are saddened by the death of a buddy, but he is gone. The concern among the team (for that is what we are) is how it will affect the man who shot him. Will he fall to pieces over this and be unable to perform his function? This is what we're worried about first and foremost.

--Robert Ransom, Jr.

*Letters from a  
Dead GI, April  
3, 1968*

Dear Mom and Dad,

The tracks were then returning us to where we would stay overnight. When we reached our spot we jumped off the tracks and one of my men jumped right on a mine. Both his feet were blown off, both legs were torn to shreds; his entire groin area was completely blown away. It was the most horrible sight I've ever seen. Fortunately he never knew what hit him. I tried to revive him with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation but it was hopeless to begin with....I said earlier that the incident changed me. I am now filled with both respect and hate for the VC and the Vietnamese. Respect because the enemy knows that he can't stand up to us in a fire fight, due to our superior training, equipment, and our vast arsenal of weapons. Yet he is able. Via his mines and booby traps, he can whittle our ranks down piecemeal until we cannot muster an effective fighting force. In the month that I have been with the company, we have lost four killed and about 30 wounded. We have not seen a single verified dink the whole time, nor have we even shot a single round at anything.

--Robert Ransom, Jr.  
*Letters from a  
Dead GI, April  
29, 1968*

Dear Susan,

You know what—this mine incident has changed me. I'm still opposed to the war on moral and political grounds as ever. But since I am here, and when I see the gory mess that mine made of my people, I want revenge. I want to kill every little slant-eyed bastard I see. I just wish to hell the VC would come out and fight. We never see them, just their damn mines and booby traps. Do you know that in the month I've been with this company we've had over 30 people killed or wounded and we haven't see a dink or fired a single shot.

--Robert Ransom, Jr.  
*Letters from a  
Dead GI, May  
2, 1968*

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Ransom,

It is with great difficulty that I write this letter expressing my deepest sympathy over the loss of your son Robert—known as Mike to us. I have never written a letter like this before, but then, in my six years of nursing I have never met as courageous an individual as your son.

I was able to care for Mike daily and I want you to know that his sense of humor and will to live made my work much easier. Things he could no longer do for himself—like brushing his teeth—things that surely brought him discomfort—like turning him—brought only thank-yous, humorous remarks, a gleaming smile, or a twinkle from his eyes.

Mike fought hard, terribly hard, to overcome his body's wounded condition. But, strong as he was, his body could only endure so much. Mike was never afraid and although I'm sure he realized what was happening, he never, never lost his smile or his courage.

I guess I really wanted you to know that Mike did not die alone, with no one caring. I care, we all cared—we all share your sorrow.

Be ever so proud of Mike!

Most sincerely,

Connie Schlasser,  
CPT. ANC, 2nd  
Surgical  
Hospital, MA

Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable.

--John F. Kennedy

You can't say civilization don't advance, however, for in every war they kill you in a new way.

--Will Rogers

To build may have to be the slow and laborious task of years. To destroy can be the thoughtless act of a single day.

--Winston Churchill

If an international controversy leads to armed conflict, everyone loses; if armed conflict is avoided, everyone wins. It is better to lose a point now and then in an international tribunal and gain a world in which everyone lives at peace under the rule of law.

--Dwight D. Eisenhower

Military intelligence is a contradiction in terms.

--Groucho Marx

War, like any other racket, pays high dividends to the very few. The cost of operations is always transferred to the people who do not profit.

--Smedley Butler

Where law ends, tyranny begins.

--William Pitt, Jr.

Gone are those pleasant nineteenth-century days when a country could remain neutral and at peace just by saying it wanted to.

--William L. Shirer

It's co-existence  
Or no existence.

--Bertrand Russell

They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

--*Isaiah 2:4*

Peace is more difficult than war. It takes two to make a peace and only one to make a war.

--Frank A. Praisal

Someday they'll give a war and nobody will come.

--Carl Sandburg

Questions of peace are decided not by brave warriors locked in mortal combat, but by little chaps with high foreheads.

--Matthew Spetter

In Germany they came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist. Then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist. Then they came for the Catholics, and I didn't speak up because I was a Protestant. Then they came for me, and by that time no one was left to speak up.

--Martin Niemoeller

The armed forces of one's own nation exist—so each nation asserts—to prevent aggression by other nations. But the armed forces of other nations exist—or so many people believe—to promote aggression.

--Bertrand Russell

You're an old-timer if you can remember when setting the world on fire was a figure of speech.

--Franklin P. Jones

Outlawing all atomic weapons could be a magnificent gesture. However, it should be remembered that Gettysburg had a local ordinance forbidding the discharge of firearms.

--Homer D. King

Hitherto man had to live with the idea of death as an individual; from now onward mankind will have to live with the idea of its death as a species.

--Arthur Koestler

Diplomats are just as essential to starting a war as Soldiers are for finishing it. You take Diplomacy out of war and the thing would fall flat in a week.

—Will Rogers

Whatever fosters militarism makes for barbarism; whatever fosters peace makes for civilization.

--Herbert Spencer

You can't hug children with nuclear arms.

—*Bumper Sticker*

War alone brings up to its highest tension all human energy and puts the stamp of nobility upon the peoples who have the courage to face it.

--Benito Mussolini

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.

--Edmund Burke

Splendid it was that you were willing to die for us—how much more desirable had you been permitted to live for us.

--Cyrus Adler

In love, in grief, in pride, we yield our sons.

--Hermann Hagedorn

The present and all that it holds belongs to the nations and the peoples who preserve self-control and the orderly processes of their governments; the future to those who prove themselves the true friends of mankind. To conquer with arms is to make only a temporary conquest; to conquer the world by earning its esteem is to make permanent conquest.

--Woodrow Wilson

These heroes are dead. They died for liberty—they died for us. They are at rest. They sleep in the land they made free, under the flag they rendered stainless, under the solemn pines, the sad hemlocks, the tearful willows, and the embracing vines. They sleep beneath the shadows of the clouds, careless alike of sunshine or of storm, each in the windowless Palace of Rest. Earth may run red with other wars—they are at peace. In the midst of battle, in the roar of conflict, they found the serenity of death. I have one sentiment for soldiers living and dead: cheers for the living, tears for the dead.

--Robert G. Ingersoll

I should say that he who desires peace should speak of peace more often than of war.

--Aristide Briand

Nothing has been done by war for the good of mankind that could not have been better accomplished by Peace.

--Phillips Brooks

The world is coming to understand that armies and navies, however numerous and strong, are impotent to stop thought.

--William Jennings Bryan

Let those who love turmoil arm for turmoil: their very arming will bring it; and let those who love peace disarm for peace: the disarming will hasten it.

--John Burroughs

There is one thing no people have ever done; that is, to oppose a threatening war with intelligent and vigorous purpose some years before it was due to arrive.

--Carrie Chapman Catt

A warless world will come as men develop warless hearts.

--Charles Wesley Burns

There are two ways of ending a dispute—discussion and force; the latter manner is simply that of the rude beasts; the former is proper to beings gifted with reason.

--Cicero

There may have been an excuse for men of the stone age to use physical force for the preservation of their species, but none can defend such practices in the light of twentieth century civilization....Man has eliminated many things that have stood in the path of the march of progress, but has continued to allow the most serious menace of all to loom large, as a hideous monster ready to strike at a moment's notice.

--A. C. Davis

Give me full charge of the education of the youth of this nation for the next twenty-five years and I will rear a race of men who would no more fight on the field of battle than they would offer human sacrifices on the altars of the gods.

--John H. Dietrich

Once we can transform moral sentiment to the point of stamping men who advocate violence in international affairs as criminals and outcasts, just as we stamp the men today who advocate violence within the nation, wars will be few and far between.

-John H. Dietrich

War is never a solution; it is an aggravation.

--Benjamin Disraeli

The patriot should never speak of war, but as the ruin of nations; the philanthropist, but as the ruin of men; the Christian, but as in utter and irreconcilable conflict with the principles and teachings of the Prince of Peace; and all, with honor and loathing, as the very spirit of a darker world, seeking to anticipate perdition in this.

--Tryon Edwards

The development of military technique is on such a scale that the life of human beings will prove unbearable, unless they soon find a way of averting war.

--Albert Einstein

I hate war for its consequences, for the lies it lives on and propagates, for the undying hatreds it arouses, for the dictatorships it puts in the place of democracies, and for the starvation that stalks after it. I hate war, and never again will I sanction or support another.

--Henry Emerson Fosdick

Mad wars destroy in one year the works of many years of peace.

--Benjamin Franklin

All wars are follies, very expensive and very mischievous ones. In my opinion, there never was a good war or a bad peace. When will mankind be convinced and agree to settle their difficulties by arbitration?

--Benjamin Franklin

After contemplating the events preceding the catastrophe of 1914, we remain unconvinced as to the wisdom of our predecessors.... We respect the noble war dead, but we question the judgment of those responsible for their death.... Organized slaughter, we realize, does not settle a dispute; it merely silences an argument.

--James Frederick Green

If the press of the world would adopt and persist in the high resolve that war should be no more, the clangor of arms would cease.

--John Hay

We are a peaceful people, and it is well for us to remember that we rely on friendship and good will, not on force and threats of force, to extend our influence and win adherence to our international proposals.

--Charles Evans Hughes

A day will come when a cannon will be exhibited in museums, just as instruments of torture are now, and the people will be astonished that such a thing could have been.

--Victor Hugo

We shall never be able to affect physical disarmament until we have succeeded in affecting moral disarmament.

--J. Ramsay MacDonald

We have all taken risks in the making of war. Isn't it time that we should take risks to secure peace?

--J. Ramsay MacDonald

He who makes war his profession, cannot be otherwise than vicious.

--Machiavelli

Surely we have received proof as never before that war serves no good ends, even for the side that wins.

--Fridtjof Nansen

As men of reason we scoff at war; as men of business we fear it; as men of religion and good-will we loathe it; and as artists we love it.

--Ernest Raymond

I confess without shame that I am tired and sick of the war. Its glory is all moon-shine. Even success the most brilliant is over dead and mangled bodies, the anguish and lamentation of distant families appealing to me for missing sons, husbands, and fathers. It is only those who have neither fired a shot nor heard the shrieks and groans of the wounded and lacerated, that cry aloud for more blood, more vengeance, more desolation.

--General William  
Tecumseh  
Sherman

War loves to seek its victims in the young.

--Sophocles

In a free country like our own...every male brought into existence should be taught from infancy that the military service of the Republic carries with it honor and distinction, and his very life should be permeated with the ideal that even death itself may become a boon when a man dies that a nation may live and fulfill its destiny.

--General Douglas  
MacArthur

The basic problems facing the world today are not susceptible to a military solution.

--John F. Kennedy

Diplomacy has rarely been able to gain at the conference table what cannot be gained or held on the battlefield.

--General Walter Bedell  
Smith

I do like to see the arms and legs fly.

--Colonel George S.  
Patton

In the councils of government we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.

--Dwight D. Eisenhower

The absolute pacifist is a bad citizen; times come when force must be used to uphold right, justice and ideals.

--Alfred North Whitehead

The first casualty when war comes is truth.

--Hiram Johnson

Naturally the common people don't want war...Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders...All you have to do is to tell them they are being attacked and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism.

--Hermann Goering

Atom bomb stockpiles are no guarantee of security. Until lust and greed and murder are removed from the hearts of men, there is, there can be, no peace or security.

--A. P. Gouthey

The elimination of war should be the major task of social education.

--Konrad Lorenz

Since 1968 we have spent 364 billion dollars on war; 27 billion dollars on space; and less than 2 billion dollars on community development and housing.

--Laurence J. Peter

The victor will never be asked if he told the truth.

--Adolf Hitler

Without victory there is no survival!

--Winston Churchill

Victory has a hundred fathers but defeat is an orphan.

--Count Galeazzo Ciano

To the victor belongs the spoils.

—Senator William L.  
Marcy

The victor belongs to the spoils.

--F. Scott Fitzgerald

In war there is no substitute for victory.

--Douglas MacArthur

To be vanquished and yet not surrender, that is victory.

--Josef Pilsudski

Violence is fine against simple folk ten thousand miles away and shocking against injustice in our own land.

--Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.

An infallible method of conciliating a tiger is to allow oneself to be devoured.

--Konrad Adenauer

We have the power to make this the best generation of mankind in the history of the world—or to make it the last.

--John F. Kennedy

Henceforth the adequacy of any military establishment will be tested by its ability to preserve the peace.

--Henry Kissinger

There never was a time when, in my opinion, some way could not be found to prevent the drawing of the sword.

--Ulysses S. Grant

A man who experiences no genuine satisfaction in life does not want peace...Men court war to escape meaninglessness and boredom, to be relieved of fear and frustration.

--Nels F. S. Ferre

The way to win an atomic war is to make certain it never starts.

--General Omar Bradley

There are no warlike peoples—just warlike leaders.

--Ralph Bunche

The only security for the American people today, or for any people, is to be found through the control of force rather than the pursuit of force.

--Norman Cousins

The Spartans do not inquire how many the enemy are, but where they are.

--Agesilaus the Second

Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed.

--*Genesis 9:6*

The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who, in time of great moral crisis, maintain their neutrality.

--Dante Alighieri

That they may have a little peace, even the best dogs are compelled to snarl occasionally.

--William Feather

The aim of military training is not just to prepare men for battle, but to make them long for it.

--Louis Simpson

Three-quarters of a soldier's life is spent in aimlessly waiting about.

--Eugen

Rosenstock-Huessy

A bad peace is better than a good war.

--Russian Proverb

Yes, we love peace, but we are not willing to take wounds for it, as we are for war.

--John Andrew Holmes

This will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave.

--Elmer Davis

It is the melancholy law of human societies to be compelled sometimes to choose a great evil in order to ward off a greater; to deter their neighbors from rapine by making it cost them more than honest gains.

--Thomas Jefferson

The central question emerging from this problem, of course, is whether any nation, even in its own defense, has the right to tear down half the rest of the world and damage the prospects of all mankind.

--Norman Cousins

Man today is not safe in the presence of man. The old cannibalism has given way to anonymous action in which the killer and the killed do not know each other, and in which, indeed, the very fact of mass death has the effect of making the killing less reprehensible than the death of a single man. In short, man has evolved in every respect except his ability to protect himself against human intelligence.

--Norman Cousins

War is nothing more than the continuation of politics by other means.

--Karl von Clausewitz

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

--Homer

I did not raise my boy to be a soldier.

--Alfred Bryan

'Peace upon earth!' was said. We sing it  
And pay a million priests to bring it.  
After two thousand years of mass  
We've got as far as poison-gas.

--Thomas Hardy

If our air forces are never used, they have achieved their finest goal.

--Nathan F. Twining

In my dreams I hear again the crash of guns, the rattle of musketry, the strange, mournful mutter of the battlefield. But in the evening of my memory always I come back to West Point. Always there echoes and re-echoes: Duty, honor, country.

--Douglas MacArthur

The good company has no place for the officer who would rather be right than be loved, for the time will quickly come when he walks alone, and in battle no man may succeed in solitude.

--S. L. A. Marshall

Battle—between man and man, tribe and tribe, village, city, state and nation—regarded by the unthinking as the abnormal or aberrant in human behavior, has been, historically, the norm.

--Hanson W. Baldwin

The Battle of Britain is about to begin....The whole fury and might of the enemy must very soon be turned on us. Hitler knows that he will have to break us in this island or lose the war....Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that, if the British Empire and its Commonwealth, last for a thousand years, man will say, 'This was their finest hour.'

--Sir Winston Churchill

Battle is far less frightening than those who have never been in it are apt to think. All this bull about thinking of your mother, and your sweetheart, and your wives (who should also be your sweethearts) is emphasized by writers who describe battles not as they are but as writers who have never heard a hostile shot or missed a meal think they are.

--George S. Patton

Battle is the most magnificent competition in which a human being can indulge. It brings out all that is best; it removes all that is base.

--George S. Patton

I am trying to remember how I reacted to the whole thing. My first feeling when the deafening barrage went up from the whole convoy, dominated by the great bangs of the naval guns, and the planes swooped over us, and the blue sky was dotted with hundreds of little circular black and white clouds—my first feeling was one of surprise—the surprise of being right in the midst of a naval battle. After that, the dominating feeling was not of fear, but excitement....It was all sensationally new.

--Alexander Werth

They asked no quarter and they gave none. They died hard—those savage men—not gently like a stricken dove folding its wings in peaceful passing, but like a wounded wolf at bay, with lips curled back in sneering menace, and always a nerveless hand reaching for that long sharp machete knife which long ago they had substituted for the bayonet. And around their necks, as we buried them, would be a thread of dirty string with its dangling crucifix. They were filthy, and they were lousy, and they stank. And I loved them.

--General Douglas  
MacArthur

After a battle is over people talk a lot about how decisions were methodically reached, but actually there's always a hell of a lot of groping around.

--Rear Admiral Frank  
Fletcher

To a soldier in a hole, nothing is bigger or more vital to him than the war which is going on in the immediate vicinity of his hole. If nothing is happening to him, and he is able to relax that day, then it is a good war, no matter what is going on elsewhere.

--Bill Mauldin

Ambition is the grand enemy of all peace.

--John Cowper Powys

The supreme excellence is not to win a hundred victories in a hundred battles. The supreme excellence is to subdue the armies of your enemies without even having to fight them.

--Sun Tzu

Sweet is war to those who have never experienced it.

--Latin Proverb

There is no such thing as inevitable war. If war comes it will be from failure of human wisdom.

--Bonar Law

War would end if the dead could return.

--Stanley Baldwin

Men love war because it allows them to look serious; because it is the only thing that stops women laughing at them.

--John Fowles

Nothing except a battle lost can be half so melancholy as a battle won.

--Duke of Wellington

The whole art of war consists in guessing at what is on the other side of the hill.

--Duke of Wellington

It is well that war is so terrible, or we would grow too fond of it.

--Robert E. Lee

War does not determine who is right—only who is left.

—Bertrand Russell

There is many a boy here today who looks on war as all glory, but boys, it is all hell.

--William T. Sherman

War may make a fool of man, but it by no means degrades him; on the contrary, it tends to exalt him, and its net effects are much like those of motherhood on women.

--H. L. Mencken

War is both the product of an earlier corruption and a producer of new corruptions.

--Lewis Mumford

How good bad music and bad reasons sound when we march against an enemy!

--Friedrich Wilhelm  
Nietzsche

The quickest way of ending a war is to lose it.

--George Orwell

He who is the author of a war lets loose the whole contagion of hell and opens a vein that bleeds a nation to death.

--Thomas Paine

Life and fame and wealth—all these must, I say, be defended by fighting. Death in battle is the most glorious for men. Who lives under the sway of his foe—it is he that is dead.

--*Panchatantra*

I find war detestable but those who praise it without participating in it even more so.

--Romain Rolland

The motto of war is: 'Let the strong survive; let the weak die.'

The motto of peace is: 'Let the strong help the weak to survive.'

--Franklin D. Roosevelt

War is cruelty, and you cannot refine it.

--William T. Sherman

To delight in war is a merit in the soldier, a dangerous quality in the captain, and a positive crime in the statesman.

--George Santayana

Let him who does not know what war is go to war.

--Spanish Proverb

They make a desert and call it peace.

--Tacitus

Men appear to prefer ruining one another's fortunes, and cutting each other's throats about a few paltry villages, to extending the grand means of human happiness.

—Francois Marie Arouet  
Voltaire

Youth is the first victim of war; the first fruit of peace. It takes twenty years or more of peace to make a man; it takes only twenty seconds of war to destroy him.

--Baudouin I of Belgium

It is not merely cruelty that leads men to love war, it is excitement.

--Henry Ward Beecher

Battle, n. A method of untying with the teeth a political knot that would not yield to the tongue.

--Ambrose Bierce

What difference does it make to the dead, the orphans and the homeless, whether the mad destruction is wrought under the name of totalitarianism or the holy name of liberty or democracy?

--Mohandas K. Gandhi

It is easier to lead men to combat and to stir up their passions than to temper them and urge them to the patient labors of peace.

--Andre Gide

Who would prefer peace to the glory of hunger and thirst, of wading through mud, and dying in the service of one's country?

--Jean Giraudoux

Laws are silent in time of war.

--Cicero

As wounded men may limp through life, so our war minds may not regain the balance of their thoughts for decades.

--Frank Moore Colby

Boys and girls,  
And women, that would groan to see a child  
Pull off an insect's leg, all read of war,  
The best amusement for our morning meal.

--Samuel Taylor  
Coleridge

War is a game in which princes seldom win, the people never.

--Charles Caleb Colton

For what are the triumphs of war, planned by ambition, executed by violence, and consummated by devastation? The means are the sacrifice of many, the end, the bloated aggrandizement of the few.

--Charles Caleb Colton

The disasters of the world are due to its inhabitants not being able to grow old simultaneously. There is always a raw and intolerant nation eager to destroy the tolerant and mellow.

--Cyril Connolly

In the final choice a soldier's pack is not so heavy a burden as a prisoner's chains.

--Dwight D. Eisenhower

Older men declare war. But it is youth that must fight and die.

--Herbert Hoover

No man who witnessed the tragedies of the last war, no man who can imagine the unimaginable possibilities of the next war can advocate war out of irritability or frustration or impatience.

--John F. Kennedy

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

--Douglas MacArthur

When elephants fight, the mousedeer between them is killed.

--Malay Proverb

War can only be abolished through war, and in order to get rid of the gun it is necessary to take up the gun.

--Mao Tse-Tung

For a war to be just three conditions are necessary—public authority, just cause, right motive.

--St. Thomas Aquinas

We must repudiate one of the two, either Christianity with its love of God and one's neighbor, or the state with its armies and war.

--Leo Tolstoy

War cannot be divorced from politics for a single moment.

--Mao Tse-Tung

We see, therefore, that war is not merely a political act but a real political instrument, a continuation of political intercourse, a carrying out of the same by other means.

--Karl Von Clausewitz

If we have to have war, let it be man to man and fist to fist. What (nuclear) technology does is make it impossible to be brave. If you drop a bomb on my neighborhood, I can't prove that I'm tough.

--Phil Donahue

There is nothing that war has ever achieved we could not better achieve without it.

--Havelock Ellis

How vile and despicable war seems to me! I would rather be hacked in pieces than take part in such an abominable business.

--Albert Einstein

I love war and responsibility and excitement.

--George S. Patton

Men are at war with one another because each man is at war with himself.

--Francis Meehan

In a just cause the weak will beat the strong.

--Sophocles

The god of Victory is said to be one-handed, but Peace gives victory to both sides.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Dead men have no victory.

--Euripides

No nation ever had an army large enough to guarantee it against attack in time of peace or insure it victory in time of war.

--Calvin Coolidge

One sword keeps another in the sheath.

--George Herbert

It is an unfortunate fact that we can secure peace only by preparing for war.

--John F. Kennedy

Diplomacy and defense are not substitutes for one another. Either alone would fail.

--John F. Kennedy

Isn't the best defense always a good attack?

--Ovid

To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace.

--George Washington

I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones.

—Albert Einstein

War is to men what maternity is to women.

--Benito Mussolini

A great war leaves the country with three armies—an army of cripples, an army of mourners, and an army of thieves.

--German Proverb

The war that will end war will not be fought with guns.

--Unknown

War is brought on by countries that want peace at their own price.  
--Unknown

There will be more wars until men grow brave enough to stop them.  
--Unknown

To joy in conquest is to joy in the loss of human life.  
--Lao-Tsze

The conqueror would rather burst a city gate than find it open to admit him; he would rather ravage the land with fire and sword than overrun it without protest from the husbandmen. He scorns to advance by an unguarded road or to act like a peaceful citizen.

--Lucan

We triumph without glory when we conquer without danger.  
--Pierre Corneille

Conquest has explored more than ever curiosity has done; and the path of science has been commonly opened by the sword.  
--Sydney Smith

Everything that steel achieves in war can be won in politics by eloquence.  
--Demetrius

The use of force alone is temporary. It may subdue for a moment, but it does not remove the necessity of subduing again; and a nation is not governed which is perpetually to be conquered.  
--Edmund Burke

A man may build himself a throne of bayonets, but he cannot sit on it.  
--William Ralph Inge

When one by force subdues men, they do not submit to him in heart. They submit because their strength is not adequate to resist.  
--Mencius

Who overcomes  
By force, hath overcome but half his foe.  
—John Milton

Against naked force the only possible defense is naked force. The aggressor makes the rules for such a war; the defenders have no alternative but matching destruction with more destruction, slaughter with greater slaughter.

--Franklin D. Roosevelt

The cat in gloves catches no mice.

--English Proverb

The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

--Thomas Gray

To the ashes of the dead glory comes too late.

--Martial

No hero to me is the man who, by easy shedding of his blood, purchases fame: my hero is he who, without death, can win praise.

