

My Favorite War Time Quotes.

As I was thinking of what to write for the beginning of December, I decided on something different; quotes from war time. One of my favorite quotes of all time was said in December. During the Battle of the Bulge, December, 1944, the German army launched a surprise offensive. The 101st Airborne Division in the Belgian town of Bastogne was surrounded by a far larger force of Germans under the command of General Heinrich Freiherr von Luttwitz. General Anthony McAuliffe was the commander of the 101st Airborne. On December 22, General Luttwitz sent an ultimatum to General McAuliffe, part of which read "... There is only one possibility to save the encircled U.S.A. troops from total annihilation: that is the honorable surrender of the encircled town. In order to think it over a term of two hours will be granted beginning with the presentation of this note..." McAuliffe's answer was one word – "NUTS!". General George Patton and the 4th Armored Division relieved the town on December 26.

General Patton also has some memorable quotes such as "You cannot be disciplined in great things and undisciplined in small things. Brave undisciplined men have no chance against the discipline and valor of other men. Have you ever seen a few policemen handle a crowd?" delivered in May 1940 in an address to officers and men of the Second Armored Division.

Again during WWII when the Germans were attacking England by air, Prime Minister Winston Churchill in a speech on August 20, 1940 "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few". He was referring to the ongoing efforts of the Royal Air Force crews who were fighting the Battle of Britain.

The above was preceded by a June 1940 statement by Hermann Goring "My Luftwaffe is invincible...And so now we turn to England. How long will this one last - two, three weeks?"

"The way to win an atomic war is to make certain it never starts." Spoken by General Omar Bradley is as important today as it was when he delivered it to the Boston Chamber of Commerce in 1948.

We cannot leave December without President Franklin Roosevelt's address to Congress and the American people following the attack on Pearl Harbor "Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan."

As a tribute to my brothers and sisters who served in Vietnam, I leave you with this quote from an unknown source "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."

News item: The Minnesota Department of Veteran Affairs recently released this announcement. For a limited time, any landlord or property owner who signs a lease with a Veteran currently on the Minnesota Homeless Veteran Registry is eligible for \$1,000 lease-signing bonus paid directly to the landlord or property owner. For details or to learn more visit MinnesotaVeteran.org, telephone [888.546.5838](tel:888.546.5838).