

WW2 COMMENTS FROM THE COMBATANTS ON BOTH SIDES

TOGETHER WITH THE TOP 10 RATED GENERALS OF WW2

THIS ARTICLE HAS A PART "A" AND "B"

252



PART "A"

COMMENTS FROM SOME OF THOSE INVOLVED IN WW2

They fought together as brothers in arms; they died together and now they sleep side by side. To them, we have a solemn obligation. [Chester W. Nimitz](#)

The world must know what happened and never forget. [Dwight D. Eisenhower](#)

United in this determination and with unshakable faith in the cause for which we fight, we will, with God's help, go forward to our greatest victory. [Dwight D. Eisenhower](#)

The horror of the Holocaust is not that it deviated from human norms; the horror is that it didn't. What happened may happen again, to others not necessarily Jews, perpetrated by others, not necessarily Germans. We are all possible victims, possible perpetrators, possible bystanders. [Unk](#)

Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men. [George S. Patton](#)

We shall go down in history as the greatest statesmen of all time or as the greatest criminals [Joseph Goebbels](#)

It is on this beautiful day that we celebrate the Fuhrers' birthday and thank him for he is the only reason why Germany is still alive today. [Joseph Goebbels](#)

There are no atheists in the foxholes. [Unk](#)

We have known the bitterness of defeat and the exultation of triumph, and from both, we have learned there can be no turning back. We must go forward to preserve in peace what we won in war. [Douglas MacArthur](#)

Among the men who fought on Iwo Jima, uncommon valor was a common virtue. [Chester W. Nimitz](#)

I have full confidence in your courage devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory! Good luck! And let us beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking. [Dwight D. Eisenhower](#)

It is the last territorial claim that I have to make in Europe, but it is a claim from which I will not recede and which, God willing, I will make good. [Adolf Hitler](#)

Germany must either be a world power or there will be no Germany. [Adolf Hitler](#)

Czechoslovakia has ceased to exist. [Adolf Hitler](#)

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory, and our interests are in grave danger. With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounded determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph, so help us God. [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#)

We are not retreating - we are advancing in another direction. [Douglas MacArthur](#)

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... We will gain the inevitable triumph so help us God. [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#)

The atomic bomb was no great decision. It was merely another powerful weapon in the arsenal of righteousness. [Harry S. Truman](#)

The German people in their whole character are not warlike, but rather soldierly, that is, while they do not want war, they are not frightened by the thoughts of it. [Adolf Hitler](#)

As long as sovereign nations are possessing great power, war is inevitable. [Albert Einstein](#)

This arch-liar today shows that Britain never was in a position to wage war alone. This gabbler, this drunkard Churchill. And then his accomplice in the White House, this mad fool. [Adolf Hitler](#)

The assertion that the German Reich intends to coerce the Austrian State is absurd! [Adolf Hitler](#)

Nationalist Socialist Germany wants peace because of its fundamental convictions. And it wants peace also owing to the realization of the simple primitive fact that no war would be likely essentially to alter the distress in Europe. The principal effect of every war is to destroy the flower of the nation. Germany needs peace and desires peace! [Adolf Hitler](#)

When this war is over, the Japanese language will be spoken only in hell! [William Halsey](#)

A bright light filled the plane. The first shock wave hit us. We were eleven and a half miles slant range from the atomic explosion but the whole airplane cracked and crinkled from the blast... We turned back to look at Hiroshima. The city was hidden by that awful cloud... mushrooming, terrible and incredibly tall. [Col Paul Tibbets pilot of the Enola Gay](#)

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. [Dwight D. Eisenhower](#)

We shall defend our island whatever the cost may be; we shall fight on beaches, landing grounds, in fields, in streets, and on the hills. We shall never surrender and even if, which I do not for the moment believe, this island or a large part of it were subjugated and starving, then our empire beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the British Fleet, will carry on the struggle until in God's good time the New World with all its power and might, sets forth to the liberation and rescue of the Old. [Winston Churchill](#)

Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force! You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. [Dwight D. Eisenhower](#)

Hitler knows that he will have to break us on this island or lose the war. If we can stand up to him, all Europe may be free, and life of the world may move forward into broad, sunlit uplands. But if we fall, then the whole world, including the United States, including all that we have known and cared for, will sink into the abyss of a new Dark Age... 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, men will still say, 'This was their finest hour.' [Winston Churchill](#)

The Bomb will never go off, and I speak as an expert in explosives. [William D. Leahy](#)

In the first six to twelve months of a war with the United States and Great Britain, I will run wild and win victory upon victory. But then, if the war continues after that, I do not expect success.
[Isoroku Yamamoto](#)

The mindless rejoicing at home is appalling; it makes me fear that the first blow against Tokyo will make them wilt at once...I only wish that [the Americans] had also had, say, three carriers at Hawaii. [Isoroku Yamamoto](#)

In Hitler's launching of the Nazi campaign upon Russia we can already see, after less than six months of fighting, that he made one of the outstanding blunders of history, and the results so far realized constitute an event of cardinal importance in the final decision of the war. [Winston Churchill](#)

Germany has concluded a Non-Aggression Pact with Poland. We shall adhere to it unconditionally. We recognize Poland as the home of great and nationally conscious people. [Adolf Hitler](#)

Today we are crushed by the sheer weight of the mechanized forces hurled against us, but we can still look to the future in which even greater mechanized forces will bring us victory. Therein lies the destiny of the world. [Charles de Gaulle](#)

The battle is going very heavily against us. We're being crushed by the enemy's weight. We are facing very difficult days, perhaps the most difficult that a man can undergo. *Erwin Rommel*

"We have a very daring and skillful opponent against us, and, may I say across the havoc of war, a great general." He also deserves our respect because, although a loyal German soldier, he came to hate Hitler and all his works, and took part in the conspiracy of 1944 to rescue Germany by displacing the maniac and tyrant. For this, he paid the forfeit of his life. In the somber wars of modern democracy, chivalry finds no place ... Still, I do not regret or retract the tribute I paid to Rommel, unfashionable though it was judged. *Winston Churchill comments about Gen Erin Rommel.*

One must not judge everyone in the world by his qualities as a soldier: otherwise, we should have no civilization. *Gen Erin Rommel*

We had to wait until the Patton Army in France to see the most astonishing achievements in mobile warfare. *Gen Erin Rommel*

I don't see much future for the Americans..., it's a decayed country. And they have their racial problem and the problem of social inequalities. Everything about the behavior of American society reveals that it's half Judaized, and the other half negrified. How can one expect a state like that to hold together? *Adolph Hitler, Jan 1942.*

Today I am at the head of the strongest Army in the world, the most gigantic Air Force, and a proud Navy. Behind and around me stands the Party with which I became great and which has become great through me. Our enemies must not deceive themselves - in the 2000 years of German History known to us, our people have never been more united than today. *Adolph Hitler, as part of his speech declared war on the United States on December 11, 1941.*

We regarded General Patton extremely highly as the most aggressive panzer-general of the Allies. His operations impressed us enormously, probably because he came closest to our concept of the classical military commander. He even improved on Napoleon's basic tenet – activité, vitesse – vitesse. *Unk Gen of The Third Reich, after the war.*



GENERAL MCAULIFFE'S FAMOUS BASTOGNE QUOTE



During the battle, the 101st Commander, General Anthony Clement McAuliffe received the following demand for surrender from the German commander fighting the *101st which has become one of the most famous World War II quotes known to this day:*

To the U.S.A. Commander of the encircled town of Bastogne.

The fortune of war is changing. This time the U.S.A. forces in and near Bastogne have been encircled by strong German armored units. More German armored units have crossed the river Our near Ortheuville, have taken Marche and reached St. Hubert by passing through Hompre-Sibret-Tillet. Libramont is in German hands.