--Martial

I asked Tom if countries always apologized when they had done wrong, and he says: 'Yes; the little ones does.'

--Mark Twain

Human blood is heavy; the man that has shed it cannot run away.

--African Proverb

Men are of no importance. What counts is who commands.

--Charles de Gaulle

Whoever has his foe at his mercy, and does not kill him, is his own enemy.

--Sa'di

The cause of liberty becomes a mockery if the price to be paid is the wholesale destruction of those who are to enjoy liberty.

--Mohandas K. Gandhi

Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it.

--Thomas Paine

It is a worthy thing to fight for one's freedom; it is another sight finer to fight for another man's.

--Mark Twain

It is better that we live ever so  
Miserably than die in glory.

--Euripides

It is characteristic of the military mentality that non-human factors...are held essential, while the human being, his desires and thoughts—in short, the psychological factors—are considered as unimportant and secondary.

--Albert Einstein

It is essential to persuade the soldier that those he is being urged to massacre are bandits who do not deserve to live; before killing other good, decent fellows like himself, his gun would fall from his hands.

--Andre Gide

Our business in the field of fight  
Is not to question, but to prove our might.

--Homer

It is the blood of the soldier that makes the general great.

--Italian Proverb

The sound of the drum drives out thought; for that very reason it is the most military of instruments.

--Joseph Joubert

The soldier, above all other people, prays for peace, for he must buffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.

--Douglas MacArthur

A cause breaks or exalts a soldier's strength; unless that cause is just, shame will make him throw his weapons away.

--Propertius

Theirs not to make reply,  
Theirs not to reason why,  
Theirs but to do and die.

--Alfred Lord Tennyson

I don't know what will be the most important weapon in the next war, but I know what will be the most important weapon in the war after that—the bow and arrow.

--Unknown

It is ironical that in an age when we have prided ourselves on our progress in the intelligent care and teaching of children we have at the same time put them at the mercy of new and most terrible weapons of destruction.

--Pearl S. Buck

If you have a nation of men who have risen to that height of moral cultivation that they will not declare war or carry arms, for they have not so much madness left in their brains, you have a nation of lovers, of benefactors, of true, great, and able men.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Who saves his country violates no law.

--Napoleon I

Mankind has grown strong in eternal struggles and it will only perish through eternal peace.

--Adolf Hitler

Arms alone are not enough to keep the peace. It must be kept by men.

--John F. Kennedy

Peace, like war, can succeed only where there is a will to enforce it, and where there is available power to enforce it.

--Franklin D. Roosevelt

The peace we now see  
will run  
till the next war begins  
whereupon peace  
will be ushered in  
at the end of the next war.

--Carl Sandburg

Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed.

--UNESCO

Peace hath higher tests of manhood  
Than battle ever knew.

--John Greenleaf Whittier

Take my word for it, if you had seen but one day of war, you would pray to Almighty God, that you might never see such a thing again.

—Duke of Wellington

War is the business of barbarians.

--Napoleon I

There has never been a war yet which if the facts had been put calmly before the ordinary folk, could not have been prevented. The common man is the greatest protection against war.

--Ernest Bevin

Wars to end wars are an illusion. Wars, more than any other form of human activity, create the conditions which breed more war.

--John Foster Dulles

Never think that war, no matter how necessary, nor how justified, is not a crime. Ask the infantry and ask the dead.

--Ernest Hemingway

I have already given two cousins to the war, and I stand reddey to sacrific my wife's brother ruther'n not see the rebelyin krusht.

--Artemus Ward

I have never advocated war, except as a means of peace.

--Ulysses S. Grant

Peace at any price.

—Lamartine

We discovered that peace at any price is no peace at all...that life at any price has no value whatever; that life is nothing without the privileges, the prides, the rights, the joys that make it worth living and also worth giving...and that there is something more hideous, more atrocious than war or than death; and that is to live in fear.

--Ève Curie

If they went peace, nations should avoid the pin-pricks that precede cannon-shots.  
--Napoleon

What millions died—that Caesar might be great!  
--Thomas Campbell

What distinguishes war is, not that man is slain, but that he is slain, spoiled,  
crushed by the cruelty, the injustice, the treachery, the murderous hand of man.  
--William Ellery  
Channing

The essence of war is violence. Moderation in war is imbecility.  
--Lord Fisher

It is not right to exult over slain men.  
--Homer

War is as much a punishment to the punisher as to the sufferer.  
--Thomas Jefferson

A bad peace is even worse than war.  
--Tacitus

They make a desolation and they call it peace.  
--Tacitus

Nobody can live longer in peace than his neighbour pleases.  
--Proverb

Hard to dislike a chap who likes you, isn't it? Well, there's your peace plan.  
--Unknown

Arms don't kill people. Heads kill people.  
--Unknown

Civil war is the greatest of evils.  
--Blaise Pascal

Any government reduced to meeting its enemies only on the battlefield would soon  
be destroyed.  
--Alexis de Tocqueville

It is sweet and glorious to die for one's country.

--Horace

Peace is won by war.

--Latin Proverb

The man who possesses nothing can light-heartedly take chances. Those whose all is no more than the scrap of earth they stand on, are the fittest by far for sacrifice and cannon-fodder.

--Henrik Ibsen

I came, I saw, I conquered.

--Julius Caesar

He who would live off war must eventually yield something in return.

--Bertolt Brecht

War is just when it is necessary; arms are permissible when there is no hope-except in arms.

--Niccolo Machiavelli

War or a battle should not be begun under any circumstances unless the hope of gain was clearly greater than the fear of loss.

--Suetonius

In the face of suffering, blood and death, moral principles fade away into nothing.

--Rafael Martinez Nadal

The biggest farce of man's history has been the argument that wars are fought to save civilization.

--Charles E. McKenzie

We are mad, not only individually, but nationally. We check manslaughter and isolated murders; but what of war and the much-vaunted crime of slaughtering whole peoples?...Deeds which would be punished by loss of life when committed in secret, are praised by us because uniformed generals have carried them out.

--Lucius Annaeus Seneca

History reveals that wars create more problems than they solve.

--Unknown

There can be no peace in the world until the caliber of its statesmen is equal to the caliber of its guns.

--Unknown

Peace can be achieved by the substitution of reason for force, right for might, law for war.

--Unknown

A means to a permanent peace is for all nations to agree not to start another war until the last one is paid for.

--Unknown

The key to lasting peace is to rely less on arms and more on heads.

--Unknown

The world will never be the dwelling place of peace until peace has found a home in the heart of each and every man.

--Pope John XXIII

Machinery and electricity now do almost everything in wars—except the walking on crutches.

--Unknown

The terrible thing about war is that it usually kills the wrong people.

--Unknown

Accurst be he that first invented war.

--Christopher Marlowe

Discipline is the soul of an army. It makes small numbers formidable; procures success to the weak, and esteem to all.

--George Washington

To place any dependence upon militia, is, assuredly, resting upon a broken staff.

--George Washington

We, too, born to freedom, and believing in freedom, are willing to fight to maintain freedom. We, and all others who believe as deeply as we do, would rather die on our feet than live on our knees.

--Franklin D. Roosevelt

War alone brings up to its highest tension all human energy and puts the stamp of nobility upon the peoples who have the courage to face it.

--Benito Mussolini

When Kansas and Colorado have a quarrel over the water in the Arkansas River they don't call out the National Guard in each state and go to war over it. They bring a suit in the Supreme Court of the United States and abide by the decision. There isn't a reason in the world why we cannot do that internationally.

--Harry S. Truman

Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men. It is the spirit of the men who follow and of the man who leads that gains the victory.

--George Smith Patton

To be a successful soldier you must know history....What you must know is how man reacts. Weapons change but man who uses them changes not at all. To win battles you do not beat weapons—you beat the soul of man of the enemy man.

--George Smith Patton

You have to take chances for peace, just as you must take chances in war....The ability to get to the verge without getting into the war is the necessary art. If you try to run away from it, if you are scared to go to the brink, you are lost.

--John Foster Dulles

Humility must always be the portion of any man who receives acclaim earned in the blood of his followers and the sacrifices of his friends.

--Dwight D. Eisenhower

Nothing is easy in war. Mistakes are always paid for in casualties, and troops are quick to sense any blunder made by their commanders.

--Dwight D. Eisenhower

Wars are not 'acts of God.' They are caused by man, by man-made institutions, by the way in which man has organized his society. What man has made, man can change.

--Frederick Moore Vinson

I have never met anybody who wasn't against war. Even Hitler and Mussolini were, according to themselves.

--David Low

We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the *Sermon on the Mount*.  
--Omar Bradley

The world has achieved brilliance without wisdom, power without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants.  
Omar N. Bradley

We live under a system by which the many are exploited by the few, and war is the ultimate sanction of that exploitation.  
--Harold Joseph Laski

Either man is obsolete or war is.  
--Richard Buckminster Fuller

A war regarded as inevitable or even probable, and therefore much prepared for, has a very good chance of eventually being fought.  
--George Frost Kennan

There is always inequity in life. Some men are killed in a war and some men are wounded, and some men never leave the country...Life is unfair.  
--John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Peace is much more precious than a piece of land.  
--Anwar al-Sadat

These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly; 'tis dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed, if so celestial an article as Freedom should not be highly rated.  
--Thomas Paine

I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.  
--Nathan Hale

The surest way to prevent war is not to fear it.

--John Randolph

War is not merely a political act, but also a political instrument, a continuation of political relations, a carrying out of the same by other means.

--Karl van Clausewitz

The legitimate object of war is a more perfect peace.

--William Tecumseh  
Sherman

War is at best barbarism....Its glory is all moonshine. It is only those who have neither fired a shot nor heard the shrieks and groans of the wounded who cry aloud for blood, more vengeance, more desolation. War is hell.

--William Tecumseh  
Sherman

As long as war is regarded as wicked, it will always have its fascination. When it is looked upon as vulgar, it will cease to be popular.

--Oscar Wilde

It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into war, into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars, civilization itself seeming to be in the balance. But the right is more precious than peace, and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts—for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own governments, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal dominion of right by such a concert of free peoples as shall bring peace and safety to all nations and make the world itself at last free. To such a task we can dedicate our lives and our fortunes, everything that we are and everything that we have, with the pride of those who know that the day has come when America is privileged to spend her blood and her might for the principles that gave her birth and happiness and the peace which she has treasured. God helping her, she can do no other.

--Woodrow Wilson

A single death is a tragedy; a million deaths is a statistic.

--Joseph Stalin

Victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory however long and hard the road may be; for without victory there is no survival.

--Sir Winston Churchill

Our defense is not in armaments, nor in science, nor in going underground. Our defense is in law and order.

--Albert Einstein

The time not to become a father is eighteen years before a world war.

--E. B. White

The principal foundations of all states are good laws and good arms; and there cannot be good laws where there are not good arms.

--Machiavelli

They wrote in the old days that it is sweet and fitting to die for one's country. But in modern war there is nothing sweet nor fitting in your dying. You will die like a dog for no good reason.

--Ernest Hemingway

Soldiers ought more to fear their general than their enemy.

--Michel de Montaigne

The first virtue in a soldier is endurance of fatigue; courage is only the second virtue.

--Napoleon Bonaparte

A certain amount of stupidity is necessary to make a good soldier.

--Florence Nightingale

Soldiers who wish to be a hero  
Are practically zero;  
But those who wish to be civilians,  
Jesus, they run into the millions.

--Unknown

We love peace, but not peace at any price. There is a peace more destructive of the manhood of living man, than war is destructive of his body. Chains are worse than bayonets.

--Douglas Jerrold

I am a man of peace. God knows how I love peace. But I hope I shall never be such a coward as to mistake oppression for peace.

--Lajos Kossuth

Peace itself is war in masquerade.

--John Dryden

We fight not to enslave, but to set a country free, and to make room upon the earth for honest men to live in.

--Thomas Paine

There is such a thing as a nation being so right that it does not need to convince others by force that it is right.

--Woodrow Wilson

Five great enemies to peace inhabit with us: viz., avarice, ambition, envy, anger and pride. If those enemies were to be banished, we should infallibly enjoy perpetual peace.

--Petrarch

People have not been horrified by war to a sufficient extent ... War will exist until that distant day when the conscientious objector enjoys the same reputation and prestige as the warrior does today.

--John Fitzgerald  
Kennedy

There is no more dangerous misconception than this which misconstrues the arms race as the cause rather than a symptom of the tensions and divisions which threaten nuclear war. If the history of the past fifty years teaches us anything, it is that peace does not follow disarmament—disarmament follows peace.

--Bernard M. Baruch

Today, every inhabitant of this planet must contemplate the day when it may no longer be habitable. Every man, woman and child lives under a nuclear sword of Damocles, hanging by the slenderest of threads, capable of being cut at any moment by accident, miscalculation or madness. The weapons of war must be abolished before they abolish us.

--John Fitzgerald  
Kennedy

The fortunes of war are always doubtful.

--Seneca

If we desire to avoid insult, we must be able to repel it; if we desire to secure peace, one of the most powerful instruments of our rising prosperity, it must be known, that we are at all times ready for War.

--George Washington

We shall never be able to remove suspicion and fear as potential causes of war until communication is permitted to flow, free and open, across international boundaries.

--Harry S. Truman

The two World Wars came in part, like much modern literature and art, because men, whose nature is to tire of everything in turn, ... tired of common sense and civilization.

--F. L. Lucas

In war, events of importance are the result of trivial causes.

--Julius Caesar

The mark of the immature man is that he wants to die nobly for a cause, while the mark of a mature man is that he wants to live humbly for one.

--Wilhelm Stekel

The future can be anything we want it to be, providing we have the faith and that we realize that peace, no less than war, required 'blood and sweat and tears.'

--Charles F. Kettering

Peace, above all things, is to be desired, but blood must sometimes be spilled to obtain it on equitable and lasting terms.

--Andrew Jackson

I discovered to my amazement that average men and women were delighted at the prospect of war. I had fondly imagined what most pacifists contended, that wars were forced upon a reluctant population by despotic and Machiavellian governments.

--Bertrand Russell

God will see to it that war always recurs as a drastic medicine for the human race.

--Leo Heinrich  
von Trietsch

That wars and rumors of wars are the great threats to political stability and to liberty needs no demonstration. Total war means total subjection of the individual to the state.

--Robert H. Jackson

War is the health of the State. It automatically sets in motion throughout society these irresistible forces of uniformity, for passionate cooperation with the government in coercing into obedience the minority groups and individuals which lack the larger herd sense.

--Randolph Bourne

## **IF**

If there is righteousness in the heart,  
    there will be beauty in character,  
    there will be harmony in the home.

If there is harmony in the home,  
    there will be order in the nation.

Where there is order in the nation,  
    there will be peace in the world.

--Chinese Proverb

War's a brain-spattering, windpipe-slitting art,  
Unless her cause by right be sanctified.

—Lord Byron

It is always easy to begin a war, but very difficult to stop one, since its beginning and end are not under the control of the same man. Anyone, even a coward, can commence a war, but it can be brought to an end only with the consent of the victors.

--Sallust

'Stroll down Fifth Avenue and observe the luxuries demanded by women, and you will understand why wars are waged,' was the gist of a recent statement by an American general, discussing commodities for which our merchants scour the earth.

--Carleton Beals

War is delightful to those who have had no experience of it.

--Erasmus

In the arts of life man invents nothing; but in the arts of death he outdoes Nature herself, and produces by chemistry and machinery all the slaughter of plague, pestilence, and famine.

—George Bernard Shaw

War should be undertaken in such a way as to show that its only object is peace.

--Cicero

Peace makes plenty, plenty makes pride.  
Pride breeds quarrel, and quarrel brings war:  
War brings spoil, and spoil poverty,  
Poverty patience, and patience peace:  
So peace brings war, and war brings peace.

--George Puttenham

A weapon is an enemy even to its owner.

--Turkish Proverb

Peace with a cudgel in hand is war.

--Portuguese Proverb

The worse the man, the better the soldier.

--Napoleon Bonaparte

We love peace, as we abhor pusillanimity; but not peace at any price. There is a peace more destructive of the manhood of living man than war is destructive of his material body. Chains are worse than bayonets.

--Douglas Jerrold

An association of men who will not quarrel with one another is a thing which never yet existed, from the greatest confederacy of nations down to a town-meeting or a vestry.

--Thomas Jefferson

It is mutual cowardice that keeps us in peace. Were one-half of mankind brave, and one-half cowards, the brave would be always beating the cowards. Were all brave, they would lead a very uneasy life; all would be continually fighting; but being all cowards, we go on very well.

--Samuel Johnson

The greatest general is he who makes the fewest mistakes.

--Napoleon Bonaparte

Whatever needs to be maintained through force is doomed.

--Henry Miller

In time of war, as in time of peace, admiration is lavished upon physical bravery, and the prevailing hero is one who has risked his life for a presumably holy cause. Such men, I confess, leave me cold....I can see nothing superior in a man willing to trade his life for public applause, and I can see no more superiority in him when he is a soldier than when he is a prize fighter, a lion tamer or a parachute jumper at a county fair.

--H. L. Mencken

Nations are thus ready to talk of wars and challenge one another, because they are made up to such an extent of poor low-spirited, despairing men, in whose eyes the chance of shooting somebody else without being shot themselves exceeds their actual good fortune. Who, in fact, will be the first to enlist but the most desperate class, they who have lost all hope? And they may at last infect the rest.

--Henry David Thoreau

Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding.

--Albert Einstein

The worst outcrop of herd life, the military system, which I abhor...This plague-spot of civilization ought to be abolished with all possible speed. Heroism on the command, senseless violence, and all the loathsome nonsense that goes by the name of patriotism—how passionately I hate them! How vile and despicable seems war to me! I would rather be hacked in pieces than take part in such an abominable business. My opinion of the human race is high enough that I believe this bogey would have disappeared long ago, had the sound sense of people not been systematically corrupted by commercial and political interests acting through the schools and the Press.

--Albert Einstein

Peace rules the day, where reason rules the mind.

--William Collins

The object of war is to survive it.

--John Irving

Far from establishing liberty throughout the world, war has actually encouraged and built up the development of dictatorships and has only restored liberty in limited areas at the cost of untold hardship, of human suffering, of death and destruction beyond the conception of our fathers.

--Robert A. Taft

The war system makes the stable government of societies possible. It does this essentially by providing an external necessity for a society to accept political rule. In so doing, it established the basis for nationhood and the authority of government to control its constituents.

--*Report from  
Iron Mountain*

There is no nation on earth so dangerous as a nation fully armed, and bankrupt at home.

--Henry Cabot Lodge

The most shocking fact about war is that its victims and its instruments are individual human beings, and that these individual beings are condemned by the monstrous conventions of politics to murder or be murdered in quarrels not their own.

—Aldous Huxley

What are the triumphs of war, planned by ambition, executed by violence, and consummated by devastation? The means are the sacrifice of many; the end the bloated aggrandizement of the few.

--Charles Caleb Colton

So far war has been the only force that can discipline a whole community, and until an equivalent discipline is organized, I believe that war must have its way.

--William James

Most people coming out of war feel lost and resentful. What had been a minute-to-minute confrontation with yourself, your struggle with what courage you have against discomfort, at the least, and death at the other end, ties you to the people you have known in the war and makes for a time others seem alien and frivolous.

--Lillian Hellman

War is the unfolding of miscalculations.

--Barbara Tuchman

Today the real test of power is not capacity to make war but capacity to prevent it.

--Anne O'Hare  
McCormick

Above all, Vietnam was a war that asked everything of a few and nothing of most in America.

--Myra McPherson

Television brought the brutality of war into the comfort of the living room. Vietnam was lost in the living rooms of U.S.A.—not on the battlefields of Vietnam.

--Marshall McLuhan

They will conquer, but they will not convince.

--Miguel de Unamuno

When the rich wage war, it's the poor who die.

--Jean-Paul Sartre

War is mainly a catalogue of blunders.

--Winston Churchill

War is a series of catastrophes which result in victory.

--Georges Clemenceau

Wars are not fought for territory, but for words. Man's deadliest weapon is language. He is as susceptible to being hypnotized by slogans as he is to infectious diseases. And where there is an epidemic, the groupmind takes over.

--Arthur Koestler

The only justification in the use of force is to reduce the amount of force necessary to be used.

--Alfred North Whitehead

Not believing in force is the same as not believing in gravitation.

--Leon Trotsky

Politics is war without bloodshed, and war is politics with blood.

--Mao Tse-Tung

Once you hear the details of victory, it is hard to distinguish it from a defeat.

--Jean-Paul Sartre

The peace of the man who has foresworn the use of the bullet seems to me not quite peace, but a canting impotence.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

There is no greater pacifist than the regular officer. Any man who is forced to turn his attention to the horrors of the battlefield, to the grotesque shapes that are left there for the burying squads—he doesn't want war!

--Dwight D. Eisenhower

War brings more evils than it cures, and yet war against evil cannot always be avoided.

--Unknown

In this age when there can be no losers in peace and no victors in war, we must recognize the obligation to match national strength with national restraint.

--Lyndon B. Johnson

Better an uneasy peace than an easy war.

--Unknown

None is fool enough to choose war instead of peace. For in peace sons bury fathers but in war fathers bury sons.

—Herodotus

The balance of power has never kept the peace in the past, and I don't see why it should in the future.

--Bertrand Russell

We are advocates of the abolition of war; we do not want war; but war can only be abolished through war; and in order to get rid of the gun it is necessary to pick up the gun.

--Official Motto of the  
Black Panther  
Party

The draft is white people sending black people to fight yellow people to protect the country they stole from red people.

--Rock Musical *Hair*

If you want to make peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies.  
--Moshe Dayan

The fundamental principle is that no battle, combat, or skirmish is to be fought unless it will be won.  
--Che Guevara

We did not choose to be the guardians at the gate. But there is no one else.  
--Lyndon Baines Johnson

We are not going to send American boys nine or ten thousand miles away from home to do what Asian boys ought to be doing for themselves.  
--Lyndon Baines Johnson

Wars have never hurt anybody except the people who die.  
--Salvador Dali

We need to devise a system within which peace will be more rewarding than war.  
--Margaret Mead

If there must be trouble, let it be in my day, that my child may have peace.  
—*theChive*

It is one of life's injustices that young men must fight the wars that older men begin.  
--William Fulbright

All crimes, all hatred, all wars can be reduced to unhappiness.  
--A. S. Neill

You can build a throne with bayonets, but you can't sit on it for long.  
--Boris Yeltsin

Name me an emperor who was ever struck by a cannonball.  
--Charles V

It is better to be a coward for a minute than dead for the rest of your life.  
--Irish Proverb

One murder makes a villain, millions a hero.

--Beilby Porteus

Where do all the women who have watched so carefully over the lives of their beloved ones get the heroism to send them to face the canon?

--Käthe Kollwitz

I am not so much of a pacifist that I would not fight for Peace!

--Freya Madeline Stark

You can no more win a war than you can win an earthquake.

--Jeannette Rankin

There's no difference between one's killing and making decisions that will send others to kill. It's exactly the same thing, or even worse.

--Golda Meir

Everything, everything in war is barbaric...But the worst barbarity of war is that it forces men collectively to commit acts against which individually they would revolt with their whole being.

--Ellen Key

By the middle of the twentieth century men had reached a peak of insanity. They grouped together in primitive nation-states, each nation-state condoning organized murder as the way to deal with international differences.

--Joan Baez

Wars and revolutions...have outlived all their ideological justifications...No cause is left but the most ancient of all, the one, in fact, of politics, the cause of freedom versus tyranny.

--Hannah Arendt

True peace will come only when every individual finds peace within himself; when we have all vanquished and transformed our hatred for our fellow human beings of whatever race—even into love one day.

--Etty Hillesum

Nations have recently been led to borrow billions for war; no nation has ever borrowed largely for education. Probably, no nation is rich enough to pay for both war and civilization. We must make our choice; we cannot have both.

--Abraham Flexner

I venture to say no war can be long carried on against the will of the people.  
--Edmund Burke

The grim fact is that we prepare for war like precocious giants, and for peace like retarded pygmies.  
--Lester Bowles Pearson

War challenges virtually every other institution of society—the justice and equity of its economy, the adequacy of its political systems, the energy of its productive plant, the bases, wisdom and purposes of its foreign policy.  
--Walter Millis

There is no such thing as an inevitable war. If war comes it will be from failure of human wisdom.  
--Andrew B. Law

The next World War will be fought with stones.  
--Albert Einstein

War is the science of destruction.  
--John Abbott

The tragedy of war is that it uses man's best to do man's worst.  
--Harry Emerson Fosdick

We should wage war not to win war, but to win peace.  
--Paul Hoffman

Men's hearts ought not to be set against one another, but set with one another, and all against evil only.  
--Thomas Carlyle

It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived.  
—General George S.  
Patton, Jr.

The hydrogen bomb is history's exclamation point. It ends an age-long sentence of manifest violence.  
--Marshall McLuhan

Peace has its victories no less than war, but it doesn't have as many monuments to unveil.

--Kin Hubbard

People who talk of outlawing the atomic bomb are mistaken—what needs to be outlawed is war.

--Leslie Richard Groves

Doughboys were paid a whole dollar a day  
and received free burial under the clay.  
And movie heroes are paid even more  
shooting one another in a Hollywood war.

--Alfred Krewmborg

The only excuse for war is that we may live in peace unharmed.

--Cicero

War educates the senses, calls into action the will, perfects the physical constitution, brings men into such swift and close collision in critical moments that man measures man.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

The time to stop a revolution is at the beginning, not the end.

--Adlai Stevenson

The greatest general is he who makes the fewest mistakes.

--Napoleon Bonaparte

In a wood they call the Rouge Bouquet,  
There is a new-made grave today,  
Built by never a spade nor pick,  
Yet covered with earth ten metres thick.  
There lie many fighting men,  
Dead in their youthful prime.  
Never to laugh nor love again  
Nor taste the Summertime.

--Joyce Kilmer

If any question why we died,  
Tell them, because our fathers lied.

--Rudyard Kipling

There are pacifists in pleasure as well as pacifists in war. The latter are called cowards. The former are called leading moral citizens.

--G. J. Nathan

Everything in the army is simple. You live or you die.

--*A Walk in the Sun*

Preventing conflicts is the work of politics; establishing peace is the work of education.

--Maria Montessori

Throughout history the world has been laid waste to ensure the triumph of conceptions that are now as dead as the men that died for them.

--Henry de Montherlant

If it's natural to kill, why do men have to go into training to learn how?

--Joan Baez

You don't have to have fought in a war to love peace.

--Geraldine Ferraro

A leader who doesn't hesitate before he sends his nation into battle is not fit to be a leader.

--Golda Meir

Monarchs ought to put to death the authors and instigators of war, as their sworn enemies and as dangers to their states.

--Queen Elizabeth I

The Nazis came for the Communists and I didn't speak up because I was not a Communist. They came for the Jews and I didn't speak up for I was not a Jew. They came for the trade-unionists and I didn't speak up because I was not a trade-unionist. They came for the Catholics and I was a Protestant so I didn't speak up. Then they came for me and by that time no one was left to speak up.

--Pastor Martin  
Niemöller

Preparedness never caused a war; unpreparedness never prevented one.  
--Florence Kahn

Join the Army, see the world, meet interesting people—and kill them.  
--Pacifist Badge

The great questions of the time are not decided by speeches and majority decisions—that was the error of 1848 and 1849—but by blood and iron.  
--Otto von Bismarck

We Americans have no commission from God to police the world.  
--Benjamin Harrison

A good war makes sacred any cause.  
--Friedrich Wilhelm  
Nietzsche

War is an unmitigated evil. But it certainly does one good thing: It drives away fear and brings bravery to the surface.  
--Mahatma Gandhi

No nations are more warlike than those professing Christianity.  
--Pierre Bayle

We...imagined (the war) was being fought by aging men like ourselves. We had forgotten that wars were fought by babies. When I saw those freshly shaved faces, it was a shock. 'My God,' I said to myself, 'it's the Children's Crusade.'  
--Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

Everyone, when there's war in the air, learns to live in a new element: falsehood.  
--Jean Giraudoux

Diplomats are just as essential to starting a war as Soldiers are for finishing it. You take Diplomacy out of war and the thing the thing would fall in a week.  
--Will Rogers

The way to prevent war is to bend every energy toward preventing it, not to proceed by the dubious indirection of preparing for it.  
--Max Lerner

War is not an adventure, it's a disease. Like typhus.

--Saint-Exupéry

In Italy for thirty years under the Borgias they had warfare, terror, murder, bloodshed—they produced Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, and the Renaissance. In Switzerland they had brotherly love, five hundred years of democracy and peace, and what did they produce?—the cuckoo clock.

--Graham Greene and  
Orson Wells

Can we say that in today's wars man is pitting his strength, skill, courage, or endurance against man? Certainly not! War has become a contest between machines, industrial enterprise, and financial organizations.

--Bronislaw Malinowski

I wonder if wars don't occur just so adults can play at being children again, regressing contentedly to the age of toy soldiers and crusading knights.

--Michel Tournier

Perhaps the most important single factor in the outbreak of war is misperception: a leader's image of himself; his view of his adversary's character; his view of his adversary's intentions, and of his adversary's capabilities.

--John Stoessinger

We kill because we are afraid of our own shadow, afraid that if we used a little common sense we'd have to admit that our glorious principles were wrong.

--Henry Miller

What country calls its vital...interests are not things that help its people live, but things that help it make war. Petroleum is a more likely cause of international conflict than wheat.

--Simone Weil

I'd like to see the government get out of war altogether and leave the whole field to private industry.

--Joseph Heller

It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity.

--Albert Einstein

There are but two powers in the world, the sword and the mind. In the long run the sword is always beaten by the mind.

--Napoleon

(On the Holocaust) Because I saw hell, death and the devil, because I had to watch the madness of destruction, because I was one of many horses roped into the harness and following the will and the orders of the carriage drive, unable to break out to the left or the right, I feel called upon and I have the desire to report here and give witness to what occurred. I will describe the genocide of the Jewish people, how it occurred, and give my thoughts on it, from yesterday and today. Not only did I have to see the fields of death with my own eyes, the battlefields on which life died, I saw something much worse. I saw how, with a few words, with the single brief short order of an individual, who as commander had been given that power by the leadership of state, such life-extinguishing fields were created. And I saw the strangeness of the course of the machinery of death, gear for gear, like the workings of a clock. And I saw those who monitored the course and progress of the working; and they observed the secondhand that hurried along, hurried along like life toward death.

The greatest and most powerful dance of death of all time.

--Adolf Eichmann

In order to have good soldiers a nation must always be at war.

--Napoleon

War will never cease until babies begin to come into the world with larger cerebrums and smaller adrenal glands.

—H. L. Mencken

Another way to end war is for soldiers to demand the same pay for fighting as other fighters get.

--Unknown

The least pain in our little finger gives us more concern than the destruction of millions of our fellow-beings.

—William Hazlitt

A conqueror is always a lover of peace: he would like to make his entry into our state unopposed.

--Karl von Clausewitz

War is sweet to those who have not experienced it.

--Erasmus

The trouble with war is that all the preliminaries are arranged by matchmakers, and all they have left for fighters to do is the murdering.

--Finley Peter Dunne

War is little more than a catalogue of mistakes and misfortunes.

--Winston Churchill

We think that for a general to fight an enemy, it is important to know the enemy's numbers, but still more important to know the enemy's philosophy.

--G. K. Chesterton

Dear Madam,—I have been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant General of Massachusetts, that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle.

I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save.

I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours, to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of Freedom. Yours, very sincerely and respectfully.

--President Abraham  
Lincoln

A strong defense is the surest way to peace. Strength makes détente attainable. Weakness invites war, as my generation—my generation—knows from four very bitter experiences. Just as America's will for peace is second to none, so will America's strength be second to none. We cannot rely on the forbearance of others to protect this Nation. The power and diversity of the Armed Forces, active Guard and Reserve, the resolve of our fellow citizens, the flexibility in our command to navigate international waters that remain troubled are all essential to our security.

--Gerald R. Ford

The awareness that we are all human beings together has become lost in war and through politics.

--Albert Schweitzer

Nothing can be more hurtful to the service, than the neglect of discipline; for that discipline, more than numbers, gives one army the superiority over another.

--George Washington

We must train and classify the whole of our male citizens, and make military instruction a regular part of collegiate education.

--Thomas Jefferson

Women should be permitted to volunteer for non-combat service,...they should not be accepted, voluntarily or through the draft, as combat soldiers....We know of no comparable ways of training women and girls, and we have no real way of knowing whether the kinds of training that teach men both courage and restraint would be adaptable to women or effective in a crisis. But the evidence of history and comparative studies of other species suggest that women as a fighting body might be far less amendable to the rules that prevent warfare from becoming a massacre and, with the use of modern weapons, that protect the survival of all humanity. This is what I meant by saying that women in combat might be too fierce.

--Margaret Mead

The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

--Thomas Gray

Nuclear War: The living will envy the dead.

--Nikita S. Khrushchev

But this very triumph of scientific annihilation [nuclear war]—this very success of invention—has destroyed the possibility of war's being a medium for the practical settlement of international differences. The enormous destruction to both sides of closely matched opponents makes it impossible for even the winner to translate it into anything but his own disaster....Global war has become a Frankenstein to destroy both sides. No longer is it a weapon of adventure—the shortcut to international power. If you lose, you are annihilated. If you win, you stand only to lose. No longer does it possess even the chance of the winner of a duel. It contains now only the germs of double suicide.

--Douglas MacArthur

Peace is an unstable equilibrium, which can be preserved only by acknowledged supremacy or equal power.

--Will and Ariel Durant

Only a peace between equals can last. Only a peace the very principle of which is equality and a common participation in a common benefit.

--Woodrow Wilson

Two conditions render difficult this historic situation of mankind: It is full of tremendously deadly armament, and it has not progressed morally as much as it has scientifically and technically.

--Pope Paul VI

Our God and Souldiers we alike adore,  
Ev'n at the Brink of danger; not before:  
After deliverance, both alike required;  
Our God's forgotten, and our Souldiers slighted.

--Francis Quarles

Older men declare war. But it is youth that must fight and die. And it is youth who must inherit the tribulation, the sorrow and the triumphs that are the aftermath of war.

--Herbert Hoover

Once blood is shed in a national quarrel reason and right are swept aside by the rage of angry men.

--David Lloyd George

A time will come when a politician who has willfully made war and promoted international dissension will be as sure of the dock and much surer of the noose than a private homicide. It is not reasonable that those who gamble with men's lives should not stake their own.

--H. G. Wells

War is an invention of the human mind. The human mind can invent peace with justice.

--Norman Cousins

In the summer of 1970, many young people discovered what their elders already knew, that the tragedy of the world is that it is run by human beings.

--Dr. Willard Dalrymple

Nations...continually engage in acts that, if committed by thee or me against hostile neighbors, would land us in the slammer for life with no chance for parole.

--Stanley Ellin

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short day ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

--John McCrae

There are two kinds of mines; one is the personnel mine and the other is the vehicular mine. When we come to a mine field our infantry attacks exactly as if it were not there. The losses we get from personnel mines we consider only equal to those we would have gotten from machine guns and artillery if the Germans had chosen to defend that particular area with strong bodies of troops instead of with mine fields. The attacking infantry does not set off the vehicular mines, so after they have penetrated to the far side of the field they form a bridgehead, after which the engineers come up and dig out channels through which our vehicles can go.

--George K. Zhukov

The ultimate purpose of making a gun is to fire it.

--Erich Fromm

All War Departments are now Defense Departments. That is part of the double talk of our time.

--George Wald

The Ten Commandments must be silent when self-preservation is at stake.

--Will and Ariel Durant

Who speaks of victory? Survival is the issue.

--Rainer Maria Rilke

I would like to ask a question. Would this sort of war or savage bombing which has taken place in Vietnam have been tolerated for so long, had the people been European?

--Indira Gandhi

War is fear cloaked in courage.

--Gen. William C.  
Westmoreland

Had not innumerable soldiers shed their blood, there would have been no Hellenism, no Roman civilization, no Christianity, no Rights of Man and no modern developments.

--Charles De Gaulle

Plugging shellholes with live soldiers.

--Sanche De Gramont

I'm proud of the fact that I never invented weapons to kill.

--Thomas Edison

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

--Dwight D. Eisenhower

The mere absence of war is not peace.

--John F. Kennedy

I have always believed that we cannot have peace in the world until all of us understand how wars start.

--Jean F. Merrill

Peace has to be watched and guarded. Its enemies are always ready to break it, for the forces of evil never sleep.

--Bernard Miles

We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living.

--Omar Bradley

War begins where reason ends.

--Frederick Douglass

In history books war seemed to be a simple matter of two sides fighting, the right side against the wrong.

--Jean Fritz

More than an end to war, we want an end to the beginnings of all wars.

--Franklin d. Roosevelt

In war all suffer defeat; even the victors.

--Swedish Proverb

The poor fellows think they are safe! They think that the war is over! Only the dead have seen the end of war.

—George Santayana

We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender.

--Winston Churchill

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

--Franklin D. Roosevelt

In war, the only sure defense is offense, and the efficiency of offense depends on the warlike souls of those conducting it.

--George S. Patton

The basic problems facing the world today are not susceptible to a military solution.

--John F. Kennedy

In the future, no one wins a war...there are degrees of loss, but no one wins.

--Brock Chisholm

War is only a cowardly escape from the problems of peace.

--Thomas Mann

In war, there are no unwounded soldiers.

--José Norosky

Join the army, see the world, meet interesting people—and kill them.

--Woody Allen

There are no bad regiments, only bad colonels.

--Napoleon Bonaparte

War is God's way of teaching us geography.

--Paul Rodriguez

Those who love peace must learn to organize as well as those who love war.

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

Love is like war. Easy to begin. Hard to end.

--Proverb

Accursed be he that first invented war.

--Christopher Marlowe

Anyone who thinks, must think of the next war as they would of suicide.

--Eleanor Roosevelt

I can not believe that war is the best solution. No one won the last war, and no one will win the next war.

--Eleanor Roosevelt

One cannot wage war under present conditions without the support of public opinion, which is tremendously molded by the press and other forms of propaganda.

--Douglas MacArthur

The soldier above all others prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.

--Douglas MacArthur

War is a poor chisel to carve out tomorrow.

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

Fighting for peace is like screwing for virginity.

--George Carlin

Though force can protect in emergency, only justice, fairness, consideration, and cooperation can finally lead men to the dawn of eternal peace.

--Dwight D. Eisenhower

In combat and in life, expect nothing—but be prepared for everything.

--Dan Millman

Soldiers usually win the battles, and generals get credit for them.

--Napoleon Bonaparte

It is not in giving life but in risking life that man is raised above the animal; that is why superiority has been accorded in humanity not to the sex that brings forth but to that which kills.

--Simone de Beauvoir

You can't imagine how many borders and boundaries you cross, again and again and again, and you don't even see them. People are killing each other over some imaginary line.

--Russell Schweickart

Propaganda is a soft weapon; hold it in your hands too long, and it will move about like a snake, and strike the other way.

--Jean Anouilh

The only way to make peace is to remember what war is truly like.

--Herman Wouk

The beginning of the end of War lies in Remembrance.

--Herman Wouk

Fighting another human being is not as hard as you think when they're trying to kill you. People think we were cheering because we just shot someone, but we were cheering because we just stopped someone from killing us. That person will no longer shoot at us anymore. That's where the fiesta comes in.

--Sebastian Junger

Combat was a game that the United States had asked Second Platoon to become very good at, and once they had, the United States had put them on a hilltop without women, hot food, running water, communication with the outside world or any kind of entertainment for more than a year.

--Sebastian Junger

Society can give its young men almost any job, and they'll figure how to do it. They'll suffer for it and die for it and watch their friends die for it, but in the end it will get it done.

--Sebastian Junger

In a very crude sense the job of young men is to undertake the work that their fathers are too old for.

--Sebastian Junger

War is supposed to feel bad because undeniably bad things happen in it, but for a 19-year-old at the working end of a .50 cal during a firefight that everyone comes out of OK, war is life multiplied by some number that no one has ever heard of. In some ways 20 minutes of combat is more life than you could scrape together in a lifetime of doing something else.

--Sebastian Junger

Combat isn't where you might die—though that does happen—it's where you find out whether you get to keep on living. Don't underestimate the power of that revelation. Don't underestimate the things young men will wager in order to play that game one more time.

--Sebastian Junger

A collective amnesia afflicts young men who wish to live up to their fathers, and old men who missed war as young men.

--Evan Thomas

Decisions made in the rear by clueless commanders with 'pink faces' and starched fatigues who move men and artillery around on a map, and cover their asses with paperwork. Majors and lieutenant colonels obsessed with body counts and regulation haircuts care more about their next promotion than the welfare of their troops.

--Steve Kroft

The only goal is making it through the day alive—a place where the Marine's valor and courage are motivated by a sense of duty, a responsibility to his brother in arms, and his own will to survive, although there are many moments when death in battle seems the path of least resistance and the only merciful means of escape....There are leeches, jungle rot, immersion foot, malaria, dysentery, hypothermia, hunger, exhaustion, and tigers.

--Steve Kroft

Every war is ironic because every war is worse than expected.

--Paul Fussell

I can picture in my mind a world without war, a world without hate. And I can picture us attacking that world, because they'd never expect it.

--Jack Handey

Heroism on command, senseless violence, and all the loathsome nonsense that goes by the name of patriotism - how passionately I hate them!

--Albert Einstein

I am not only a pacifist but a militant pacifist. I am willing to fight for peace. Nothing will end war unless the people themselves refuse to go to war.

--Albert Einstein

I do not believe that civilization will be wiped out in a war fought with the atomic bomb. Perhaps two-thirds of the people of the earth will be killed.

--Albert Einstein

It is my conviction that killing under the cloak of war is nothing but an act of murder.

--Albert Einstein

Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.

--Albert Einstein

When you appeal to force, there's one thing you must never do—lose.

--Dwight D. Eisenhower

A pint of sweat will save a gallon of blood.

--General George S.  
Patton

The difference between a hero and a coward is one step sideways.

--Gene Hackman

The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.

--Mahatma Gandhi

He who cannot obey, cannot command.

--Benjamin Franklin

Any future defense secretary who advises the president to again send a big American land army into Asia or into the Middle East or Africa should 'have his head examined,' as General MacArthur so delicately put it.

--Secretary of Defense,  
Robert Gates

The patriot's blood is the seed of freedom's tree.

--Thomas Campbell

The facts of life are that a child who has seen war cannot be compared with a child who doesn't know what war is except from television.

--Sophia Loren

Americans are the only people on earth who, when a war begins, always expect to win; we so take the result for granted that we do not even realize how unusual our expectation is.

--Paul Johnson

My other brother-in-law died. He was a karate expert, then joined the army. The first time he saluted, he killed himself.

--Henny Youngman

For the first time in my life I saw cannonballs strike men and crash through the trees and saplings above and around us, and realized the always sickening confusion as one approaches a fight from the rear.

--William Tecumseh  
Sherman

Some veterans can't comprehend home anymore. They have been trained that survival is their own responsibility, that they must keep their distance, ask for nothing, expect nothing. Kept in war too long, they are lost in their own homeland.

--Benjamin Busch

Any nation is too immense and austere to articulate the emotional debt it owes to the service members it sends away and the families who must watch them go. The fallen veteran will be carried to the grave under our flag, and that flag will be presented to the family, as if it were equivalent to the life of one citizen.

--Benjamin Busch

The best armor is to keep out of range.

--Italian Proverb

A great, dear friend of mine to whom I was bonded forever one horrific night in the Battle of Fallujah in 2004 was wounded. But only after he returned to the United States....Once home, the parents on one of his kids' sporting teams expressed concern about whether my friend might curse, or be aggressive, because he'd been in Iraq. I think that floored him. He couldn't believe it. After all he'd survived, after all he'd done for his country. This.

--Michael Ware

If you don't want gays in the military, make the uniforms ugly.

--Joan Rivers

When you teach a kid how to kill and send him to combat a few times, he will come home mightily changed, with a dependence on weaponry and a tendency to treat violence as a perfectly acceptable way of solving a problem.

--Anthony Swofford

When the line of violence has been crossed once, it's easier to cross again. Homicide and suicide differ greatly; but they are both forms of killing.

--Dr. David Spiegel

A soldier's lot once back is often with The Damned. For some it's part of the service offered as young men, and so it has always been. Return passage. Homecoming. All too often they're brittle deceits woven from straw so easily blown away by no more than the coming home itself. By war's nature it's an alien horror understood only by the few. Nothing will change that. Ever. Rendering a year's tour, commonly more, deposits of service and good will in faraway account forever frozen, the contents never to be truly repatriated.

--Michael Ware

In the sea underwater at night when it is the darkest, it is your teammate who swims beside you, always ready to provide you air if you run out, untangle your line if you're caught under a ship, or fend off an unwanted visitor. In the air, it is your teammate who checks your parachute before you jump, who ensures you pull at the right altitude, and it is your teammate who lands beside you in enemy territory. On the land, it is your teammate who walks your flank, covering your six; it is your teammate who lays down a base of fire so you can maneuver against the enemy. And sometimes it is your teammate who lays down his life for yours.

--Admiral William  
McRaven

You crawl through an ambush to rescue a friend because he's a friend. It's not for valor or because you're thinking of the Medal of Honor.

--Frank Kearney  
Ethos

Give me generals who know something about tactics and strategy, but best of all give me generals who are lucky.

--Napoleon Bonaparte

A war is not won if the defeated enemy has not been turned into a friend.

--Eric Hoffer

War, itself, no matter how just or good, will leave many of the men who fight it feeling like they've dirtied their souls, and perhaps for a simple reason: there is just something about killing that bites the conscience and doesn't let go.

--Tony Dokoupil

In Vietnam, about one in three soldiers reported killing the enemy; one in five acknowledged killing a civilian by mistake; two in three handled or uncovered dead bodies, and the same ratio saw wounded and sick women and children they couldn't help. Nearly 80 percent had lost a friend or had a friend wounded.

--Tony Dokoupil

The American military has been called 'the world's best killing machine,' and yet the word killing is the last thing you'll hear the military discuss. The word doesn't appear in training manuals, or surveys of soldiers returning from combat, and the effects of killing aren't something the military screens for when service people come home. It's strictly a private word, something hissed about in bars and between bunk beds.

--Tony Dokoupil

One study of veterans found that surviving a friend in combat is tied to more severe symptoms of grief than losing a spouse, even 30 years later, and even if the spouse died in the last six months.

--Tony Dokoupil

It was the worst time of my life, and I was so scared I did not take a shit for nine days.

--Ed Sabol

Courage is fear holding out a minute longer. No bastard ever won a war by dying for his country. He won it by making the other poor bastard die for his country.

--General George  
S. Patton

General Patton told us we were going to kill those cocksuckers, go into their houses, take their broads, blow them all to hell. He was a tough son of a bitch, and I admired him.

--Ed Sabol

A private who loses his rifle is now punished more than a general who loses his part of a war.

--Colonel Paul Yingling

In the wars of the past decade, hundreds of Army generals were deployed to the field, and the available evidence indicates that not one was relieved by the military brass for combat ineffectiveness. This change is arguably one of the most significant developments in our recent military history—an important factor in the failure of our wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. To a shocking degree, the Army's leadership ranks have become populated by mediocre officers, placed in positions where they are likely to fail. Success goes unrewarded, and everything but the most extreme failure goes unpunished, creating a perverse incentive system that drives leaders toward a risk-averse middle where they are more likely to find stalemate than victory.

--Thomas E. Ricks

Generals are born, and generals are made. The promotion from colonel to brigadier (or one-star) general is one of the largest psychological leaps an officer can take. It is richly symbolic: the promoted officer removes from his or her uniform the insignia of an Army branch (the crossed rifles of infantry, for example, or the tiny triple-turreted castle of engineers) and puts on a single star. As brigadier generals, the newly promoted officers are informed that they no longer represent a part of the Army, but now are stewards of the entire service. They are expected to coordinate and control multiple branches, such as artillery, cavalry, and engineers—that is, to become generalists.

--Thomas E. Ricks

I wanted to know what were the experiences soldiers brought back from war that they couldn't share with society. As a journalist I have a mandate to talk about these things. But the soldiers, they don't. While killing is essential to the job, the conventional wisdom is that you don't speak about it.

--Kevin Sites

A man will go to war, fight and die for his country. But he won't get a bikini wax.  
--Rita Rudner

The courage needed to engage in battle was indistinguishable from love. Because of the strong brotherhood the soldiers had formed, they were more concerned about what happened to their buddies than about what happened to themselves.  
--Phil Jackson

I actually love my brothers. I mean, it's a brotherhood. Being able to save their life so they can live, I think is rewarding. Any of them would do it for me.  
--American Soldier in  
Afghanistan as  
told to Sebastian  
Junger

We have women in the military, but they don't put us in the front lines. They don't know if we can fight, if we can kill. I think we can. All the general has to do is walk over to the woman and say, 'You see the enemy over there? They say you look fat in those uniforms.'  
--Elayne Boosler

Soldiers are moral beings, and they have to deal on some level with the morality of what they're doing and possible guilt. I believe the greatest sacrifice we ask of our soldiers is not that they die for us but that they kill for us.  
--Joseph J. Locascio

Barbarism is not the inheritance of our pre-history. It is the companion that dogs our every step.  
--Alain Finkielkraut

Making war upon insurgents is messy and slow, like eating soup with a knife.  
—T. E. Lawrence

Laptops will someday replace M-16s as the primary tool of warfare. Wars won't be fought with boots on the ground but in darkened basements packed with glowing computer monitors.  
--Michael Moynihan

The drying up a single tear has more of honest fame than shedding seas of gore.  
--Lord Byron

Not understanding the human terrain has the same effect on your operations that not understanding the physical terrain has on conventional military operations. If you don't really appreciate the physical terrain and its impact on your operations, you don't succeed. If you don't understand the human terrain in the conduct of population-centric counterinsurgency operations, you don't succeed.