To The German Commander.

After a short discussion with his staff, General McAuliffe sent the following in reply to the German Commander:

"Nuts!"

When COL Harper, the Regimental commander was asked to explain the meaning of the reply by the German officer taking the message back to the German HQ, he replied that it was the equivalent of "Go to Hell."

PART B

THE TOP TEN FAMOUS GENERALS OF WW2

During the historical timeline of World War 2, we witnessed Generals either leading their boys to a top-notch position or sending them to a straightforward downfall. Top Yaps lists the top 10 famous Generals of World War 2 who earned more and more notability with each victory. These historical icons will be always remembered for playing an instrumental role in warfare as well as for demonstrating an extreme level of fearlessness.

10. ISOROKU YAMAMOTO



Best known for being the mastermind behind the Pearl Harbor attack, Isoroku Yamamoto was an eminent Naval Marshal General of Japan who introduced some radical changes in the Imperial Japanese Navy. Born on April 4, 1884, in Niigata, Japan, Isoroku Yamamoto completed his graduation from the Imperial Japanese Naval Academy in 1904 and **was also enrolled in Harvard University** where he studied from 1919 to 1921. He died on April 18, 1943, when his aircraft crashed in an ambush by American fighter planes.

9. ERICH von MANSTEIN



Considered one of the best military strategists in the history of Germany, Erich von Manstein attained the rank of Field Marshal during World War 2 where in his successful leadership, German armed forces achieved victory in the battles of Sevastopol, Kerch, Perekop Isthmus, and Kharkiv. After the defeat of Nazi Germany, he was arrested by British troops on August 23, 1945. After finishing his imprisonment in 1953, he joined the West German Government as a military advisor. As a historical investigator, he wrote a book - *Verlorene Siege* (Lost Victories), depicting his own experiences and ideas as they appeared during the 1930s and 1940s.

8. OMAR BRADLEY



Widely known for his courteous nature, Omar Bradley was a notable American General of World War 2 who significantly contributed to Normandy Landing as well as in the Battle of Bulge. From childhood, he had a great passion for baseball, books, and shooting. In mainstream American media, Omar Bradley has been characterized as a gentleman General who never demonstrated his power and authoritative abilities to officers and soldiers working under his leadership. He departed our dimension on April 8, 1991, in New York City.

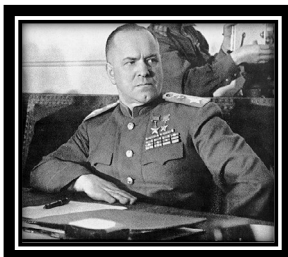
7. HENRY "HAP" ARNOLD



Born to a prominent family in Pennsylvania, Henry H. Arnold is widely known for holding the ranks of General of the Army and later General of the Air Force. One of the first military pilots worldwide, Arnold, to this date, is the only Air Force General to hold a five-star rank on uniform.

In his outstanding leadership, the United States Air Force achieved some remarkable victories against the Axis forces.

6. GEORGE ZHUKOV



One of the most celebrated generals in the history of the Russian Empire, the Soviet Union, and the Russian Federation, George Zhukov played a crucial role in leading the Red Army during World War 2 and conquering Germany's capital, Berlin. He was born on December 1, 1896, in a poor family and later went to Moscow to work as a cloakmaker. Notable for depicting the "never give up" attitude, General Zhukov is still remembered for his stringency, tough discipline, and detailed planning.

5. BERNARD MONTGOMERY



Best known by his nickname "Spartan General," Bernard Montgomery was an eminent officer of the British Army, who just not only participated in World War 1 but also played a significant role in World War 2, ensuring the victory of his 8th Army against the Nazis in 1942.

General Montgomery was the person, who, on May 4, 1945, accepted the surrender of German forces at Luneburg Heath. Winner of several prestigious awards, Montgomery took his last breath on March 24, 1976, at his home in Hampshire.