--General David  
Petraeus

If women ruled the world there would be no wars...just a bunch of countries not talking to each other.

--Chris Rock

Sometimes, the more force is used, the less effective it is. Disproportionate power can undermine political legitimacy.

--*U.S. Army/Marine  
Corps Counter  
Insurgency Field  
Manual, 2006*

It is a commonplace that the history of civilization is largely the history of weapons. In particular, the connection between the discovery of gunpowder and the overthrow of feudalism by the bourgeoisie has been pointed out over and over again. And though I have no doubt exceptions can be brought forward, I think the following rule would be found to be generally true that ages in which the dominant weapon is expensive or difficult to make will be ages of despotism, whereas when the dominant weapon is cheap and simple, the common people have a chance. Thus, for example, tanks, battleships and bombing planes are inherently tyrannical weapons, while rifles, muskets, long-bows and hand-grenades are inherently democratic weapons. A complex weapon makes the strong stronger, while a simple weapon --so long as there is no answer to it-- gives claws to the weak.

--George Orwell

Boomers haven't made life perfect, the way we promised we would back in the 1960s. We promised we wouldn't fight any wars. We were fibbing—we've had seven or eight since Vietnam. However, we did make them smaller. The United States has suffered more than 5,800 combat deaths in the three decades of the post-Vietnam era. The number is painful, but it's also less—by almost a thousand—than the number of U.S. Servicemen who died in just five weeks during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

—P. J. O'Rourke

Unless you've experienced it, I don't think there's any way you can understand totally, but war is always there. And people who have taken other peoples' lives will know exactly what I'm talking about.

--John Stiles

The hate of men will pass, and dictators die, and the power they took from the people will return to the people. And so long as men die, liberty will never perish.

--Charlie Chaplin

If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood  
Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs,  
Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud  
Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues,—  
My friend, you would not tell with such high zest  
To children ardent for some desperate glory,  
The old Lie: *Dulce et decorum est*  
*Pro patria mori.*

--Wilfred Owen

It is sweet and dignified to die for the homeland, but it is sweeter to live for the homeland, and the sweetest to drink for it. Therefore, let us drink to the health of the homeland.

--19th Century Toast

More than 70 million men were mobilized, of whom some 45 million became casualties, and at least 9 million died. On average, the [Great War] claimed the lives of 230 soldiers, sailors, or airmen for every hour that it lasted.

--Deborah Cohen

He that fights and runs away,  
May turn and fight another day;  
But he that is in battle slain,  
Will never rise to fight again.

--Tacitus

All wars are civil wars, because all men are brothers ... Each one owes infinitely more to the human race than to the particular country in which he was born.

--Franois de Salignac de  
la Mothe Fenelon

Every war has two losers.

--William Stafford

Don't forget what I discovered—that over ninety percent of all national deficits from 1921 to 1939 were caused by payments for past, present, and future wars.

--Franklin D. Roosevelt

Follow me if I advance! Kill me if I retreat! Revenge me if I die!

--Ngo Dinh Diem

This is a war universe. War all the time. That is its nature. There may be other universes based on all sorts of other principles, but ours seems to be based on war and games.

--William Burroughs

There is no morality in war. Morality is the privilege of those judging from the distance. War is only death and destruction.

--John Cory

The provision of the Constitution giving the war-making power to Congress was dictated, as I understand it, by the following reasons. Kings had always been involving and impoverishing their people in wars, pretending generally, if not always, that the good of the people was the object. This, our Convention understood to be the most oppressive of all Kingly oppressions; and they resolved to so frame the Constitution that no one man should hold the power of bringing this oppression upon us.

--Abraham Lincoln

Desperate affairs require desperate measures.

--Horatio Nelson

To survive it is often necessary to fight and to fight you have to dirty yourself.

--George Orwell

After every war someone has to tidy up.

--Wisława Szymborska

The average bright young man who is drafted hates the whole business because an army always tries to eliminate the individual differences in men.

--Andy Rooney

War is not merely a political act but a real political instrument, a continuation of political intercourse, a carrying out of the same by other means.

--Karl Von Clausewitz

[Letter to mother, sister and fiancée on September 11, 1918, the day before the battle of Saint-Mihiel in France. 20-year-old David Kerr died the next day.]

Tomorrow the first totally American drive commences, and it gives me inexpressible joy and pride to know that I shall be present to do my share. Should I go under, therefore, I want you to know that I went without any terror of death, and that my chief worry is the grief my death will bring to those so dear to me.

Since having found myself and Mary, there has been much to make life sweet and glorious, but death, while distasteful, is in no way terrible.

I feel wonderfully strong to do my share well, and, for my sake, you must try to drown your sorrow in the pride and satisfaction, the knowledge that I died well in so clean a cause, as is ours, should bring you. Remember how proud I have always been of your superb pluck, keep Elizabeth's future in mind, and don't permit my death to bow your head.

My personal belongings will all be sent to you. Your good taste will tell you which to send to Mary.

May God bless and keep you, dear heart, and be kind to little Elizabeth, and those others I love so well.

David.

The end.

--David Kerr

[Letter from 15-year-old Civil War drummer boy John Ross Wallar dictated from his hospital bed before he died.]

Dear Sister father Mother and friends

I recievd your letter but I don't think I Ever shall see another that you write this is Friday night But I don't think I woll Live to See Morning But My Kind friends I am a soldier of Christ I will Meet you all in Heven My Leg Has Bin taking of above My nee I am Dying at this time so don't Morn after Me fore I have Bleed and died fore My country May God Help you all to pray fore Me I want you all to Meet Me in Heven above Dear Sister you wanted to Know if My Leg would be Stiff God Bless Your Soul Sister I will be Stiff all over be four twenty four ours My wound Dresser is writing this Letter fore Me when you get this Letter write to Alexander Nelan fore I wont Live till Morning so good By My Friends May God be with you all good by God Bless My poor Soul.

--John Ross Wallar

[20-year-old Tommie Kennedy wrote from a Japanese prisoner of war camp during World War II]

Momie & Dad: It is pretty hard to check out this way with out a fighting chance but we can't live forever. I'm not afraid to die, I just hate the thought of not seeing you again. Buy Turkey Ranch with my money and just think of me often while your there. Make liberberal donations to both sisters. See that Gary has a new car his first year hi-school.

I am sending Walts medals to his mother. He gave them to me Sept 42 last time I saw him & Bud. They went to Japan. I guess you can tell Patty that fate just didn't want us to be together. Hold a nice service for me in Bksfield & put head stone in new cemetary. Take care of my nieces & nephews don't let them ever want anything as I want even warmth or water now.

Loving & waiting for you in the world beon.

Your son,

Lt. Tommie Kennedy

—Lt. Tommie Kennedy

[In March of 2002 Sgt. Josh Harapko wrote from Afghanistan. Harapko subsequently died in a Blackhawk helicopter crash.]

I'm writing this letter before I leave. I couldn't say what I wanted to over the phone. First I want to say I love you so much. You were always there for me even though I would never talk about my problems. Second you gave me the options to be a man giving me slack in the rope to try to make the right decisions. No matter what you always believed in me, no matter how much of a punk I was to you. We are leaving for Bahgram to flush out 600 Taliban soldiers from the mountains. This is the biggest battle of the war on terrorism. We already sustained 30 casualties and one KIA....

I don't want you to worry about me. (I know you will cause I'm your son). Mom I'm not afraid to die for something that is right...I just hope that I made you proud, and if I don't come home for any reason I just want you to know I'll always be with you....I want you to know you raised the cream of the crop....Well Mom I have to go now, all that I have said here are words from my heart and I mean every last one of them. Tell Aunt Joyce I said hi and I love her. I hope to see you soon but if that doesn't work out I just needed you to know how I felt. I Love you and Miss you. Take care your always in my thoughts.

Your loving son Josh

--Josh Harapko

We cannot be both the world's leading champion of peace and the world's leading supplier of arms.

--Jimmy Carter

My mental faculties remained in suspended animation while I obeyed the orders of the higher-ups. This is typical with everyone in the military.

--Smedley Butler

Untutored courage is useless in the face of educated bullets.

--George S. Patton

You can't separate peace from freedom because no one can be at peace unless he has his freedom.

--Malcolm X

War will never cease until babies begin to come into the world with larger cerebums and smaller adrenal glands.

--H. L. Mencken

War is the remedy that our enemies have chosen, and I say let us give them all they want.

--William Tecumseh  
Sherman

On that chilled dawn, these beaches echoed with the sounds of staccato gunfire, the roar of aircraft, the thunder of bombardment. And through the wind and the waves came the soldiers, out of their landing craft and into the water, away from their youth and toward a savage place many of them would sadly never leave.

--Bill Clinton, 1994  
D-Day  
Anniversary

Violent conflict between societies is called war: and is one of the few universal constants of human existence. We wage war to acquire land or possessions from others, to retaliate for their attempts to acquire land or possessions from us, or because it is Tuesday. Most world religions denounce war as a barbaric waste of human life. We treasure the teachings of these religions so dearly that we frequently have to wage war in order to impose them on other people.

--*Earth (The Book) A  
Visitor's Guide to  
the Human Race*

To die for one's country is such a worthy fate that all compete for so beautiful a death.

--Pierre Corneille

As much progress as science made to keep us alive, it was constantly overshadowed by our new scientific ways of killing each other. When we first unlocked the power of the atom, we could have used it for anything: free electrical power to help the poor; space travel; medical breakthroughs. Instead, our first move was to build a bomb that could etch permanent shadows in the sidewalk. The goal was to create a weapon where one man could simultaneously kill every other person, making him 'the winner.' So it was for millennia. Every time we made a discovery, our first order of business was deciding how it could best be used to extinguish the lives of those who hadn't thought of it yet. We never figured out solar-powered cars, but if you're in the market for some space-laser-guided nuclear rocket bombs...we know a guy.

--*Earth (The Book) A  
Visitor's Guide to  
the Human Race*

No dictator, no invader, can hold an imprisoned population by force of arms forever. There is no greater power in the universe than the need for freedom. Against that power, governments and tyrants and armies cannot stand. The Centauri learned this lesson once. We will teach it to them again. Though it take a thousand years, we will be free.

--J. Michael Straczynski

The whole art of war consists in a well-reasoned and extremely circumspect defensive, followed by rapid and audacious attack.

--Napoleon Bonaparte

It is hard, I submit, to loathe bloodshed, including war, more than I do, but it is still harder to exceed my loathing of the very nature of totalitarian states in which massacre is only an administrative detail.

--Vladimir Nabokov

Men killing other men really is an extraordinary phenomenon. Why does it happen? And how long has it gone on? And have the motives changed?

--John Keegan

Over-grown military establishments are under any form of government inauspicious to liberty, and are to be regarded as particularly hostile to republican liberty.

--George Washington

Very little is known about the War of 1812 because the Americans lost it.

--Eric Nicol

One of the things that makes our military the best in the world is the certain knowledge of each soldier, sailor, airman, and Marine that they can always count on their comrades should they need help - that they will never be abandoned.

--Jon Kyl

We always knew how to honor fallen soldiers. They were killed for our sake, they went out on our mission. But how are we to mourn a random man killed in a terrorist attack while sitting in a cafe? How do you mourn a housewife who got on a bus and never returned?

--A. B. Yehoshua

War will disappear only when men shall take no part whatever in violence and shall be ready to suffer every persecution that their abstention will bring them. It is the only way to abolish war.

--Anatole France

Let us dedicate ourselves to what the Greeks wrote so many years ago: to tame the savageness of man and make gentle the life of this world.

--Robert Kennedy

Every attempt to make war easy and safe will result in humiliation and disaster.

—William Tecumseh  
Sherman

How different the new order would be if we could consult the veteran instead of the politician.

—Henry Miller

As Steven Pinker showed in the 2011 book *Better Angels of Our Nature*, total casualties of combat, including indirect casualties from the economic harm associated with fighting, have been declining, even as the global population has risen. In 1950, one person in 5,000 worldwide died owing to combat; by 2010, this measure was down to one person in 300,000. In recent years, far more people have been killed by car crashes than by battle. Simultaneously, per capita military expenditure has shrunk. My favorite statistic about the world: the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute reports that, adjusting to today's dollars, global per capita military spending has declined by one-third in the past quarter century.

—Gregg Easterbrook

A great empire, like a great cake, is most easily diminished at the edges.

--Benjamin Franklin

Polls showed that the young were more likely to support the Vietnam War than the old were; the young were more likely to support the 2003 invasion of Iraq, too. Research by John Mueller, a political scientist at Ohio State University, suggests that as people age, they become less enthusiastic about war. Perhaps this is because older people tend to be wiser than the young—and couldn't the world use more wisdom?

—Gregg Easterbrook

The most disadvantageous peace is better than the most just war.

—Desiderius Erasmus

War is the statesman's game, the priest's delight, the lawyer's jest, the hired assassin's trade.

—Percy Bysshe Shelley

There are not fifty ways of fighting, there's only one, and that's to win. Neither revolution nor war consists in doing what one pleases.

—Andre Malraux

The failure to dissect the cause of war leaves us open for the next installment.

—Chris Hedges

I abhor war and view it as the greatest scourge of mankind.

—Thomas Jefferson

That strange feeling we had in the war. Have you found anything in your lives since to equal it in strength? A sort of splendid carelessness it was, holding us together.

—Noel Coward

A weapon is a device for making your enemy change his mind.

—Lois McMaster Bujold

A tactical retreat is not a bad response to a surprise assault, you know. First you survive. Then you choose your own ground. Then you counterattack.

—Lois McMaster Bujold

All revolutions devour their own children.

—Ernst Rohm

A democracy which makes or even effectively prepares for modern, scientific war must necessarily cease to be democratic. No country can be really well prepared for modern war unless it is governed by a tyrant, at the head of a highly trained and perfectly obedient bureaucracy.

—Aldous Huxley

In war, there are no unwounded soldiers.

—Jose Narosky

This bloody past suggests to us that enemies cease hostilities only when they are battered enough to acknowledge that there is no hope in victory - and thus that further resistance means only useless sacrifice.

—Victor Davis Hanson

The American public and its political leadership will do anything for the military except take it seriously. The result is a chickenhawk nation in which careless spending and strategic folly combine to lure America into endless wars it cannot win.

—James Fallows

If more members of Congress or the business and media elite had had children in uniform, the United States would probably not have gone to war in Iraq at all.

—Seth Moulton

Ours is the best-equipped fighting force in history, and it is incomparably the most expensive. By all measures, today's professionalized military is also better trained, motivated, and disciplined than during the draft-army years. No decent person who is exposed to today's troops can be anything but respectful of them and grateful for what they do. Yet repeatedly this force has been defeated by less modern, worse-equipped, barely funded foes. Or it has won skirmishes and battles only to lose or get bogged down in a larger war.

—James Fallows

The most curious thing about our four defeats in Fourth Generation War—Lebanon, Somalia, Iraq, and Afghanistan—is the utter silence in the American officer corps. Defeat in Vietnam bred a generation of military reformers...Today, the landscape is barren. Not a military voice is heard calling for thoughtful, substantive change. Just more money, please.

—William S. Lind

At this point, it is incontrovertibly evident that the U.S. military failed to achieve any of its strategic goals in Iraq. Evaluated according to the goals set forth by our military leadership, the war ended in utter defeat for our forces.

—Jim Gourley

In our past decade's wars, hundreds of Army generals were deployed to the field, and the available evidence indicates that not one was relieved by the military brass for combat ineffectiveness. This was not only a radical break from American tradition but also an important factor in the failure of our recent wars.

—Thomas Ricks

America's distance from the military makes the country too willing to go to war, and too callous about the damage warfare inflicts. This distance also means that we spend too much money on the military and we spend it stupidly, thereby short-changing many of the functions that make the most difference to the welfare of the troops and their success in combat. We buy weapons that have less to do with battlefield realities than with our unending faith that advanced technology will ensure victory, and with the economic interests and political influence of contractors. This leaves us with expensive and delicate high-tech white elephants, while unglamorous but essential tools, from infantry rifles to armor personnel carriers, too often fail our troops.

—James Fallows

'There is a strong sense in the military that it is indeed a better society than the one it serves. And there is some rationality for that,' said Charles J. Dunlap, Jr. Anyone who has spent time with troops and their families knows what he means. Physical fitness, standards of promptness and dress, all the aspects of self-discipline that have traditionally made the military a place where misdirected youth could 'straighten out,' plus the spirit of love and loyalty for comrades that is found in civilian life mainly on sports teams.

—Joseph Epstein

Restore the civil-military relationship. The President, in his capacity as commander-in-chief, must explain the role of the soldier to the citizen and the citizen to the soldier. The traditional civil-military relationship is frayed and ill-defined. Our military and defense structures are increasingly remote from the society they protect, and each must be brought back into harmony with the other.

—Gary Hart's Committee  
*Report to  
President Obama*

Nor were bullets and shells the only or greatest threat to Civil War soldiers. Disease killed twice as many men as combat. During long stretches in crowded and unsanitary camps, men were haunted by the prospect of agonizing and inglorious death away from the battlefield; diarrhea was among the most common killers.

—Tony Horwitz

Though geographically less distant from home than soldiers in foreign wars, most Civil War servicemen were farm boys, in their teens or early 20s, who had rarely if ever traveled far from family and familiar surrounds. Enlistments typically lasted three years and in contrast to today, soldiers couldn't phone or Skype with loved ones. These conditions contributed to what Civil War doctors called 'nostalgia,' a centuries-old term for despair and homesickness so severe that soldiers became listless and emaciated and sometimes died. Military and medical officials recognized nostalgia as a serious 'camp disease,' but generally blamed it on 'feeble will,' 'moral turpitude' and inactivity in camp. Few sufferers were discharged or granted furloughs, and the recommended treatment was drilling and shaming of 'nostalgic' soldiers—or, better yet, 'the excitement of an active campaign,' meaning combat.

—Tony Horwitz

They didn't have phrases like 'post-traumatic stress disorder' in the Civil War, they just thought these shattered guys were sissies, the sort that George Patton would have slapped across the face. Soldiers come back different people.

—Marti Bourjaily

War is the natural reaction of human nature in the savage state, while peace is the result of acquired characteristics.

—Elihu Root

All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent.

—Edmund Burke

Every war results from the struggle for markets and spheres of influence, and every war is sold to the public by professional liars and totally sincere religious maniacs, as a Holy Crusade to save God and Goodness from Satan and Evil.

—Robert Anton Wilson

I love the name of honor, more than I fear death.

—Julius Caesar

Some of their wounds are awful yet they sit there not saying a word, certainly not complaining, and some have actually fallen off to sleep despite their pain. One has been shot clean through the chest and his singlet and tunic are just saturated with blood, another has his nose and upper lip shot clean away....Lying beside them was a man asleep. He had been wounded somewhere in the head, and as he breathed the blood just bubbled and frothed at his nose and mouth. At ordinary times these sights would have turned one sick but now they have not the slightest effect.

—Sgt. Cyril Lawrence

Follow me if I advance, kill me if I retreat, avenge me if I die.

—Henri de la  
Rochejaquelein

You don't need to be straight to fight and die for your country. You just need to shoot straight.

—Barry Goldwater

A good plan violently executed now is better than a perfect plan executed next week.

—George S. Patton

Men do not fight for flag or country, for the Marine Corps or glory or any other abstraction. They fight for one another. And if you came through this ordeal, you would age with dignity.

—William Manchester

A draft would make Americans more thoughtful about foreign policy, but that is precisely what the government does not want....Keeping the people disconnected from the military allows the state to develop pointless weapons systems and thereby spread jobs and money to almost every congressional district. It also avoids massive protests even while the state engages in endless war, ensuring that the wealth spigot never ceases.

—Barry Bennett

'Today,' writes Micah Zenko and Michael A Cohen in *Foreign Affairs*, 'wars tend to be low-intensity conflicts that, on average, kill about 90 percent fewer people than did violent struggles in the 1950s.' War between major nation-states has dwindled to the verge of extinction. In the context of human evolution, this is an astounding development.

—Jonathan Rauch

The essential act of war is destruction, not necessarily of human lives, but of the products of human labor.

—George Orwell

Of all the enemies to public liberty war is, perhaps, the most to be dreaded because it comprises and develops the germ of every other. War is the parent of armies; from these proceed debts and taxes. And armies, and debts, and taxes are the known instruments for bringing the many under the domination of the few. In war, too, the discretionary power of the Executive is extended. Its influence in dealing out offices, honors, and emoluments is multiplied; and all the means of seducing the minds, are added to those of subduing the force of the people. The same malignant aspect in republicanism may be traced in the inequality of fortunes, and the opportunities of fraud, growing out of a state of war...and in the degeneracy of manners and morals, engendered by both. No nation could preserve its freedom in the midst of continual warfare.

—James Madison

How vivid is the suffering of the few when the people are few and how the suffering of nameless millions in two world wars is blurred over by numbers.

—Edwin Way Teale

Peace is the happy natural state of man; war is corruption and disgrace.

— James Thomson

Whoever wishes peace among peoples must fight statism.

—Ludwig von Mises

Peace is not only better than war, but infinitely more arduous.

—George Bernard Shaw

Atrocities are human nature—they don't have political beliefs, color, creed or anything like that. They just happen. It's human.

—Clancy Brown

Aggression unopposed becomes a contagious disease.

—Jimmy Carter

A man can fight if he can see daylight down the road somewhere. But there ain't no daylight in Vietnam. There's not a bit.

—Lyndon Johnson

Let me tell you why we civil rights workers were so against the war: The federal government was not providing any protection of democracy in Mississippi, yet it told us we had to go 10,000 miles away to protect democracy in Southeast Asia. We weren't buying it.

—Miriam Cohen  
Glickman

How long do you Americans want to fight? ... One year? Two years? Three years? Five years? Ten years? Twenty years? We will be glad to accommodate you.

—North Vietnamese  
Prime Minister  
Pham Van Dong

I flew at least 800 missions. I saved 2,000 patients. By 'saving,' I mean I got 'em out of there. They might have died in the aircraft or in the hospital. Sometimes we'd ask, 'Where's the patient?' And they'd hand over a pillowcase and say, 'He's in here.'

—Helicopter Medic  
Jimmy Johnson

...how they would dash out in the middle of incoming and drag a total stranger who had been hit. It goes beyond camaraderie. It's like they were a single organism. Theologically, I can use the term 'love'—they really loved each other, by how they lived and what they did.

—Chaplain Ray Stubbe

I was in a six-man recon unit, which they would send way out in the boonies to figure out where the enemy was. In recon, you feel more alone than you do on the front line. No one wants to be the last man in a recon company. Ever take a pin and put it between your nail and your finger? How far can you push that pin before you have to stop? Those are the things I thought about on missions.

One night I was a patrol leader during a monsoon. Finally, the rain stopped and I relaxed. Then I saw soldier movement in the distance. It was like this large, strange centipede coming down the mountain. They passed by me six inches away but didn't see me. I hit the mud, just sat down in the muck. And the strangest thing in the world happened. I was—how do I put this?—I was calling for my mom, at least on the inside.

—Leroy Quintana

We need to decide that we will not go to war, whatever reason is conjured up by the politicians or the media, because war in our time is always indiscriminate, a war against innocents, a war against children.

—Howard Zinn

Our government has kept us in a perpetual state of fear—kept us in a continuous stampede of patriotic fervor—with the cry of grave national emergency. Always there has been some terrible evil at home or some monstrous foreign power that was going to gobble us up if we did not blindly rally behind it.

—Douglas MacArthur

During World War I, 18,000 American military personnel were incapacitated by sexually transmitted diseases each day. By the height of World War II, the rate had been reduced to about 600 a day. While much of the drop was due to sulfa drugs and penicillin, an aggressive propaganda campaign also played a role. Graphic posters proved to be an effective means of delivering a message about venereal disease (VD) to servicemen with varying degrees of education. That message was simple: abstain from illicit sexual contact, because it is unpatriotic and detrimental to health, as well as shameful to spouses, girlfriends, and family back home. Sexual education was secondary.

—Ryan Mungia and  
Jim Heimann

The only excuse that America can ever have for the assertion of her physical force is that she asserts it in behalf of the interests of humanity.

—Woodrow Wilson

There are two things which will always be very difficult for a democratic nation: to start a war and to end it.

—Alexis de Tocqueville

I look upon the whole world as my fatherland, and every war has to me the horror of a family feud.

—Helen Keller

It is the unconquerable nature of man and not the nature of the weapon he uses that ensures victory.

—Gen. George Patton

One of the things we are learning about PTSD is that it doesn't go away. There is no cure. There is no magic therapy that's going to do it. The brain is actually rewired. There is no undoing that. You just have to acknowledge, this is who I am.

—Bruce Weigl

So long as there are men there will be wars.

—Albert Einstein

The stark and inescapable fact is that today we cannot defend our society by war since total war is total destruction, and if war is used as an instrument of policy, eventually we will have total war.

—Lester B. Pearson

In the Soviet army it takes more courage to retreat than advance.

—Joseph Stalin

Your enemy will not meet you on your own terms, only on his.

—Robert D. Kaplan

You endure by not fighting every battle.

—Robert D. Kaplan

It is far easier to make war than peace.

—Georges Clemenceau

In war, truth is the first casualty.

—Aeschylus

We make war that we may live in peace.

—Aristotle

War itself is the enemy of the human race.

—Howard Zinn

It is good that war is so horrible, or we might grow to like it.

—Robert E. Lee

Dalton's records, carefully preserved for a century, were destroyed during the World War II bombing of Manchester. It is not only the living who are killed in war.

—Isaac Asimov

Every soldier must know, before he goes into battle, how the little battle he is to fight fits into the larger picture, and how the success of his fighting will influence the battle as a whole.

—Bernard Law  
Montgomery

Yes, we love peace, but we are not willing to take wounds for it, as we are for war.  
—John Andrew Holmes

The army is always the same. The sun and the moon change. The army knows no seasons.  
—Frank S. Nugent

War is much too serious a thing to be left to military men.  
—Charles Maurice  
de Talleyrand

A lasting order cannot be established by bayonets.  
—Ludwig von Mises

From Vietnam to the present, the resulting history of far too many U.S. military efforts has become a history of failed strategies defended by exaggerated claims of success. This is now all too true of what have become ‘failed state wars’ in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Yemen. These are wars that we are not winning.  
—Anthony H. Cordesman

Most of the people who get sent to die in wars are young men who’ve got a lot of energy and would probably rather, in a better world, be putting that energy into copulation rather than going over there and blowing some other young man’s guts out.  
—Alan Moore

In war, the game is always with him who commits the fewest faults.  
—Napoleon

The practice of forgiveness is our most important contribution to the healing of the world.  
—Marianne Williamson

To fight and conquer in all our battles is not supreme excellence; supreme excellence consists in breaking the enemy’s resistance without fighting.  
—Sun Tzu

What is of supreme importance in war is to attack the enemy’s strategies.  
—Sun Tzu

To establish any mode to abolish war, however advantageous it might be to Nations, would be to take from such Government the most lucrative of its branches.

—Thomas Paine

Nothing is more confused than to be ordered into a war to die or to be maimed for life without the faintest idea of what's going on.

—Hanoi Hannah

There is always more spirit in attack than in defense.

—Titus Livius

There are many elements to a campaign. Leadership is number one. Everything else is number two.

—Bertolt Brecht

Even philosophers will praise war as ennobling mankind, forgetting the Greek who said: 'War is bad in that it begets more evil than it kills.'

—Immanuel Kant

What is the use of physicians like myself trying to help parents to bring up children healthy and happy, to have them killed in such numbers for a cause that is ignoble?

—Benjamin Spock

War, except in self-defense, is a failure of moral imagination.

—Bill Moyers

Oppression can only survive through silence.

—Carmen de Monteflores

The hospitality of the wigwam is only limited by the institution of war.

—Charles Eastman

It's not our job to toughen our children up to face a cruel and heartless world. It's our job to raise children who will make the world a little less cruel and heartless.

—L. R. Knost

I want peace. I want to see if somewhere there isn't something left in life of charm and grace.

—Margaret Mitchell

Patriots always talk of dying for their country and never of killing for their country.  
—Bertrand Russell

Those who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities.  
—Francois Marie Arouet  
Voltaire

Politics is the womb in which war develops.  
—Karl Von Clausewitz

People don't follow titles, they follow courage.  
—William Wells Brown

A good plan, violently executed now, is better than a perfect plan next week.  
—George S. Patton

I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.

—Martin Luther  
King, Jr.

In war the heroes always outnumber the soldiers ten to one.  
—H. L. Mencken

This does not mean that the enemy is to be allowed to escape. The object is to make him believe that there is a road to safety, and thus prevent his fighting with the courage of despair. After that, you may crush him.

—Sun Tzu

War is failure of diplomacy.  
—John Dingell

The hate and scorn showered on us Negro officers by our fellow Americans convinced me that there was no sense in my dying for a world ruled by them. I made up my mind that if I got through this war I would study law and use my time fighting for men who could not strike back.

—Charles Hamilton  
Houston

Ideas are the great warriors of the world, and a war that has no idea behind it, is simply a brutality.

—James A. Garfield

War is the slaughter of human beings, temporarily regarded as enemies, on as large a scale as possible.

—Jeanette Rankin

Lay down  
Your tired & weary head my friend.  
We have wept too long  
Night is falling  
And you are only sleeping

We have come to this journey's end  
It's time for us to go  
To meet our friends  
Who beckon us  
To jump again

From across a distant sky  
A C-130 comes to carry us  
Where we shall all wait  
For the final green light

In the light of  
The pale moon rising  
I see far on the horizon  
Into the world of night and darkness  
Feet and knees together

Time has ceased  
But cherished memories still linger  
This is the way of life and all things  
We shall meet again  
You are only sleeping.

—José N. Harris

Soldiers are dreamers; when the guns begin they think of firelit homes, clean beds, and wives.

—Siegfried Sassoon

I am a Veteran, as are most of my personal friends. A Veteran is someone, who at one point in their life, wrote a blank check payable to the United States of America for an amount up to, and including, their life. Regardless of personal or political views, there are way too many people in this country who no longer remember that fact.

—José N. Harris

An old Cherokee took his grandson aside and told him, ‘My son, there’s a battle between two wolves inside us all. One represents anger, jealousy, greed, resentment, inferiority, dishonesty and selfishness. The other one represents joy, peace, love, hope, humility, kindness, compassion and truth.’ The boy gave this some thought and eventually asked, ‘Which one wins?’ ‘The one you feed.’ responded the wise old Cherokee.

—Unknown

If people become ecstatic the whole society will have to change, because this society is based on misery. If people are blissful you cannot lead them to war -- to Vietnam, or to Egypt, or to Israel. No. Someone who is blissful will just laugh and say: This is nonsense!

—Osho

Neutrality, as a lasting principle, is an evidence of weakness.

—Lajos Kossuth

You don’t spread democracy through the barrel of a gun.

—Helen Thomas

I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its futility, its stupidity.

—Dwight D. Eisenhower

Under the ominous shadow which the second World War and its attendant circumstances have cast on the world, peace has become as essential to civilized existence as the air we breathe is to life itself.

—Cordell Hull

America is capable of almost anything when threatened militarily. Think what it could do if it could muster the same determination without the threat.

—William James

Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world. A veteran doesn't have that problem.

—Ronald Reagan

Peace is not the absence of conflict but the presence of creative alternatives for responding to conflict - alternatives to passive or aggressive responses, alternatives to violence.

—Dorothy Thompson

These fought in any case,  
and some believing,  
    *pro domo*, in any case...  
Some quick to arm,  
some for adventure,  
some from fear of weakness,  
some from fear of censure,  
some for love of slaughter, in imagination,  
learning later...  
some in fear, learning love of slaughter.

—Ezra Pound

To Name and General You know who  
a string of pretty medals drew  
(while messes jack james john and jim  
in token of their country's love  
received my dears the order of  
The Artificial Arm and Limb)

—e. e. cummings

He who joyfully marches to music rank and file, has already earned my contempt. He has been given a large brain by mistake, since for him the spinal cord would surely suffice. This disgrace to civilization should be done away with at once. Heroism at command, how violently I hate all this, how despicable and ignoble war is; I would rather be torn to shreds than be a part of so base an action. It is my conviction that killing under the cloak of war is nothing but an act of murder.

—Albert Einstein

The end was surely near. The Nazis killed you only when you were naked, because they knew, psychologically, that naked people never resist.

—Simon Wiesenthal

I thank God tonight for freedom - those who bought and paid for it with their lives in the past - those who will protect it in the present and defend it in the future.

—Jim Gibbons

Each Javelin round costs \$80,000, and the idea that it's fired by a guy who doesn't make that in a year at a guy who doesn't make that in a lifetime is outrageous.

—Sebastian Junger

There are only two forces in the world, the sword and the spirit. In the long run the sword will always be conquered by the spirit.

—Napoleon Bonaparte

We encountered the heaviest fighting in the southern part of the island, and it lasted for weeks. That's when the real weight of combat hit me. It wasn't even the fear of getting killed but the sight of the dead all around us, both American and Japanese. With the Japanese dead, we could put some mud or dirt over them so the bodies were covered. But we were under strict orders not to touch American corpses until the graves registration men came by later to gather the American's dog tags and see exactly where they were killed. That took days sometimes. The stench was just awful.

—Charles Young

At an opening in the center of the plateau, I followed a stone staircase to the enemy command cave, which overlooked the entire bay. There on the floor of fine white sand was the Japanese general, beheaded by an aide, who had then killed himself in a ritual suicide.

—Charles Young

And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

—*Isaiah 2:4*

Napoleon had the instinctive feel for public relations. He knew how to remember soldiers' names; how to give awards and medals; how to make them feel he was personally concerned....That this represented a real concern, we may doubt. He abandoned an army in Egypt in 1798 without a twinge, and when he lost half a million men in Russia...he sent a message back to Paris assuring his people that his own health was excellent, as though that were all that mattered.

—Isaac Asimov

Vietnam helped me realize who the true heroes really are in this world. It's not the home-run hitters.

—Willie Stargell

In 1832 the Navy was callously ready to do way with the most famous of all American warships. The ship was *Old Ironsides*. That was the nickname of the American warship whose official name was *Constitution*. It was launched in Boston in 1797 at a time when a naval war with France threatened, but it saw its chief action in the War of 1812 against Great Britain. In exactly which battle it obtained its nickname is disputed. One story is that during a fight against the British warship *Java*, off the coast of Brazil, on December 29, 1812, the American sailors, seeing the British cannon balls bouncing off the seasoned timbers of its hull, while their own shots were wreaking havoc with the foe, jubilantly termed their ship *Old Ironsides*. The nickname has stuck to the ship so tightly that the real name is little-known.

—Isaac Asimov

Anyone convicted of war crimes insists he was merely following orders and that his was not to make reply and his was not to reason why. It is the Eichmann excuse. The Watergate crimes were committed by those who were just following orders. The real hero is the one who does not follow a stupid or a vicious order—but that way lies disgrace, ignominy, or worse, and the supply of heroes is always short.

—Isaac Asimov

Stonewall Jackson was the most skilled tactician ever born in the United States, and one of the most colorful generals. The feats he performed with his under-equipped, underfed men were little short of miraculous. There hardly needed to be any communication between himself and Lee. Each knew the other's mind and they worked together perfectly. There was no Confederate general so feared and so (grudgingly) admired as Stonewall Jackson....Stonewall Jackson was a highly neurotic person, a thoroughgoing hypochondriac, and a religious fanatic who was quite convinced of the justice of the cause for which he fought....Once, when Union soldiers were dying under the rifles of Jackson's men, one confederate officer admiring the gallantry of the foe expressed regret that so many brave Union men must die, Jackson said gruffly, 'Shoot them all! I do not wish them to be brave!'

—Isaac Asimov

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

—John McCrae

Laws are silent in time of war.

—Marcus Tullius Cicero

To hell with them. When history is written they will be the sons of bitches - not I.

—Harry S. Truman

So that in the nature of man, we find three principal causes of quarrel. First, competition; secondly, diffidence; thirdly, glory. The first makes men invade for gain; the second, for safety; and the third, for reputation. The first use of violence, to make themselves masters of other men's persons, wives, children, and cattle; the second, to defend them; the third, for trifles, as a word, a smile, a different opinion, and any other sign of undervalue, either direct in their persons, or by reflection in their kindred, their friends, their nation, their profession, or their name.

—Thomas Hobbes

And eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind.

—Gandhi

I felt that to extract a genuine surrender from the [Japanese] Emperor and his military advisers, they must be administered a tremendous shock which would carry convincing proof of our power to destroy the Empire. Such an effective shock would save many times the number of lives, both American and Japanese, that it would cost....Our enemy, Japan,...had the strength to cost us a million more [lives]....Additional large losses might be expected among our allies and...enemy casualties would be much larger than our own....My chief purpose was to end the war in victory with the least possible cost in lives....The face of war is the face of death; death is not an inevitable part of every order that a wartime leader gives. The decision to use the atomic bomb was a decision that brought death to over a hundred thousand Japanese....But this deliberate, premeditated destruction was our least abhorrent choice.

—Henry L. Stimpson

When we are unwilling to draw clear moral lines between free societies and fear societies, when we are unwilling to call the former good and the latter evil, we will not be able to advance the cause of peace because peace cannot be disconnected from freedom.

—Natan Sharansky

One can go to war alone, but you can't build peace alone.

—Jacques Chirac

I do not ask the wounded person how he feels—I myself become the wounded person.

—Walt Whitman

Hawaii is our Gibraltar, and almost our channel Coast. Planes, their eyes sharpened by the year-round clearness of blue Pacific days, can keep easy watch over an immense sea-circle, of which Hawaii is the centre. With Hawaii on guard, a surprise attack on us from Asia, the experts believe, would be quite impossible. So long as the great Pearl Harbor Naval Base, just down the road from Honolulu, is ours, American warships and submarines can run their un-Pacific errands with a maximum of ease. Pearl Harbor is one of the greatest, if not the very greatest, maritime fortresses in the world. Pearl Harbor has immense reserves of fuel and food, and huge and clanging hospitals for the healing of any wounds which steel can suffer. It is the one sure sanctuary in the whole of the vast Pacific both for ships and men.

—John W. Vandercook,  
[January 1, 1941]

Wars spring from unseen and generally insignificant causes, the first outbreak being often but an explosion of anger.

—Thucydides

On the Presena Glacier, Nicolis helped recover the bodies of two Austrian soldiers discovered in 2012. They had been buried in a crevasse, but the glacier was 150 feet higher a century ago; as it shrank, the men emerged from the ice, bones inside tattered uniforms. The two skulls, both found amid blond hair, had shrapnel holes, the metal still rattling around inside. One of the skulls had eyes as well. 'It was as if he was looking at me and not vice versa,' Nicolis said. 'I was thinking about their families, their mothers. Goodbye my son. Please come back soon. And they completely disappeared, as if they never existed. These are what I call the silent witnesses, the missing witnesses.

—Brian Mockenhaupt

The ability to get to the verge without getting into the war is the necessary art. If you try to run away from it, if you are scared to go to the brink, you are lost.

—John Foster Dulles

During the Second World War, the Germans took four years to build the Atlantic Wall. On four beaches it held up the Allies for about an hour. At Omaha it held up the U.S. for less than one day. The Atlantic Wall must therefore be regarded as one of the greatest blunders in military history.

—Stephen Ambrose

Like any other people, like fathers, mothers, sons and daughters in every land, when the issue of peace or war has been put squarely to the American people, they have registered for peace.

—Paul Robeson

I ain't draft dodging. I ain't burning no flag. I ain't running to Canada. I'm staying right here. You want to send me to jail? Fine, you go right ahead. I've been in jail for 400 years. I could be there for 4 or 5 more, but I ain't going no 10,000 miles to help murder and kill other poor people. If I want to die, I'll die right here, right now, fightin' you, if I want to die. You my enemy, not no Chinese, no Vietcong, no Japanese. You my opposer when I want freedom. You my opposer when I want justice. You my opposer when I want equality. Want me to go somewhere and fight for you? You won't even stand up for me right here in America, for my rights and my religious beliefs. You won't even stand up for my rights here at home.

—Muhammad Ali

I never trust a fighting man who doesn't smoke or drink.

—William Halsey

History provides vivid demonstrations of the importance of sleep to military competence. The medical historian Philip Mackowiak compared eyewitness and officer accounts of Stonewall Jackson's performance during a series of Civil War battles with the general's opportunities for sleep, if any, in the days leading up to those battles. In 100 percent of the battles when Jackson had had no chance to sleep in the three days prior, his leadership was rated 'poor.' In the Battle of Gaines' Mill, his chief of staff described him as 'thoroughly confused from first to last.' The Battle of Glendale found Jackson 'benumbed, incapable...of deep thought or strenuous movement...uninterested and lethargic.' In the midst of the Battle of McDowell, he was discovered napping.

—Mary Roach

We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearth-stone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.

—Abraham Lincoln

The Army was nothing more or less than life itself.

—Joan Didion

War sank into the lowest depths of beastliness and degeneration. The 'glory of war' disappeared as the armies had to eat, drink, sleep amidst their own putrefactions.

—Gen. Sir Ian  
Hamilton

Half-trained, half-organized, with only their courage, their numbers and their magnificent youth behind their weapons, they were to buy their experience at a bitter price.

—Winston Churchill

Democracies are indeed slow to make war, but once embarked upon a martial venture are equally slow to make peace and reluctant to make a tolerable, rather than a vindictive, peace.

—Reinhold Niebuhr

No one will deny that the excessive use of alcohol and alcoholic beverages would do more than any other single factor to make impossible a total war effort.

—William L. M. King

If we are forced, at every hour, to watch or listen to horrible events, this constant stream of ghastly impressions will deprive even the most delicate among us of all respect for humanity.

—Cicero

What is more immoral than war?

—Marquis de Sade

Religion, freedom, vengeance, what you will—  
A word's enough to raise mankind to kill.

—Lord Byron

Kill a man, and you are an assassin. Kill millions of men, and you are a conqueror. Kill everyone, and you are a god.

—Beilby Porteus

We decry violence all the time in this country, but look at our history. We were born in a violent revolution, and we've been in wars ever since. We're not a pacific people.

—James Lee Burke

Parents and children tried to hide from terrorists from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who had invaded their home from the sea. As the Israeli forces approached, the terrorists shot the father, grabbed the 5-year-old daughter, and cracked her head open on a rock....the mother hid with her 2-year-old in a utility room. When the baby began to cry, she clamped her hand over her mouth. So hard was her grip, she suffocated her own child.

—Roger Rosenblatt

When 9-year-old Peov escaped to the Khao I Dang camp, she made a drawing. It is of a portable guillotine devised by the Khmer Rouge to be used on children caught attempting to flee the Pol Pot work camps. A child's head would be placed in the ring at the hub. The 'spokes' of the drawing were steel blades. When the child's head was in position, someone would pull the drawstring and the blades would close around the ring, like a camera lens. The soldiers did not pull the string. They made other children do it.

—Roger Rosenblatt

Establishing lasting peace is the work of education; all politics can do is keep us out of war.

—Maria Montessori

Take General Robert E. Lee. Here is a man of limited vision who believed the secession was unconstitutional but said that he could not war against his own country and its people. And he meant Virginia, not the United States of America! Here is a man who came close to destroying the Union, yet many Americans, particularly in the South, revere him as something of a deity.

—Robert V. Remini

Ideas are far more powerful than guns. We don't allow our enemies to have guns, why should we allow them to have ideas?

--Joseph Stalin

The tyrant, who in order to hold his power, suppresses every superiority, does away with good men, forbids education and light, controls every movement of the citizens, and keeping them under a perpetual servitude, wants them to grow accustomed to baseness and cowardice, has his spies everywhere to listen to what is said in the meetings, and spread dissension and calumny among the citizens and impoverishes them, is obliged to make war in order to keep his subjects occupied and impose on them permanent need of a chief.

—Aristotle

We must say what everybody knows but does not venture to say. We must say that by whatever name men may call murder—murder always remains murder and a criminal and shameful thing. And it is only necessary to say that clearly, definitely, and loudly, as we can say it here, and men will cease to see what they thought they saw and will see what is really before their eyes. They will cease to see the service of their country, the heroism of war, military glory, and patriotism, and will see what exists: the naked, criminal business of murder.

—Leo Tolstoy

The separation of armies and peaceful inhabitants into two distinct groups is perhaps the greatest triumph of international Law. Its effect in mitigating the evils of war has been incalculable. One must read the history of ancient wars, or savage wars of modern times—such as Chaka’s campaigns, by which he made the Zulu name terrible throughout northern Natal—to appreciate the immense gain to the world from the distinction between combatants and non-combatants.

—J. M. Spaight (1910)

Joseph Cardinal Van Roey, Primate of Belgium, in an appeal to the governments of Britain and America to stop the bombing of Belgium (May, 1944): For about a month now Belgium has been the object of constant day and night raids, whose avowed aim is to destroy railway stations and junctions and railway installations in general. The manner in which these raids are carried out causes fresh streams of blood to flow each time and brings incredible and irreparable damage upon town and country. Thousands of our compatriots have already died a terrible death under the ruins of their houses or in collapsed shelters in which they imagined they were safe. Whole districts of some of the finest cities of the land, like Brussels and Liege and Ghent and Charleroi, have been reduced to heaps of rubble. A third or even a half of ancient cities like Malines and Louvain—I have been able to see them for myself—have been destroyed together with some of their most precious monuments. Death and despair reign over practically the entire country. We are told indeed that these tragic results are an inevitable corollary of war operations, which aim at destroying the means of transport and factories used by the enemy. The truth, as we have seen it with our own eyes, is that, except in a few rare cases where a small number of aircraft operating in daylight hit their objectives without causing great damage, explosive and even incendiary bombs have been dropped blindly, at random, and without distinction over densely populated agglomerations covering an area of several square kilometers.

—Joseph Cardinal Van  
Roey (1944)

One may not and should not in any circumstances or under any pretext kill his fellow man.

—Leo Tolstoy

The innocent, that is to say, the harmless (if, apart from infants there are any) are of course immune from direct attack on their lives; but in modern conditions the theologian cannot tell who they are, and the attacking airman does not know where they are.

—Dr. Lawrence L.  
McReavy

The ruthless bombing from the air of civilians in unfortified centers of population during the course of hostilities which have raged in various quarters of the earth in the past few years, which have resulted in the maiming and death of thousands of defenseless women and children, has profoundly shocked the conscience of humanity. If resort is had to this sort of inhuman barbarism during the period of tragic conflagration with which the world is now confronted, hundreds of thousands of innocent human beings, who have no responsibility for, and who are not even remotely participating in, the hostilities which have broken out, now will lose their lives. I am therefore addressing this urgent appeal to every Government which may be engaged in hostilities publicly to affirm its determination that its armed forces shall in no event and under no circumstances undertake bombardment from the air of civilian populations or unfortified cities, upon the understanding that the same rules of warfare will be scrupulously observed by all their opponents.

—Franklin D. Roosevelt  
(September 1,  
1939)

[Is] it permissible, in order to win a just war, to wipe out such an area with death or grave injury...to the majority of its 10 million inhabitants? In my opinion the answer must be in the negative.

... [It] is never permitted to kill directly noncombatants in wartime. Why? Because they are innocent. That is, they are innocent of the violent and destructive action of war, or of any close participation in the violent and destructive action of war.

—John C. Ford

Think outside the bomb.

—Slogan

Hate, Greed, Ignorance—Weapons of Mass Destruction.

—Slogan

War is lack of imagination.

—Slogan

Support our troops; bring them home.

—Slogan

Are our children more precious than theirs?

—Slogan

A war budget leaves every child behind.

—Slogan

No cause or ideology should be valued more than a human life.

—Slogan

I prefer men out of uniform.

—Slogan

War is not Pro-Life.

—Slogan

If you're not outraged you are not paying attention.

—Slogan

The world is a dangerous place to live—not because of the people who are evil but because of the people who don't do anything about it.

--Albert Einstein

The increase of territory and power of empires by force of arms has been the policy of all great powers, and it has always been possible to get the approval of their state religion.

—John B. Orr

African-Americans have served in every American war, but pre-Civil War numbers are inexact. During the Revolution, an estimated 5,000 to 6,000 black soldiers fought for the Colonies, and an uncertain number fought for the British. During the Civil War, more than 179,000 served in the Union Army and 20,000 to 30,000 in the Union Navy.

—Krewasky Salater

I thought, Dad.

Could I go to Vietnam for you?

Dad, I could do it. I could do it for you. I could go to the places you fought. I could find the bits and pieces of your heart and soul left behind. If I bring them back, would it heal your pain?

Dad, you gave me life. You made possible every good thing in my life. Why do you insist on fighting your nightmares and memories and monsters alone?

You don't have to do it alone, Dad. I could help you fight.

Dad, you know what?

I'll be back before you find out so you don't have to be afraid. I'm going to Vietnam.

—Tucker Elliot

War is organized murder and torture against our brothers.

—Alfred Adler

In times of crisis the civilian authority must have control over the military.