4. DOUGLAS MACARTHUR



Douglas MacArthur was a notable warrior who played a striking role in the Pacific War during World War 2 which further climaxed in the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Bombing, thus compelling Japan to surrender. For his outstanding service in the Philippines Campaign, General MacArthur was awarded the Medal of Honor. Apart from serving as the Superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point, he also served as the Military Advisor to the Commonwealth Government of the Philippines.

3. DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER



An essential cornerstone of the World War 2, General D. Eisenhower was the supreme commander of the Allied Forces in Europe, who played a major role in washing away the Nazi Germany. After the end of World War 2, he was elected as the first supreme commander of NATO and later became the 34th President of the United States of America. After living a prestigious and esteemed life, this prominent figure of war and politics finally departed to heaven on March 28, 1969

2. ERWIN ROMMEL



Respected by both his troops and opponents for being a generous officer, Erwin Rommel was a German Field Marshal during World War 2 who commanded the German forces fighting against the Allied Forces during the Normandy invasion. Counted among one of the most experienced commanders of desert warfare, General Rommel was popularly known by his nickname "Desert Fox". Throughout service, he was never accused of war crimes, and he was against killing captured soldiers or civilians.

1. GEORGE S. PATTON



And here comes the most brilliant General of World War 2. A man of colorful characteristics and a master of an unexplained brand of eloquence, General Patton was widely known for his fearless, unorthodox, and cheering image among his friends as well as in the vast list of enemies. Under his skilled leadership, the U.S. Third Army captured enemies and emancipated territories in less time than any other army in military history. Nicknamed "the crazy cowboy general" by Adolf Hitler, General Patton has been also portrayed in an epic Academy Award-winning movie "Patton".

The 3 Officers below have been added because they were in the top ten on several of the other Websites "Top Ten" and rated very highly by all.

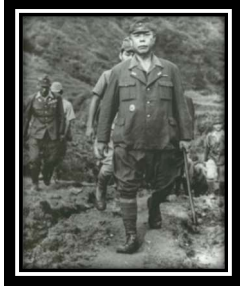
KONSTANTI ROKOSOVSKY



Konstantin Rokossovsky was a Marshal of the Soviet Union as well as a marshal of Poland and Polish Defense Minister. He was a very distinguished commander, being appreciated for his great military skills, which he best proved on the Eastern Front. In 1937, Rokossovsky became caught up in Stalin's Great Purge and accused of being a Polish spy. He was severely tortured and escaped execution after proving his innocence.

He was rehabilitated in 1940 when he was offered the command of the 5th Cavalry Corps. Considered one of the greatest general of World War II as well as one of the best Russian strategists of all time, Rokosovsky is famous for having argued with Stalin about the best strategy to adopt for Operation Bagration. Stalin asked Rokosovsky three times to reconsider his position, but he refused to compromise. Stalin finally agreed to his plan and the general obtained a great victory which strengthened his reputation.

TOMOYKI YAMASHITA



This is one of the greatest generals of the Japanese Imperial Army. He is renowned for having conquered the British colonies of Malaya and Singapore, which earned him the nickname 'the tiger of Malaya'.

Yamashita was a cautious person and recommended that Japan should maintain peace with the British Empire as well as with the United States of America. Thus, he was assigned minor posts until the end of 1940. However, at this point, he was given a secret mission to Germany and Italy, during which he met both Hitler and Mussolini. The invasion of Manila was marked by war crimes but the culpability of the general in this matter was not fully established. However, he was sentenced to death and executed in 1946

GUY SIMONDS



Among the most efficient generals during World War II, Simonds was a Canadian Army officer who commanded the II and had a decisive role in the Allied victory in the Battle of Scheldt (1944). An excellent leader and a skillful officer; he was the youngest corps commander in the British Army at 41. He was also the youngest Canadian to lead a branch into action.

DISCLAIMER

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