—Edward Weeks

Terrorism has always been theatrical. Some 2,000 years ago, Jewish zealots known as the sicarii, or 'dagger men,' stalked Roman-occupied Jerusalem. Rather than killing quietly in alleyways, they made sure to slay Roman sympathizers before a crowd. The aims of these town-square assassinations were the same as those of the Islamic State's YouTube beheadings: to send a signal to as large an audience as possible.

—Emerson T. Brooking  
and P. W. Singer

The Vietnamese have a secret weapon. It's their willingness to die beyond our willingness to kill. In effect, they've been saying, 'You can kill us, but you'll have to kill a lot of us; you may have to kill all of us.' And, thank heaven, we are not yet ready to do that.

—George Wald

The fact is that we prepare for war like giants, and for peace like pygmies.

—Lester Bowles Pearson

Dear Ma and Pa:

I am well. Hope you are. Tell Brother Walt and Brother Elmer the Marine Corps beats working for old man Minch by a mile. Tell them to join up quick before all of the places are filled.

I was restless at first because you get to stay in bed till nearly 6 a.m. But I am getting used to it, so I like to sleep late. Tell Walt and Elmer all you do before breakfast is smooth your cot, and shine some things. No hogs to slop, feed to pitch, mash to mix, wood to split, fire to lay. Practically nothing.

Men got to shave but it is not so bad, there's warm water. Breakfast is strong on trimmings like fruit juice, cereal, eggs, bacon, etc., but kind of weak on chops, potatoes, ham, steak, fried eggplant, pie and other regular food, but tell Walt and Elmer you can always sit by the two city boys that live on coffee. Their food, plus yours, holds you until noon when you get fed again. It's no wonder these city boys can't walk much.

We go on 'route marches,' which the platoon sergeant says are long walks to harden us. If he thinks so, it's not my place to tell him different. A 'route march' is about as far as to our mailbox at home. Then the city guys get sore feet and we all ride back in trucks.

The sergeant is like a school teacher. He nags a lot. The Captain is like the school board. Majors and colonels just ride around and frown. They don't bother you none.

This next will kill Walt and Elmer with laughing. I keep getting medals for shooting. I don't know why. The bulls-eye is near as big as a chipmunk head and don't move, and it ain't shooting at you like the Higgett boys at home. All you got to do is lie there all comfortable and hit it. You don't even load your own cartridges. They come in boxes.

Then we have what they call hand-to-hand combat training. You get to wrestle with them city boys. I have to be real careful though, they break real easy. It ain't like fighting with that ole bull at home. I'm about the best they got in this except for that Tug Jordan from over in Silver Lake. I only beat him once. He joined up the same time as me, but I'm only 5'6" and 130 pounds and he's 6'8" and near 300 pounds dry.

Be sure to tell Walt and Elmer to hurry and join before other fellers get onto this setup and come stampeding in.

Your loving daughter,

Alice

—Carla Grace

War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things: the decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth a war, is much worse. When a people are used as mere human instruments for firing cannon or thrusting bayonets, in the service and for the selfish purposes of a master, such war degrades a people. A war to protect other human beings against tyrannical injustice; a war to give victory to their own ideas of right and good, and which is their own war, carried on for an honest purpose by their free choice, — is often the means of their regeneration. A man who has nothing which he is willing to fight for, nothing which he cares more about than he does about his personal safety, is a miserable creature who has no chance of being free, unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself. As long as justice and injustice have not terminated their ever-renewing fight for ascendancy in the affairs of mankind, human beings must be willing, when need is, to do battle for the one against the other.

—John Stuart Mill

The natural principle of war is to do the most harm to our enemy with the least harm to ourselves; and this of course is to be effected by stratagem.

—Washington Irving

I knew why I felt at home. The spirit of freedom was hovering over that play yard as it did all over France at that time. A country was free again.

—Audie Murphy

Let us not deceive ourselves; we must elect world peace or world destruction.

—Bernard Baruch

One *Catch-22* or *Dr. Strangelove* is more powerful than all the books and movies that try to show war 'as it is.'

--William Zinsser

Stolen Valor: civilians fibbing about military service, and veterans embellishing their records with bogus claims of battlefield medals and missions with elite units.

—Brian Mockenhaupt

War should only be declared by the authority of the people, whose toils and treasures are to support its burdens, instead of the government which is to reap its fruits.

—James Madison

If I could uninvent anything, I would uninvent Hitler's mum, guns and broccoli.  
—Dominic Monaghan

Each generation should be made to bear the burden of its own wars, instead of carrying them on, at the expense of other generations.  
—James Madison

The means of defense against foreign danger historically have become the instruments of tyranny at home.  
—James Madison

If Tyranny and Oppression come to this land, it will be in the guise of fighting a foreign enemy.  
—James Madison

More than half the combat deaths in Vietnam occurred after Richard Nixon was elected on a promise to bring the war to an end, and after the American people had already decided that they did not want one more soldier to die in Vietnam.  
—Raul Grijalva

Explain it as we may, a martial strain will urge a man into the front rank of battle sooner than an argument, and a fine anthem excite his devotion more certainly than a logical discourse.  
--Henry Tuckerman

Without a doubt, psychological warfare has proven its right to a place of dignity in our military arsenal.  
—Dwight Eisenhower

History teaches that wars begin when governments believe the price of aggression is cheap.  
—Ronald Reagan

Get there first with the most men.  
—General Nathan  
Bedford Forrest

War makes rattling good history; but Peace is poor reading.  
--Thomas Hardy

Resolved, that the women of this nation in 1876, have greater cause for discontent, rebellion and revolution than the men of 1776.

--Susan B. Anthony

History has nothing to record save wars and revolutions. The peaceful years appear only as brief lapses or interludes, scattered here and there.

--Arthur Schopenhauer

Political history is far too criminal and pathological to be a fit subject of study for the young. Children should acquire their heroes and villains from fiction.

--W. H. Auden

I empathize with those who yearn for a simpler world, for some bygone golden age of domestic and international tranquility. Perhaps for a few people at some time in history there was such an age. But for the mass of humanity it is an age that never was.

--Shirley Hufstedler

Mankind has conceived history as a series of battles; hitherto it has considered fighting as the main thing in life.

--Anton Chekhov

These times of ours are serious and full of calamity, but all times are essentially alike. As soon as there is life there is danger.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Napoleon's many victories had their price. He never hesitated to spend his men freely, and as the years went by, he was forced to call younger and younger men to the colors.

—Isaac Asimov

One great advantage of the Union over the confederacy was that the Union was industrialized and had an excellent transportation system it could keep in good repair. The Confederacy was undeveloped, rural in its economy, with a sparse railroad system and no facilities with which to maintain it. This meant that the Union, however often it might be defeated, could always rush reinforcements and supplies to its armies, something the Confederacy could not necessarily do. The Union soldiers were always well fed; the confederate soldiers were always on short rations.

—Isaac Asimov

Stonewall Jackson rode forward on the night of May 2 to reconnoiter and was shot, by mistake, by some Confederate troops who thought he was an enemy. His left arm was shattered and had to be amputated. He might have survived that, but he caught pneumonia, and on May 10, 1863, ...he died, at the age of thirty-nine.

—Isaac Asimov

It is a paradox of evil that stretches back at least as far as Socrates, who opined in one of his dialogues that no one commits evil knowing they are doing wrong—evil-doers think they are doing the right thing....Hitler or Joseph Stalin or [West African dictator] Charles Taylor. They're all similar. They don't have the [remorse] gene. They only have, 'I am a hero, I am a martyr, I am fighting for my people.' That's their truth.

—Ron Rosenbaum

Every major horror of history was committed in the name of an altruistic motive.

--Ayn Rand

A general is just as good or just as bad as the troops under his command make him.

—Douglas MacArthur

I wish we had more Foreign Service officers, aid professionals and other kinds of non-military specialists. We need help on those issues. Otherwise, we're relying on 22-year-old sergeants to handle them. Now, they are great kids but they really don't know the history, the language, the politics.

—Gen. David Petraeus

It was through the Second World War that most of us suddenly appreciated for the first time the power of man's concentrated efforts to understand and control the forces of nature. We were appalled by what we saw.

--Vannevar Bush

Man has mounted science, and is now run away with. I firmly believe that before many centuries more, science will be the master of man. The engines he will have invented will be beyond his strength to control. Some day science may have the existence of mankind in its power, and the human race may commit suicide by blowing up the world.

--Henry Adams

We understand that politics is nothing but war without bloodshed; and war is nothing but politics with bloodshed.

--Fred Hampton

There are three constant issues that have run through American politics, ever since the founding of the Republic...war and peace...bread and butter...and black and white.

--Theodore White

How is the world ruled and how do wars start? Diplomats tell lies to journalists and then believe what they read.

--Karl Kraus

A politician is a fellow who will lay down your life for his country.

—'Texas' Guinan

Nothing so comforts the military mind as the maxim of a great but dead general.

—Barbara Tuchman

The American public and its political leadership will do anything for the military except take it seriously. The result is a chickenhawk nation in which careless spending and strategic folly combine to lure America into endless wars it cannot win.

—James Fallows

If more members of Congress or the business and media elite had had children in uniform, the United States would probably not have gone to war in Iraq at all.

—Seth Moulton

The reality is that we are hated not because of our democracy, freedoms, and generous social security system; rather, we are hated because of our involvement in foreign conflicts and quarrels that were never our concern.

—Amir Butler

I hate those men who would send into war youth to fight and die for them; the pride and cowardice of those old men, making their wars that boys must die.

—Mary Roberts Rinehart

So much of the destruction on Earth has been wrought by men. Women are the ones who give life and try to pick up the pieces....What a great gender they are.

--William T. Vollmann

A people free to choose will always choose peace.

—Ronald Reagan

Under the draft, the American social fabric would change—and, judging from my experience, for the better. I write as a former draftee who served in the Army from 1958 to 1960. I was, in other words, a Cold War soldier, and never for a moment in danger. Much of my time in the military—I worked on the post newspaper at Fort Hood, in Texas, and later as a clerk, typing up physicals, in a recruiting station in Little Rock, —was excruciatingly boring. Yet I am grateful for having served. Doing so took me out of my own social class and ethnic milieu—big-city, middle-class, Jewish—and gave me a vivid sense of the social breadth of my country. I slept in barracks and shared all my meals with American Indians, African Americans from Detroit, white Appalachians, Christian Scientists from Kansas, and discovered myself befriending and being befriended by young men I would not otherwise have met. I have never felt more American than when I was in the Army.

—Joseph Epstein

A people living under the...threat of war and invasion is very easy to govern. It demands no social reform. It does not haggle over armaments and military expenditures. It pays without discussion, it ruins itself, and that is a fine thing for the financiers and manufacturers for whom patriotic terrors are an abundant source of gain.

--Anatole France

When I received the Nobel Prize, the only big lump sum of money I have ever seen, I had to do something with it. The easiest way to drop this hot potato was to invest it, to buy shares. I knew that World War II was coming and I was afraid that if I had shares which rise in case of war, I would wish for war. So I asked my agent to buy shares which go down in the event of war. This he did. I lost my money and saved my soul.

--Albert

Szent-Gyorgyi

Men are not gentle, friendly creatures wishing for love, who simply defend themselves if they are attacked, but...a powerful measure of desire for aggressiveness has to be reckoned as part of their instinctual endowment. The result is that their neighbor is to them not only a possible helper or sexual object, but also a temptation to them to gratify their aggressiveness...to seize his possessions, to humiliate him, to cause him pain, to torture and to kill him... Anyone who calls to mind the atrocities of the early migrations, of the invasion of the Hun or the so-called Mongols under Genghis Khan and Tamerlane, of the sacks of Jerusalem by the pious crusaders, even indeed the horrors of the last world war, will have to bow his head humbly before the truth of this view of man.

—Sigmund Freud

Don't forget what I discovered—that over ninety percent of all national deficits from 1921 to 1939 were caused by payments for past, present, and future wars.

--Franklin D.  
Roosevelt

The following list of ports of call between Panama and Valparaiso contains the name of every important point on the coast, and gives the relative positions of many places which, if the war continues, will become familiar, for whatever evil war brings in its train, it has value in teaching us geography.

—*Rose-Belford's*  
*Canadian Monthly*  
(1879)

The enemy must fight his battles far from home for a long time...We must weaken him by drawing him into protracted campaigns. Once his initial dash is broken, it will be easier to destroy him...When the enemy is away from home for a long time and produces no victories and families learn of their dead, then the enemy population at home becomes dissatisfied and considers it a Mandate from Heaven that the armies be recalled. Time is always in our favor. Our climate, mountains, and jungles discourage the enemy; but for us they offer sanctuary and a place from which to attack.

—Tran Hung Dao

If some peoples pretend that history or geography gives them the right to subjugate other races, nations, or peoples, there can be no peace.

—Ludwig von Mises

We look forward to the time when the power to love will replace the love of power. Then will our world know the blessings of peace.

—William E. Gladstone

How lucky for those in power that people don't think.

—Adolf Hitler

Getting emotional about things is a peacetime luxury. In wartime, it's much too painful.

—Edmund H. North

You must become your enemy to truly understand him.

—Felix O. Hartmann

The inclination to aggression...constitutes the greatest impediment to civilization.  
--Sigmund Freud

It is the youth who must inherit the tribulation, the sorrow... that are the aftermath of war.

—Herbert Hoover

If nations began telling each other nothing but the truth, peace would immediately vanish from the earth.

--Vikrant Parsai

One of the most important lessons of the wars...is that military success is not sufficient to win. There is a need for a dramatic increase in spending on the civilian instruments of national security—diplomacy, strategic communications, foreign assistance, civic action, and economic reconstruction and development.

—Defense Sec. Robert Gates

I found out a long time ago that no matter how scared you are, you're a damned sight safer if nobody knows it.

--John L. McClellan

The warrior's greatest gifts are courage, discipline, and skill; his central life task is to fight for what matters; his typical response to a problem is to slay it or otherwise defeat it; his greatest fear is weakness or impotence. The greatest risk for the warrior is that he incites gratuitous violence in others, and brings it upon himself.

—Carl Jung

Psychology is a soft weapon but you can take out more enemy battalions with leaflets and radio broadcasts than with high explosives.

—Nelson DeMille

That man is an aggressive creature will hardly be disputed. With the exception of certain rodents, no other vertebrate habitually destroys members of its own species.

--Anthony Storr

That a man can take pleasure in marching in formation to the strains of a band is enough to make me despise him. He has only been given his big brain by mistake; a backbone was all he needed.

—Albert Einstein

I was not able to make out from my own direct observations whether gas warfare was to be started, but I knew from various associates of Ley's and Goebbels' that they were discussing the question of using our two new combat gases, Tabun and Sarin. They believed that these gases would be of particular efficacy, and they did in fact produce the most frightful results. We made these observations as early as the autumn of 1944, when the situation had become critical and many people were seriously worried about it....these two gases both had a quite extraordinary effect, and that there was no respirator, and no protection against them that we knew of. So the soldiers would have been unable to protect themselves against this gas in any way.

—Albert Speer

There has never been a protracted war from which a country has benefited.

—Sun Tzu

Our first and most pressing problem is how to do away with warfare as a method of solving conflicts between national groups within a society who have different views about how the society is to run.

—Margaret Mead

Wars are not paid for in wartime; the bill comes later.

—Benjamin Franklin

Law stands mute in the midst of arms.

—Cicero

Patriotism is the willingness to kill and be killed for trivial reasons.

--Bertrand Russell

The man who has not raised himself to be a soldier, and the woman who has not raised her boy to be a soldier for the right, neither one of them is entitled to citizenship in the Republic.

--Theodore Roosevelt

You'll never have a quiet world till you knock the patriotism out of the human race.

--Bernard Shaw

Every citizen should be a soldier. This was the case with the Greeks and Romans, and must be that of every free state.

--Thomas Jefferson

The voice of protest, of warning, of appeal is never more needed than when the clamor of fife and drum, echoed by the press and too often by the pulpit, is bidding all men fall in and keep step and obey in silence the tyrannous word of command. Then, more than ever, it is the duty of the good citizen not to be silent.

--Charles Eliot Norton

No man who is not willing to bear arms and to fight for his rights can give a good reason why he should be entitled to the privilege of living in a free community.

--Theodore Roosevelt

When Hitler attacked the Jews...I was not a Jew, therefore, I was not concerned. And when Hitler attacked the Catholics, I was not a Catholic, and therefore, I was not concerned. And when Hitler attacked the unions and the industrialists, I was not a member of the unions and I was not concerned. Then, Hitler attacked me and the Protestant church—and there was nobody left to be concerned.

--Martin Niemöller

The Holocaust illustrates the consequences of prejudice, racism and stereotyping on a society. It forces us to examine the responsibilities of citizenship and confront the powerful ramifications of indifference and inaction.

—Tim Holden

Even in war moral power is to physical as three parts out of four.

--Napoleon

The U.S. refused to ratify the Treaty of Versailles or join the League of Nations. The rise of Japan and Nazi Germany in the 1930s demonstrates the dangers that face us when we disengage.

—*AARP The Magazine*

At the bottom of a good deal of the bravery that appears in the world there lurks a miserable cowardice. Men will face powder and steel because they cannot face public opinion.

--E. H. Chapin

A uniform provides three-quarters of a man's valour.

--Jean de La Fontaine

Fortunately for themselves and the world, nearly all men are cowards and dare not act on what they believe. Nearly all our disasters come of a few fools having the 'courage of their convictions.'

—Coventry Patmore

Education, whether of black man or white man, that gives one physical courage to stand up in front of a cannon and fails to give one moral courage to stand up in defense of right and justice, is a failure.

--Booker T. Washington

It will be a great day when our schools have all the money they need, and our air force has to have a bake-sale to buy a bomber.

—Robert Fulghum

Peace with a club in hand is war.

—Portuguese Proverb

No one has been barred on account of his race from fighting or dying for America; there are no white or colored signs on the foxholes or graveyards of battle.

—John F. Kennedy

All war is deception.

—Sun Tau

More people have been slaughtered in the name of religion than for any other single reason. That, my friends, that is true perversion.

—Harvey Milk

Every soldier thinks something of the moral aspects of what he is doing. But all war is immoral and if you let that bother you, you're not a good soldier.

—Curtis Lemay

It is said that God is always on the side of the heaviest battalions.

—Francois Marie Arouet  
Voltaire

War is an instrument entirely inefficient toward redressing wrong; and multiplies, instead of indemnifying losses.

—Thomas Jefferson

The best morale exist when you never hear the word mentioned. When you hear a lot of talk about it, it's usually lousy.

—Dwight D. Eisenhower

There are only two cases in which war is just: first, in order to resist the aggression of an enemy, and second, in order to help an ally who has been attacked.

—Charles de Secondat

## **FLIES IN DISGUISE**

Tell me,  
Have you  
Really seen  
Flies in a child's eyes  
Or heard their hungry cries  
In the middle  
Of the night?

Don't lie.

You can protest all you want  
About peace  
And genocide,  
But unless you are willing  
To take beatings for your fights,  
Your display of trendy showmanship  
Simply ain't right.

Go on,  
Carry your useless signs  
About an issue the world  
Already abhors,  
But it's TRUE  
Heartfelt actions  
That will prevent  
Suits and  
Senators  
From creating  
Any more wars.

--Suzy Kassem

How horrible, fantastic, incredible, it is that we should be digging trenches and trying on gas-masks here because of a quarrel in a faraway country between people of whom we know nothing.

—Neville Chamberlain

More has been screwed up on the battlefield and misunderstood in the Pentagon because of a lack of understanding of the English language than any other single factor.

—John W. Vessey, Jr.

There's this mistaken notion that wars end, but they don't end. You have to do something with the horror.

—Tim O'Brien

The difference of race is one of the reasons why I fear war may always exist; because race implies difference, difference implies superiority, and superiority leads to predominance.

--Benjamin Disraeli

The history of most countries has been that of majorities—mounted majorities, clad in iron, armed with death, treading down the tenfold more numerous minorities.

--Oliver Wendell Holmes

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction...The chain reaction of evil—hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars—must be broken, or we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation.

--Martin Luther  
King, Jr.

The hate and scorn showered on us Negro officers by our fellow Americans convinced me that there was no sense in my dying for a world ruled by them. I made up my mind that if I got through this war I would study law and use my time fighting for men who could not strike back.

—Charles Hamilton  
Houston  
(1895 -1950)

I have one criticism about the Negro troops who fought under my command in the Korean War. They didn't send me enough of them.

--Douglas MacArthur

I'd learned a lot in the Army. I knew that above all things in the world I had to become so big, so strong that people and their hatred could never touch me.

—Sammy Davis, Jr.

In the first week of the war in September 1939, at least 400,000 cats and dogs in London were destroyed. Pet owners themselves took the decision to kill their animals; the British government had not issued a diktat or emergency measures requiring the mass killing, which was criticized at the time by animal charities and individual animal supporters. The popular disc jockey Christopher Stone broadcast to the nation in November 1939 that 'to destroy a faithful friend when there is no need to do so is yet another way of letting war creep into your home.' Nina, Duchess of Hamilton, a co-founder of the animal defense society, declared, 'We should be horrified if this had happened abroad. How can we explain such a thing to our foreign friends in this so-called animal-loving England.'

—Hilda Kean

Ten soldiers wisely led will beat a hundred without a head.

—Euripides

Regard your soldiers as your children, and they will follow you into the deepest valleys. Look on them as your own beloved sons, and they will stand by you even unto death!

—Sun Tzu

I dream of giving birth to a child who will ask, 'Mother, what was war?'

—Eve Merriam

The most persistent sound, which reverberates through men's history, is the beating of war drums.

—Arthur Koestler

Anyone who has ever looked into the glazed eyes of a soldier dying on the battlefield will think hard before starting a war.

—Otto von Bismarck

Sitting in front of my fireplace, basking in its warm glow gives me time to reflect upon the sacrifices that it has taken for me to enjoy the security of a good home, in a safe environment. I can hear the soft whisper of the snow as it caresses my window and covers the ground outside in a scintillating display of sparkling lights under the full moon. How many times have our service men and women watched this same scene from a foxhole, or camped in some remote part of the world. Thankful for the silence of that moment, knowing it won't last long. Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He/she dresses in fatigues and patrols the world restlessly, ensuring that we can have this peaceful night. Every day they give us the gift of this lifestyle that we enjoy, and every night they watch over us. They are warriors, angels, guardians, friends, brothers, fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers, forming a family that stretches back to the beginning of the country. So tonight when you go to bed say a prayer that God watch over those who watch over us, and thank them for their sacrifices, on and off the battlefield. Pray that they have a peaceful night, and will be home soon with their families who also share their burden. Without them we would not have this moment.

--Neil Leckman

One difficulty that someone who has been in military/government service during war has, is reconciling his/her pride with their horror.

--Kari Martindale

As anyone who has experienced it will know, war is many contradictory things. There is brutality and heroism, comedy and tragedy, friendship, hate, love and boredom. War is absurd yet fundamental, despicable yet beguiling, unfair yet with its own strange logic. Rarely are people 'back home' exposed to these contradictions — society tends only to highlight those qualities it needs, to construct its own particular narrative.

--Tim Hetherington

Many veterans feel guilty because they lived while others died. Some feel ashamed because they didn't bring all their men home and wonder what they could have done differently to save them. When they get home they wonder if there's something wrong with them because they find war repugnant but also thrilling. They hate it and miss it. Many of their self-judgments go to extremes. A comrade died because he stepped on an improvised explosive device and his commander feels unrelenting guilt because he didn't go down a different street. Insurgents used women and children as shields, and soldiers and Marines feel a totalistic black stain on themselves because of an innocent child's face, killed in the firefight. The self-condemnation can be crippling.

--David Brooks

How long was the war? Four years. Very long...I don't remember any birds for flowers. They were there, of course, but I don't remember them. Yes, yes...Strange, isn't it? Can they make a color film about war? Everything was black. Only the blood was another color, the blood was red.

—Svetlana Alexievich

'The baby cried,' recounted another woman, remembering a radio operator in her unit who was forced to silence her hungry newborn as they hid from the Germans. 'If the dogs heard it, we'd all be killed...She lowers the swaddled baby into the water and holds it there for a long time...The baby doesn't cry anymore.

—Svetlana Alexievich

Men writing about men...Everything we know about war we know with 'a man's voice.'

—Svetlana Alexievich

We didn't shoot [prisoners], that was too easy a death for them; we struck them with ramrods like pigs, we cut them to pieces. I went to look at it...I waited, for a long time for the moment when their eyes would begin to burst from pain.

—Unknown Soviet WWII  
Soldier

In August 1939, Albert Einstein sent a letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt suggesting that an atomic bomb was possible and that Germany might be trying to build one. This was the first step in moving nuclear energy from esoteric science to the front of public consciousness.

—Michael Peskin

From a very young age, militarism and trying to solve the world's problems through militarism is something that has always resonated with me as being a bad idea.

—Justin Sane

Hannibal wasn't just a brilliant strategist and military tactician, he understood the complexity of human behavior, that command involves more than giving orders and intimidating men to follow him—it involved compromise and shrewd leadership. He impressed the enemy with his courage and daring swordplay, fighting on the front lines, wading into the thick of battle. He wasn't some Roman consul sitting behind the troops. During the Italian campaign Hannibal rode an elephant through a swamp off the Arno and lost the sight in his right eye from what was probably ophthalmia. He became a one-eyed general, like Moshe Dayan.

—Franz Lidz

I just stayed awake last night thinking about this thing—the more I think of it, I don't know what in the hell...It looks like to me we're getting into another Korea. It just worries the hell out of me. I don't see what we can ever hope to get out of there with once we're committed. I don't think that we can fight them 10,000 miles away from home and ever get anywhere in that area. I don't think it's worth fighting for and I don't think we can get out. And it's just the biggest damn mess I ever saw. I look at this sergeant of mine this morning. He's got six little old kids. I just thought about ordering those kids in there, and what in the hell am I ordering [them] out there for? What the hell is Vietnam worth to me?...What is it worth to this country? Now, of course, if you start running the Communists, they may just chase you right into your own kitchen. It's damned easy to get in a war, but it's going to be awfully hard to ever extricate yourself if you get in.

—Lyndon Johnson to  
National Security  
Advisor,  
McGeorge Bundy,  
May, 1964

It takes 15,000 casualties to train a major general.

—Ferdinand Foch

## **GRASS**

Pile the bodies high at Austerlitz and Waterloo.  
Shovel them under and let me work—  
I am the grass; I cover all.

And pile them high at Gettysburg  
And pile them high at Ypres and Verdun.  
Shovel them under and let me work.  
Two years, ten years, and passengers ask the conductor:  
What place is this?  
Where are we now?

I am the grass.  
Let me work.

—Carl Sandburg

My first wish is to see this plague of mankind, war, banished from the earth.

—George Washington

A free people ought not only to be armed, but disciplined; to which end a uniform and well-digested plan is requisite; and their safety and interest require that they should promote such manufactories as tend to render them independent of others for essential, particularly military, supplies.

—George Washington

They went with songs to the battle, they were young.  
Straight of limb, true of eyes, steady and aglow.  
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,  
They fell with their faces to the foe.  
They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We will remember them.

—Laurence Binyon

## **MEMORIAL DAY**

The fields are now quiet,  
The thunder long gone;  
The graves with their shadows  
Stretch on and on.

The battle once here  
Lives but in the past,  
Of a war meant to be  
Of all wars the last.

The flags and the trumpets,  
The glory and fear,  
Led men to battle;  
Led but to here.

--Jerome Malenfant

## MEMORIAL DAY

The Day of Memories!—Remembering what?  
The cannon's roar, the hissing of the shot?  
The weary hospital, the prison pen?  
The widow's tears, the groans of stalwart men?  
The bitterness of fratricidal strife?  
The pangs of death, the sharper pangs of life?  
Nay, let us quite forget the whole of these  
Upon our sacred Day of Memories.

The Day of Memories!—Remembering what?  
The honored dust in every hallowed spot;  
The honored names of all our heroes dead;  
The glorious land for which they fought and bled;  
Our nation's hopes; the kindly, common good;  
The universal bond of brotherhood;  
These we remember gladly, all of these,  
Upon our sacred Day of Memories.

—Unknown

## THE UNKNOWN

I DO not understand...  
They bring so many, many flowers to me—  
Rainbows of roses, wreaths from every land;  
And hosts of solemn strangers come to see  
My tomb here on these quiet, wooded heights.  
My tomb here seems to be  
One of the sights.

The low-voiced men, who speak  
Of me quite fondly, call me The Unknown:  
But now and then at dusk, Madonna-meek,  
Bent, mournful mothers come to me alone  
And whisper down—the flowers and grasses through—  
Such names as 'Jim' and 'John'...  
I wish I knew.  
And once my sweetheart came.  
She did not—nay, of course she could not—know,  
But thought of me, and crooned to me the name  
She called me by—how many years ago?

A very precious name. Her eyes were wet,  
Yet glowing, flaming so...  
She won't forget!

— E. O. Laughlin

### **DECORATION DAY**

Sleep, comrades, sleep and rest  
On this Field of the Grounded Arms,  
Where foes no more molest,  
Nor sentry's shot alarms!  
Ye have slept on the ground before,  
And started to your feet  
At the cannon's sudden roar,  
Or the drum's redoubling beat.  
But in this camp of Death  
No sound your slumber breaks;  
Here is no fevered breath,  
No wound that bleeds and aches.  
All is repose and peace,  
Untrampled lies the sod;  
The shouts of battle cease,  
It is the Truce of God!  
Rest, comrades, rest and sleep!  
The thoughts of men shall be  
As sentinels to keep  
Your rest from danger free.  
Your silent tents of green  
We deck with fragrant flowers;  
Yours has the suffering been,  
The memory shall be ours.

—Henry Wadsworth  
Longfellow

### **THE YOUNG DEAD**

Ah, how I pity the young dead who gave  
All that they were, and might become, that we  
With tired eyes should watch this perfect sea  
Re-weave its patterning of silver wave  
Round scented cliffs of arbutus and bay.

No more shall any rose along the way,  
The myrtled way that wanders to the shore,  
Nor jonquil-twinkling meadow any more,  
Nor the warm lavender that takes the spray,  
Smell only of sea-salt and the sun.

But, through recurring seasons, every one  
Shall speak to us with lips the darkness closes,  
Shall look at us with eyes that missed the roses,  
Clutch us with hands whose work was just begun,  
Laid idle now beneath the earth we tread—

And always we shall walk with the young dead.—  
Ah, how I pity the young dead, whose eyes  
Strain through the sod to see these perfect skies,  
Who feel the new wheat springing in their stead,  
And the lark singing for them overhead!

—Edith Wharton

The story of America's quest for freedom is inscribed on her history in the blood of her patriots.

—Randy Vader

For love of country they accepted death...

—James A. Garfield

If silence is ever golden, it must be here beside the graves of fifteen thousand men, whose lives were more significant than speech, and whose death was a poem, the music of which can never be sung.

--James Garfield

Forty summers have passed since the battle that you fought here. You were young the day you took these cliffs; some of you were hardly more than boys, with the deepest joys of life before you. Yet, you risked everything here. Why? Why did you do it? What impelled you to put aside the instinct for self-preservation and risk your lives to take these cliffs? What inspired all the men of the armies that met here? We look at you, and somehow we know the answer. It was faith and belief; it was loyalty and love.

The men of Normandy had faith that what they were doing was right, faith that they fought for all humanity, faith that a just God would grant them mercy on this beachhead or on the next. It was the deep knowledge -- and pray God we have not lost it -- that there is a profound, moral difference between the use of force for liber-

ation and the use of force for conquest. You were here to liberate, not to conquer, and so you and those others did not doubt your cause. And you were right not to doubt.

You all knew that some things are worth dying for. One's country is worth dying for, and democracy is worth dying for, because it's the most deeply honorable form of government ever devised by man. All of you loved liberty. All of you were willing to fight tyranny, and you knew the people of your countries were behind you.

—Ronald Reagan (D-Day  
Anniversary, 1984)

We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

—Abraham Lincoln

Here on this peaceful hillside, the silent rows of headstones tell tales of service and sacrifice that are so much the story of our nation. Here lies the spirit that has guided our country for more than 200 years now. Nurses and drummer boys, scouts and engineers, warriors and peacemakers -- joined by a shared devotion to defend our nation, protect our freedom, keep America strong and proud.

—Bill Clinton

On this day, we must tell the stories of those who fought and died in freedom's cause. We must tell their stories because those who've lost loved ones need to know that a grateful Nation will always remember. We must tell their stories so that our children and grandchildren will understand what our lives might have been like had it not been for their sacrifice.

—George H. W. Bush

## THE SERVICE FLAG

Dear little flag in the window there,  
Hung with a tear and a woman's prayer,  
Child of Old Glory, born with a star—  
Oh, what a wonderful flag you are!

Blue is your star in its field of white,  
Dipped in the red that was born of fight;  
Born of the blood that our forebears shed  
To raise your mother, The Flag, o'er-head.

And now you've come, in this frenzied day,  
To speak from a window—to speak and say:  
'I am the voice of a soldier son,  
Gone, to be gone till the victory's won.

'I am the flag of The Service, sir:  
The flag of his mother—I speak for her  
Who stands by my window and waits and fears,  
But hides from the others her unwept tears.

'I am the flag of the wives who wait  
For the safe return of a martial mate—  
A mate gone forth where the war god thrives,  
To save from sacrifice other men's wives.

'I am the flag of the sweethearts true;  
The often unthought of—the sisters, too.  
I am the flag of a mother's son,  
Who won't come home till the victory's won!'

Dear little flag in the window there,  
Hung with a tear and a woman's prayer,  
Child of Old Glory, born with a star—  
Oh, what a wonderful flag you are!

—William Herschell

Our veterans left everything they knew and loved and served with exemplary dedication and courage so we could all know a safer America and a more just world. They have been tested in ways the rest of us may never fully understand... On Veterans Day, and every day, let us show them the extraordinary gratitude they so rightly deserve.

—Barack Obama

Serving my country was a life-changing experience for me. It was during those years that I realized the importance of commitment, dedication, honor, and discipline. I have never laughed so much; nor have I ever prayed so much. I made life-long friends. The leaders and heroes I served with helped shape me into the man I am today. I feel honored to have been a part of such a great tradition and grateful to others who have walked the same path. Thank you!

--Steve Maraboli

This country has not seen and probably will never know the true level of sacrifice of our veterans. As a civilian I owe an unpayable debt to all our military. Going forward let's not send our servicemen and women off to war or conflict zones unless it is overwhelmingly justifiable and on moral high ground. The men of WWII were the greatest generation, perhaps Korea the forgotten, Vietnam the trampled, Cold War unsung and Iraqi Freedom and Afghanistan vets underestimated. Every generation has proved itself to be worthy to stand up to the precedent of the greatest generation. Going back to the Revolution, American soldiers have been the best in the world. Let's all take a remembrance for all veterans who served or are serving, peace time or wartime and gone or still with us. May God Bless America and All Veterans.

--Thomas M Smith

Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor, also, to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause.

--Abraham Lincoln

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

—George Orwell

Never was so much owed by so many to so few.

—Winston Churchill

America without her soldiers would be like God without his angels.

—Claudia Pemberton

My heroes are those who risk their lives every day to protect our world and make it a better place — police, firefighters, and members of our armed forces.

—Sidney Sheldon

The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave.

—Patrick Henry

A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.

—Joseph Campbell

In 1961, the United States began chemical warfare in Vietnam, South Vietnam, chemical warfare to destroy crops and livestock. That went on for seven years. The level of poison - they used the most extreme carcinogen known: dioxin. And this went on for years.

—Noam Chomsky

There's a graveyard in northern France where all the dead boys from D-Day are buried. The white crosses reach from one horizon to the other. I remember looking it over and thinking it was a forest of graves. But the rows were like this, dizzying, diagonal, perfectly straight, so after all it wasn't a forest but an orchard of graves. Nothing to do with nature, unless you count human nature.

--Barbara Kingsolver

The first and most imperative necessity in war is money, for money means everything else—men, guns, ammunition.

—Ida Tarbell

A group of ten prisoners from Dachau, I was with them, we hid in the forest to wait for the Americans. The Germans had already left everything behind. We had food but no weapons. For days we could hear bombs exploding around us. We just wanted to survive long enough for the Americans to control the territory. We didn't want to die. At that point, our prison uniforms were the only things to keep us from being shot on the spot by the Americans. That was all we had. Who would the Americans believe? Real prisoners or guards dressed as prisoners? Those devils might even say we were the Germans. This was our nightmare.

--Sergio Troncoso

If the Nuremberg laws were applied, then every post-war American president would have been hanged.

—Noam Chomsky

Researchers found that the risk of suicide for veterans is 21 percent higher when compared to civilian adults. From 2001 to 2014, as the civilian suicide rate rose about 23.3 percent, the rate of suicide among veterans jumped more than 32 percent.

The problem is particularly worrisome among female veterans, who saw their suicide rates rise more than 85 percent over that time, compared to about 40 percent for civilian women.

And roughly 65 percent of all veterans suicides in 2014 were for individuals 50 years or older, many of whom spent little or no time fighting in the most recent wars.

—Jeff Macgregor

More powerful than wailing is the silence that covers you when you come to your aircraft and you see an American in a flag-draped casket and you have to fly them home in silence. That to me is more powerful than any scream.

—Ian Fairchild

On Christmas Eve 1914, thousands of British, French, and German troops along the Western front of World War I initiated an unofficial cease-fire known as the Christmas Truce. Men from both sides entered no-man's land to sing carols, exchange cards and presents, enjoy games, share cigarettes, treats, and whiskey. Though the truce was short-lived, it stands as a remarkable example of peace on earth and goodwill toward men.

—Samantha Bradbeer

To say that the first casualty of war is truth is to miss the rather more important point that a principal weapon of war is lies.

--Harry M. Collins

Eddie Adam's iconic Saigon Execution (1968) helped stop a war. This image demonstrates the power of still photography to make a single moment last forever.

—Joel Sartore

Nick Ut's photograph of 9-year-old Phan The Kim Phúc—running, naked, and crying from napalm burns—captures war's merciless cruelty. The 1972 image may have helped end the Vietnam conflict.

—Don Gervich

If you want to thank a soldier, be the kind of American worth fighting for.

—Unknown

The six U.S. Army platoons that swept through Son My that they included 100 men from Charlie Company and 100 from Bravo Company. They killed some civilians straight off—shooting them point-blank or tossing grenades into their homes. In the words of Varnado Simpson, a member of Second Platoon who was interviewed for the book *Four Hours in My Lai*, ‘I cut their throats, cut off their hands, cut out their tongue, their hair, scalped them. I did it. A lot of people were doing it, and I just followed. I lost all sense of direction.’ Simpson went on to commit suicide....

Truong The Le, then a rice farmer, told me she was hiding in her home with her 6-year-old son and 17-year-old daughter when the Americans found them and dragged them out. When the soldiers fired an M-16 into their group, most died then and there. Le fell on top of her son and two bodies fell on top of her. Hours later, they emerged from the pile alive. ‘When I noticed that it was quiet, I pushed the dead bodies above me aside,’ she told me. ‘Blood was all over my head, my clothes.’ She dragged her son to the edge of the field and covered him with the rice and cloth. I told him not to cry or they would come to kill us.’

When I asked about her daughter, Le, who had maintained her composure up till that point, covered her face with her hands and broke down in tears. She told me that Thu was killed along with a 104 people at the trail but didn’t die right away. When it was safe to move, Le found Thu sitting and holding her grandmother, who was already dead. ‘Mom, I’m bleeding a lot,’ Le remembers her daughter saying. ‘I have to leave you.’

—Shaun Raviv

When I’m sleeping, I can actually see the faces, and that’s the honest-to-God truth. I can actually see the faces and the terror and all those people’s eyes. And I wake up and I’m just shaking and I just can’t hardly cope with it. The nightmares and everything will never go away. I’m sure of that. But I have to live with it.

—Vietnam Vet Paul  
Medal

The problem is, when you step on a mine or a booby trap there’s nothing to take your anger out on. It’s not like a firefight where you get to shoot back. You can’t shoot a mine. It doesn’t really care.

—Lawrence LaCroix

Have you ever stopped to ponder the amount of blood spilt, the volume of tears shed, the degree of pain and anguish endured, the number of noble men and women lost in battle so that we as individuals might have a say in governing our country? Honor the lives sacrificed for your freedoms. Vote.

--Richelle E. Goodrich

No matter how fast weapons and technology evolve in the 21st century, one thing remains constant is that war is a human endeavor, a grueling contest between two learning and adaptive forces. Victory, therefore rests on how smart, how tough, and how dedicated our boots on the ground.

—Agus Harimurti  
Yudhoyono

Come you masters of war. You that build all the guns. You that build the death planes. You that build the big bombs. You that hide behind walls. You that hide behind desks. I just want you to know I can see through your masks....Let me ask you one question. Is your money that good? Will it buy you forgiveness, do you think that it could? I think you will find, when our death takes its toll, all the money you made will never buy back your soul.

—Bob Dylan

If we really saw war, what war does to young minds and bodies, it would be impossible to embrace the myth of war. If we had to stand over the mangled corpses of schoolchildren killed in Afghanistan and listen to the wails of their parents, we would not be able to repeat clichés we use to justify war. This is why war is carefully sanitized. This is why we are given war's perverse and dark thrill but are spared from seeing war's consequences. The mythic visions of war keep it heroic and entertaining...

The wounded, the crippled, and the dead are, in this great charade, swiftly carted offstage. They are war's refuse. We do not see them. We do not hear them. They are doomed, like wandering spirits, to float around the edges of our consciousness, ignored, even reviled. The message they tell is too painful for us to hear. We prefer to celebrate ourselves and our nation by imbibing the myths of glory, honor, patriotism, and heroism, words that in combat become empty and meaningless.

--Chris Hedges

I really do think that if for one week in the United States we saw the true face of war, we saw people's limbs sheared off, we saw kids blown apart, for one week, war would be eradicated. Instead, what we see in the U.S. media is the video war game.

--Amy Goodman

Another adverse factor was the way the Russians received continual reinforcements from their back areas, as they fell back. It seemed to us that as soon as one force was wiped out, the path was blocked by the arrival of a fresh force.

—Gerd von Rundstedt

Anyone who thinks must think of the next war as they would of suicide.

—Eleanor Roosevelt

Acknowledgements!

My thanks to Hollywood

When you showed me John Rambo

Stitching up his arm with no anaesthetic

And giving them ‘a war they won’t believe’

I knew then my calling, the job for me.

Thanks also to the recruitment adverts

For showing me soldiers whizzing around on skis

And for sending sergeants to our school

To tell us of the laughs, the great food, the pay

The camaraderie.

I am, dear taxpayer, forever in your debt

You paid for my all-inclusive pilgrimage

One year basking in the Garden of Eden

(I haven’t quite left yet)

Thanks to Mum and thanks to Dad

Fuck it,

Thanks to every parent

Flushing with pride for their brave young lads

Buying young siblings toy guns and toy tanks

Waiting at the airport

Waving their flags.

--Danny Martin

We sleep safe in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm.

—George Orwell

In 1941, when the United States was at peace, to lose over a thousand sailors in seconds, on a single battleship and to a single bomb, was an unprecedented catastrophe. It represented more sailors than had been lost in action in the Spanish-American War and World War I combined, the most lost in the sinking of a single vessel in U.S. naval history, and the greatest number of human beings killed in a single explosion in the history of warfare, a record broken only by Hiroshima.

—Thurston Clarke

A primary reason that people believe that life is getting worse is because our information about the problems of the world has steadily improved. If there is a battle today somewhere on the planet, we experience it almost as if we were there. During World War II, tens of thousands of people might perish in a battle, and if the public could see it at all it was in a grainy newsreel in a movie theater weeks later. During World War I a small elite could read about the progress of the conflict in the newspaper (without pictures). During the nineteenth century there was almost no access to news in a timely fashion for anyone.

--Ray Kurzweil

Our many Jewish friends and acquaintances are being taken away in droves. The Gestapo is treating them very roughly and transporting them in cattle cars to Westerbork, the big camp in Drenthe to which they're sending all the Jews....If it's that bad in Holland, what must it be like in those faraway and uncivilized places where the Germans are sending them? We assume that most of them are being murdered. The English radio says they're being gassed.

--Anne Frank

Our blessed radio. It gives us eyes and ears out into the world. We listen to the German station only for good music. And we listen to the BBC for hope.

--Anne Frank

Nobody has a 'right' to serve in the Military. Nobody. What makes people think the Military is an equal opportunity employer? Very far from it. The Military uses prejudice regularly and consistently to deny citizens from joining for being too old or too young, too fat or too skinny, too tall or too short. Citizens are denied for having flat feet, or for missing or additional fingers. Poor eyesight will disqualify you, as well as bad teeth. Malnourished? Drug addiction? Bad back? Criminal history? Low IQ? Anxiety? Phobias? Hearing damage? Six arms? Hear voices in your head? Self-identify as a Unicorn? Need a special access ramp for your wheelchair? Can't run the required course in the required time? Can't do the required number of pushups? Not really a 'morning person' and refuse to get out of bed before noon?

All can be reasons for denial.

The Military has one job. War. Anything else is a distraction and a liability. Did someone just scream "That isn't Fair"? War is VERY unfair, there are no exceptions made for being special or challenged or socially wonderful. YOU change yourself to meet Military standards. Not the other way around. I say again: You don't change the Military... you must change yourself. The Military doesn't need to accommodate anyone with special issues. The Military needs to Win Wars.

—Unknown

Had to go through all the guys' bodies to pull out, if you can believe this, anything like pictures of naked girls, so their parents wouldn't be upset—it's bad enough that their kid comes home in a body bag. And I pulled a letter out of Thomas' pocket from his mother and remember it said, 'Don't you worry, Butch.' We knew each other only by last names and nicknames. I never knew he was Butch, that his mother called him that. 'Don't you worry, Butch, you'll be home in just 11 more days.'

—Karl Marlantes

Poland suffered the highest percentage of casualties of any nation during WWII, with 20% of their population being killed.

Two Polish doctors were able to save 8,000 Jewish lives by faking a typhus epidemic which stopped German troops from entering their town.

The Japanese invaded Alaska, and more Americans were wounded or killed while defending it than during the Pearl Harbour attack.

Nearly 1/3 of all Jewish people who were alive at the time of the Holocaust lost their lives.

80% of all Soviet males born in 1923 died during WWII.

The number of Chinese lives taken in WWII is larger than the number of Jewish lives taken during the Holocaust.

—*theChive*

Truman said the decision to go to war in Korea had been the hardest decision of his presidency. A letter sent to him by the father of a soldier who died in that war, returning his son's Purple Heart, suggests just how hard it was:

Mr. Truman,

As you have been directly responsible for the loss of our son's life in Korea, you might just as well keep this emblem on display in your trophy room, as a memory of one of your historic deeds.

Our major regret at this time is that your daughter was not there to receive the same treatment as our son received in Korea.

Truman kept the letter in his desk drawer long after his term ended, a testament to the weight that remained on him even after he left the Oval Office. If a president thinks too much about the widows he's making or the children who will never know their mother because of his orders, he might not be able to perform the role of commander-in-chief. Learning to compartmentalize is a necessity for presidents. Some compartments are locked so tight, even the president's closest advisers never see their contents.

—John Dickerson

The Marine Corps is the best doggone fighting force in the world. No—the best fighting force in the universe. Because if any doggone aliens come and try to mess with us, we'll fuck them up too.

—Gunnery Sergeant  
Maxwell

At this point nearly every Iraqi I worked with over three tours has been murdered... If someone knows a way I should process that I'm open to it but right now I'm just in shock at the brutality of war. I wish the leaders who claim to have balls because they send men like me to war actually felt the weight of dozens of deaths like me.

—Fred Wellman

Great is the guilt of an unnecessary war.

—John Adams

When the Landrail rammed the sub, the impact bent the two periscopes simultaneously....The depth charges wounded it and ruptured its oil tanks. But...UB-29 crawled away, slowly limping the 60 or so miles back home on compass. [Captain Erich] Platsch and his 21 crewmen must have felt a wild elation. 'They were probably celebrating their escape—'We're going to be home in an hour! We made it! Let's party, drink champagne!' And then Boom!...UB-29 hooked a mine directly onto its hull.

UB-29's last moments must have been slow and horrible. 'You can see the damage is limited to the bow, so you could imagine that the people from the command center up to the engine room might still have been alive afterwards. It's not like the U-boats you find blown in half where everybody dies immediately,' says [Tomas] Termote. As the water rose inside the hull, the crewmen may have cut short their inevitable agony by shooting themselves with their long-barreled service Lugers. Or they may have stuffed cotton in their mouths and noses and drowned themselves. Both were known to happen....However they met their end, they lie within UB-29's steel walls, buried in the sand that has filtered through its cracks for a hundred years.

—Joshua Levine

So much destruction in modern war takes place miles and miles away from the source of the destruction, the human being who has caused it.

—James Dickey

I know what military fame is; to be killed on the field of battle and have your name misspelled in the newspapers.

--William T. Sherman

It is the same in all wars; the soldiers do the fighting, the journalists do the shouting, and no true patriot ever gets near a front-line trench, except on the briefest of propaganda-tours.

--George Orwell

Reporters go through four stages in a war zone. In the first stage, you're Superman, invincible. In the second, you're aware that things are dangerous and you need to be careful. In the third, you conclude that math and probability are working against you. In the fourth, you know you're going to die because you've played the game too long. I was drifting into stage three.

--Richard Engel

I believe that a man is the strongest soldier for daring to die unarmed.

—Mohandas Gandhi

The root of the evil is not the construction of new, more dreadful weapons. It is the spirit of conquest.

—Ludwig von Mises

In the practical art of war, the best thing of all is to take the enemy's country whole and intact; to shatter and destroy it is not so good.

—Sun Tzu

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

—Homer

War is a beastly business, it is true, but one proof we are human is our ability to learn, even from it, how better to exist.

—M. F. K. Fisher

War is never economically beneficial except for those in position to profit from war expenditures.

—Ron Paul

When I despair, I remember that all through history the ways of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants, and murderers, and for a time they can seem invincible, but in the end they always fall. Think of it—always.

--Mahatma Gandhi

Mankind must put an end to war, or war will put an end to mankind... War will exist until that distant day when the conscientious objector enjoys the same reputation and prestige that the warrior does today.

—John Fitzgerald  
Kennedy

Men speak about peace but prefer war. Men head the majority of governments and control the increasingly lethal weapons, using women and gods as moral shields. Unsparring in its portrayal of men's nature, The *Iliad* should be read by everyone who hopes to understand mankind.

—Esmeralda Santiago

Germany couldn't understand how we could get men over there and get them trained so quick. They didn't know that in our manual there's nothing about re-treating! And when you only have to teach an army to go one way, you can do it in half the time.

—Will Rogers

Switzerland is the most independent country in the world. They have neither imports nor exports. Its sole commodities are Conferences and Neutrality. When Nations get ready to make peace or war (and generally don't know which they are making), why they always go to Switzerland. Geneva and Locarno are the principal conference towns. It's kinder like Atlantic City is for bathing Contests (without water). It has a corner on all Conferences. It has had fewer wars and has been the starting place of more of them than any Nation that ever lived. They just sit around and remain Neutral during these wars and then collect from all ends. It's the only country where both sides can go and meet and have a drink together during that particular war. Switzerland is a kind of a Speakeasy for any and all sides. There is little private rooms all over and anybody can come and meet anybody else and Switzerland just winks knowingly and says nothing. It's the Blind Tiger of Europe. There grandstands were built by nature. All they had to do was to get the hotels ready to take care of the guests or accomplices of a war that are always around but never really in one. They build roads up to the topmost peaks so you could get a close-up of the wars.

They had really what is an all the year around business. The minute a war was over, if there was none booked to start within the next few weeks, why they would hold what they called a 'Peace Conference' to prevent other wars.

—Will Rogers

The primary factor in a successful attack is speed.

—Lord Mountbatten

Have we so soon forgotten those four years of terrible carnage, the greatest war of all time; forgotten the millions of men who gave their lives, who made the supreme sacrifice and who today, beneath the soil of France and Belgium, sleep the eternal sleep?

—Frank B. Kellogg

I'm sure that President Johnson would never have pursued the war in Vietnam if he'd ever had a Fulbright to Japan, or say Bangkok, or had any feeling for what these people are like and why they acted the way they did. He was completely ignorant.

—J. William Fulbright

We cannot control the way people interpret our ideas or thoughts, but we can control the words and tones we choose to convey them. Peace is built on understanding, and wars are built on misunderstandings. Never underestimate the power of a single word, and never recklessly throw around words. One wrong word, or misinterpreted word, can change the meaning of an entire sentence and start a war. And one right word, or one kind word, can grant you the heavens and open doors.

--Suzy Kassem

Old soldiers never die; they just fade away. And like the old soldier in that ballad, I now close my military career and just fade away, an old soldier who tried to do his duty as God gave him the sight to see that duty.

—Douglas MacArthur

No nation ought to keep a navy larger than is necessary to do police duty.

—George William Norris

Always our wars have been our confessions of weakness.

—Muriel Rukeyser

Latin people are the second-oldest ethnic group in America, after the Native Americans. We have unknown patriots who fought in the American Revolution—we are the sons and daughter of the American Revolution. Twenty thousand of us fought in the American Civil War. We had so many people participating, and it's like, wait a minute—how come I've never seen that in a Ken Burns documentary or in a Civil War movie? Why aren't we included? We're not just bystanders or leeches standing on the sidelines and enjoying the benefits of the Founding Fathers. We've shed blood for this country—made this country from the ground up.

—John Leguizamo

You don't want captains in the army who know too much or think too much.

—Robert Graves

Overpowered by stormy enthusiasm, I fell down on my knees and thanked Heaven from an overflowing heart for granting me the good fortune of being permitted to live at such a time.

—Adolph Hitler [On  
being able to enlist  
in the Great War]

It seems so foolish to keep up the killing till the last minute. But the killing the artillery does is so impersonal and miles away. He cannot see the tortured, horrible looks of the slaughtered or feel the remorse the doughboy feels when he sees man he has shot.

—Cpl. Harold Pierce  
[On fighting at the  
time of the  
armistice] (1918)

The Second World War, it was not even like a war for the French—it was so quick....The First World War traumatized people so much. That was why they absolutely did not want to go to fight Hitler; they were so traumatized. The generation of 1914 was decimated, so they did not want to go. The conditions in the trenches were really sordid. There were rats, disease, fear. These young men, who had just started their own families, they came back crazy because of these crazy conditions they had lived in.

—Ludovic Cantais

We have war when at least one of the parties to a conflict wants something more than it wants peace.

—Jeane Kirkpatrick

I felt then, as I feel now, that the politicians who took us to war should have been given the guns and told to settle their differences themselves, instead of organizing nothing better than legalized mass murder.

—Harry Patch, Last  
Veteran of WWI,  
Who Died in 2009

War has broken out! Since last week, Poland has been fighting with Germany. England and France also declared war on Hitler and surrounded him on three sides. But he isn't sitting idly. Enemy planes keep flying over Przemysl, and every now

and then there's an air raid siren. But, thank God, no bombs have fallen on our city so far. Other cities like Krakow, Lwow, Czestochowa and Warsaw have been partially destroyed.

But we're all fighting, from young girls to soldiers. I've been taking part in female military training—digging air raid trenches, sewing gas masks. I've been serving as a runner. I have shifts serving tea to the soldiers. I walk around and collect food for the soldiers. In a word, I'm fighting alongside the rest of the Polish nation. I'm fighting and I'll win!

—Renia Spiegel, Polish  
Teen and  
Holocaust Victim,  
(1939)

We Poles are fighting like knights in an open field where the enemy and God can see us. Not like the Germans, who bombard civilians' homes, who turn churches to ashes, who poison little children with toxic candy (contaminated with cholera and typhus) and balloons filled with mustard gas. We defend ourselves and we're winning, just like Warsaw, like the cities of Lwow and Przemysl.

—Renia Spiegel, Polish  
Teen and  
Holocaust Victim,  
(1939)

It's my birthday tomorrow. I'm turning 16. This is supposed to be the best time in my life. People always say, 'Oh, to be 16 again!' But I'm so unhappy! France has capitulated. Hitler's army is flooding Europe. America is refusing to help. Who knows, they might even start a war with Russia?

I'm here on my own, without Mamma or Daddy, without a home. Oh, God, why did such a horrible birthday have to come? Wouldn't it be better to die?

Then I'd have a long, sad funeral. They might cry. They wouldn't treat me with disdain. I'd only feel sorry for my mamma, my mama, my mamma... Why are you so far from me, so far away?

—Renia Spiegel, Polish  
Teen and  
Holocaust Victim,  
(1940)

I can't write. I'm weak with fear. War again, war between Russia and Germany. The Germans were here, then they retreated. Horrible days in the basement. Dear Lord, give me my Mamma, save all of us who have stayed here and those who escaped the city this morning. Save us...

I want to live so badly. I'm humbling myself before you and begging on behalf of us all. Tonight is going to be terrible. I'm scared. I believe that you will hear me, that you won't leave me in this awful hour. You saved me before, save me now. God, thank you for saving me.

I don't know what's going to happen to us. Almost the whole city is in ruins. A piece of shrapnel fell into our house. These have been horrific days. Why even try to describe them? Words are just words. They can't express what it feels like when your whole soul attaches itself to a whizzing bullet. When your whole will, your whole mind and all your sense hang from the flying missiles and beg: 'Not this house!' You're selfish and you forget that the missile that misses you is going to hit someone else.

Dear diary! How precious you are to me! How horrible were the moments when I hugged you to my heart!

—Renia Spiegel, Polish  
Teen and  
Holocaust Victim,  
(1941)

We're all alive and well. All of us, Nora, Irka, Zygyus, my friends, my family. Tomorrow, along with all the other Jews, I'll have to start wearing a white armband. To you I will always remain the same Renia, but to others I'll become someone inferior: a girl wearing a white armband with a blue star. I will be a Jude.

I'm not crying or complaining. I've resigned myself to my fate. It just feels so strange and sorrowful. My school vacation and my dates with Zygyus are coming to an end. I don't know when I'll see him next. No news about Mamma. God protect us all.

Goodby, dear diary. I'm writing this while I'm still independent and free. Tomorrow I'll be someone else but only on the outside. And perhaps one day I'll greet you as someone else still. Grant me that, Lord God, I believe in you.

—Renia Spiegel, Polish  
Teen and  
Holocaust Victim,  
(1941)

Wherever I look, there is bloodshed. Such terrible pogroms. There is killing, murdering. God Almighty, for the umpteenth time I humble myself in front of you, help us, save us! Lord God, let us live, I beg You, I want to live! I've experienced so little of life. I don't want to die. I'm scared of death. It's all so stupid, so petty, so unimportant, so small. Today I'm worried about being ugly; tomorrow I might stop thinking forever.

—Renia Spiegel, Polish  
Teen and  
Holocaust Victim,  
(1942)

I don't believe that the big men are guilty of the war, oh no, the little man is just as guilty, otherwise the people's of the world would have risen in revolt long ago! There's in people simply an urge to destroy, an urge to kill, to murder and rage, and until all mankind without exception, undergoes a great change, wars will be waged, everything that has been built up, cultivated and grown will be cut down and disfigured, and mankind will have to begin all over again.

—Anne Frank

I must have something besides a husband and children, something that I can devote myself to! I want to go on living even after my death.

—Anne Frank

[Zalmen Gradowski left a diary of his time as a Jew forcibly working in Auschwitz before his own extermination.]

Gradowski tells us how he escorted the thousands of women and young children into the disrobing room, marveling at how 'these same women who now pulsed with life would lie in dirt and filth, their pure bodies smeared with human excrement.' He describes how the mothers kiss their children's limbs, how sisters clutch each other, how one woman asks him, 'Say, brother, how long does it take to die? Is it easy or hard?' Once the women are naked, Gradowski and his fellow prisoners escort them through a gantlet of SS officers who had gathered for this special occasion—a night gassing arranged intentionally on the eve of Purim, the biblical festival celebrating the Jews' narrow escape from a planned genocide. He recalls how one woman, 'a lovely blond girl,' stopped in her death march to address the officers: 'Wretched murderers! You look at me with our thirsty, bestial eyes. You glut yourselves on my nakedness. Yes, this is what you've been waiting for. In your civilian lives you could never even have dreamed about it. [...] But you won't enjoy this for long. Your game's almost over, you can't kill all the Jews. And you will pay for it all.' And suddenly she leaped at them and struck Oberscharführer Voss, the director of the crematoriums, three times. Clubs came down on her head and shoulders. She

entered the bunker with her head covered with wounds. [...] she laughed for joy and proceeded calmly to her death.’ Gradowski describes how people sang in the gas chambers, songs that included *Hatikvah*, ‘The Hope,’ now the national anthem of Israel. And then he describes the mountain of open-eyed naked bodies that he and his fellow prisoners must pull apart and burn: ‘Their gazes were fixed, their bodies motionless. In the deadened, stagnant stillness there was only a hushed, barely audible noise—a sound of fluid seeping from the different orifices of the dead. Frequently one recognizes an acquaintance.’ In the specially constructed ovens, he tells us, the hair is first to catch fire, but ‘the head takes the longest to burn; two little blue flames flicker from the eye-holes—these are the eyes burning with the brain. [...] The entire process lasts 20 minutes—and a human being, a world, has been turned to ashes.

—Dara Horn

Oh, how many have gathered  
And no one will see love.  
I hold an infant in my arms—  
And my infant—is Death.

—Teenage Holocaust  
Victim Matilda  
Olkin [1940]

I don’t see why innocent and good guys have to pay for stuff that the Japanese do. Darn it anyhow us loyal Jap. Americans have no chance. When we’re outside, people look at us suspiciously and think we’re spies. Now that we’re in camp, the Japs look at us and say we’re bad because we still love America. And now the people outside want to take our citizenship away from us as if we’re the bad ones.

—Teenager Stanley  
Hayami’s Diary  
Entry from  
Internment Camp  
[1942]

Sometimes I think that there is no hope and that we are all dying slowly while the whole world watches silently. They send us crumbs of food yet never condemn those who kill us...The aggressors kill children and rape women. The world looks on and perhaps gives us a thought while sitting in their comfortable homes and palaces. Are they unable to see?...WORLD, PLEASE WAKE UP AND HELP US!!!

—Nadja Halilbegovich,  
Age 13, Sarajevo  
[1992]

Catholic women and been arrested during World War II for their involvement in the Polish resistance. They were called rabbits because Nazi doctors turned them into laboratory animals, operating on their legs to insert glass, dirt and tetanus bacteria, or to remove bone or muscle tissue. Some of the...young Polish women subjected to these experiments died of infection or disease; others were executed when their usefulness ended.

—Martha Hall Kelly

We are sometimes asked in the name of patriotism to forget the merits of [the Civil War], and to remember with equal admiration those who struck at the nation's life, and those who struck to save it—those who fought for slavery and those who fought for liberty...May my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if I forget the difference between the parties to that...bloody conflict.

—Frederick Douglass

It is something you think that half a dozen men could sit down and casually sign a pact to stop the millions of men from killing each other. If Armistice Day had stopped speeches, it would've done more than to have stopped the war, for speeches is which starts the next war. It's not armament, its oratory that's wrong with this country.

—Will Rogers

If we pulled together as much as to put over a siege of peace as we do a spell of war, we would be sitting pretty. We can't hardly wait for a war to end to start taking it out on each other. Peace is kinder like prosperity, there is mighty few nations that can stand it.

—Will Rogers

In the Historys, War always starts 'for patriotism's sake,' but you read on then get down to the Peace Conference and you find that the historian has to write pretty fast and veil things over pretty cleverly, or the reader is apt to discover what changed hands at the finish besides a mere satisfying of honor. You look at all Wars and you will find that there is more new deeds for land signed at these Peace Conferences than there is good will. Did you ever look at a map and see the Colonies that Germany lost at Versailles? All these Nations that are crying Debt Cancellations, you never hear 'em mention a word about returning Colonies to Germany so she would have a chance to kinder use 'em to help dig up this Reparations. So, you see, in Wars the Slogan is Honor, but the object is Land. They are always fighting for Independence, but at the finish they always seem to be able to use quite a snatch of the defeated opponent's land to be independent on.

—Will Rogers

I know if I saw a man charging down on me with a Bayonet, I would sure kinder like to talk it over with him first and see if there wasn't some way of buying him a drink, or offering him an Apple, or something. Anyhow, fix some way so we could both walk away from the place—not just one of us.

—Will Rogers

All they got to do to stop the war instantly is to agree to not trade with an aggressor nation, meaning Japan, but they won't sacrifice their trade just to save bloodshed. The League has got the weapon to stop war, but try and get the nations to give up that trade. What's a few thousand dead Chinaman compared to Japan as a cash customer.

—Will Rogers (1933)

Lots of war news in the papers today. I knew it was coming when I saw that we had cut down on our army and navy. If you want to know when a war is coming, just watch the U.S. and see when they start cutting down on their defense. Its the surest barometer in the world.

—Will Rogers (1933)

All the wars in the world even if you won em, can't repay one mother for the loss of one son. But even at that when she says to you, 'That's my oldest boys picture. He was lost in the war,' there is behind that mist in her eyes, a shine of pride, that could never be there if she had to say he was run over by a Ford.

—Will Rogers

We are mighty proud of our navy, some near sighted folks kick on the cost, but by golly its worth the price to see 30,000 men spotlessly clean, and a 'cocky' walk that you don't find on any other animal but a peacock.

—Will Rogers

Brotherly love has never crossed a boundary line yet. If you think it has why don't somebody protect China? China has never bothered anybody. They have been a friend to the World. They are having their Country taken away from em, but nobody says a word for she is so far away that they hope no Nation can march clear through her and get to them. Yes sir geography has more to do with brotherly love than civilization and Christianity combined.

—Will Rogers (1934)

Sometimes I catch myself wondering whether the happiest ones now are not those who are dead. They have at least finished with all the ceaseless war and all the rest.

—Quentin Roosevelt

When I was bleeding to death in my black hawk helicopter on that dusty field in Iraq, I didn't care if the American troops risking their lives to help save me were gay, straight, transgender, black, white, male or female. All that mattered was they didn't leave me behind.

—Tammy Duckworth

There are two types of Civil War monuments. We should keep the historical ones, erected right after the war to honor dead and wounded community members. But heritage monuments, erected long after the war, were intended as propaganda, pure and simple. Voltaire said, 'If we believe absurdities, we shall commit atrocities'; the heritage monuments of the Confederacy are absurdities, and have directly led to atrocities. If we can't bring them down, then at least we should defund them.

—Coryn Weigle

In the matter of war, the American language creates its own fog. We speak not only of wars, but also of armed conflicts, military engagements, combat operations, expeditions, policing actions, raids, airstrikes and shows of force. And even with so many labels, we use the term 'war' pretty loosely. Does the Honey War really count? The 1836 Missouri-Iowa border dispute—named for the chief on-the-ground casualty, three beehives—was settled at the Supreme Court. The Aroostook War? It was another 19th-century border dispute, in Maine, which the United States and England settled bloodlessly.

—*smithsonian.com*

By one count, the United States has been at war at some time in 93.5 percent of the calendar years between 1775 and 2018. Of course, this depends on how you define 'war.' We defined it as using military force, or the imminent threat of force (as in the 'gunboat diplomacy' of the 1850s), to achieve national ends.

—David Lovett

Dogs have been sent to war for a variety of reasons. During World War I, dogs belonging to Allied Forces were trained to deliver messages, navigating the trenches and braving bullets, bombs and gas exposure. Back at war a generation later, they recognized incoming shellfire before human ears could hear it. In Vietnam, they found safe passages through the jungles, alerting their handlers to snipers and booby traps. In Iraq and Afghanistan, their extraordinary sense of smell was able to outpace every technological advance made in the detection of IEDs. Altogether, the United States has deployed thousands of dogs to combat zones and, depending on the war, their tours have lasted months to years.

—Rebecca Frankel

Sometimes, God doesn't send you into a battle to win it; he sends you to end it.  
—Shannon L. Alder

I'm a Vietnam veteran. I was always stoic, thinking my tours in Southeast Asia had not affected me. When I visited the traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial, I broke down, and my hidden emotions flowed like water over a waterfall. I had no idea I had these feelings. These memorials to our fallen heroes are not only symbols for remembrance, but cathartic for all of us who have served.  
—Edward L. Dresner

When Grace Hopper enlisted in the U. S. Navy in 1943, she had to get an exemption: The 34-year-old math professor was above the Navy's maximum age and under its minimum weight. She became a pioneering programmer, joining the team that developed the Mark I computer. After the war, she recommended that computer programs be written in English, a radical change that opened the field to non-mathematicians for the first time. As Hopper reasoned, it's much easier for most people to write an English statement than it is to use symbols. Hopper had a knack for explaining computing in ways laypeople could understand. During the 1980s, she became known for handing out foot-long pieces of wire to show how far electricity could travel in one-billionth of a second.  
—*Smithsonian.com*

He [Theodore Roosevelt] had seen violent death in the first skirmish a few days earlier when the bullets from enemy Mausers 'humming like telephone wires' began to strike the unit. Unable to tell where the Spanish were because they were using smokeless gunpowder, the Rough Riders had taken serious losses. Almost immediately after the men fell, huge land crabs attacked the bodies, beginning their demolition work by tearing out the eyes and lips.  
—Peter Collier

Only those deserve undying glory and fame who stand where the danger is sorest.  
—Theodore Roosevelt

We have spent \$32 million per hour on war since 2001.  
—Stephanie Savell (2018)

We are not youth any longer....We were eighteen and had begun to love life and the world; and we had to shoot it to pieces.  
—Erich Maria Remarque

Youth is no longer wasted on the young because it's wasted on the war instead.  
—Philip Kerr

A young man is the perfect soldier. He has great potential for aggression and a limited critical capacity—or none at all—with which to analyze it and judge how to channel it. Throughout history societies have found ways of using this store of aggression, turning their adolescents into soldiers, cannon fodder with which to conquer their neighbors or defend themselves against their aggressors.

—Carlos Ruiz Zafón

People believed that the most devastating part of a war are the corpses with their guts out in the open, the puddles of blood, and all that you can capture at first glance. But sometimes the horror is off to the side, in the lost look on the face of a woman who's just been raped, as she limps away alone within the ruins, trying to keep her head down.

—Susana Fortes

[D-Day] While the expression is indelibly linked with the allied invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944, it actually comes from U.S. Army terminology that was first used in World War I and is still used today. Generally, 'D' refers to the first day of an operation or attack; it serves as a place holder in the planning phase, and even after an exact time is set, soldiers continue to use the term to prevent unauthorized disclosure. 'D-2' and 'D+2' refer to two days before and two days after an action is scheduled to begin. 'H' refers to hours, as in 'H+7,' or seven hours into an operation.

—Frank Blazich

When Pearl Harbor happened, I'd never heard of Pearl Harbor. I really didn't know much about what I was getting into. In the Marines the emphasis was, we must win this war and we are going to win it. Everybody supported the cause because we knew it would take the whole population to win. Women were working in factories building airplanes and tanks and trucks. There was nobody I ever heard of who didn't support the cause. War in this country had never happened like that. And it has never happened like that since.

—Hershel 'Woody'  
Williams

We were color-blind while we were in combat in Vietnam. In the field everybody covered everybody. Once we got back to the States, we segregated ourselves. Blacks had their place; Hispanics had their place; Caucasians had their place.

—Gumersindo Gomez

A young body, a young heart, and endless courage. That last part is the most important. Don't let anyone tell you any differently. Why do you think we used to send so many kids your age off to war?

—Karina Halle

Growing up in the 1970s, all I knew was the Army. As a kid, because of my father's job as a drill sergeant, I lived on Army bases and went to Army schools. Army life is a society within a society. As a child, I did not encounter prejudice. You have no choice who your neighbor is. It's whoever the Army assigns. If Koreans are assigned, then your neighbors are Korean. If blacks are assigned, then your neighbors are black. You all go to school together. You depend on one another. Your dads work together. You get to be friends with everybody. But then when I was 13, my parents got divorced—Eva is my stepmother—and I moved to Georgia with my mother. That was the first time I experienced prejudice. I'll never forget sitting in class and the kid next to me says, 'What are you, black or white?' I said, 'I'm Puerto Rican.' He said, 'No, you're black or white. And you ain't white.' It blew my mind because, in Army society, everyone was equal.

—Giovanni Gomez

Showing war's irrationality and horror is of no effect...The horrors make the fascination. War is the strong life; it is life in extremis...Our ancestors have bred pugnacity into our bone and marrow, and thousands of years of peace won't breed it out of us.

—William James

They were the fathers we never knew, the uncles we never met, the friends who never returned, the heroes we can never repay. They gave us our world. And those simple sounds of freedom we hear today are their voices speaking to us across the years.

—President Bill Clinton

They carried the soldier's greatest fear, which was the fear of blushing. Men killed, and died, because they were embarrassed not to. It was what had brought them to the war in the first place, nothing positive, no dreams of glory or honor, just to avoid the blush of dishonor. They died so as not to die of embarrassment.

—Tim O'Brien

## DREAM CHILD

My Easter baby.  
Long-desired.  
A bunny cap and  
Fuzzy ball  
Topped your cherished head.  
Bright and sweet,  
You soared beyond belief.  
And truly ....  
I was blessed.  
So proud that you served.  
So sad when you left,  
And crushed on your return.  
Viewed by only me,  
Your grisly, shattered corpse  
Was now my dream...my child.

—Dan L. Miller

Since 1979, do you know how many times China has been at war with anybody? None. And we have stayed at war. Over its entire 242-year history, the United States has only enjoyed 16 years of peace....this makes the US the most warlike nation in the history of the world. We have wasted, I think, \$3 trillion on military spending. China has not wasted a single penny on war and that's why they're ahead of us. In almost every way.

—Jimmy Carter (2019)

War...is a constant in history. Not all conflicts are the same, but their effects on the human spirit have a terrible sameness.

—Terrence Rafferty