

SUNBEAMS

War, at first, is the hope that one will be better off; next, the expectation that the other fellow will be worse off; then, the satisfaction that he isn't any better off; and, finally, the surprise at everyone's being worse off.

Karl Kraus

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

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

Joan Baez

Everyone knew grunts who'd gone crazy in the middle of a firefight, gone crazy on patrol, gone crazy back at camp, gone crazy on R&R, gone crazy during their first month home. Going crazy was built into the tour; the best you could hope for was that it didn't happen around you, the kind of crazy that made men empty clips into strangers or fix grenades on latrine doors. That was *really* crazy; anything less was almost standard, as standard as the vague prolonged stares and involuntary smiles, common as ponchos or 16s or any other piece of war issue.

Michael Herr

There are not very many of these blasted and broken boys who think this war is a glorious adventure. Do not talk to them about bugging out, or national honor, or courage. It does not take any courage at all for a congressman, or a senator, or a president to wrap himself in the flag . . . because it is not our blood that is being shed. But we are responsible for those young men and their lives and their hopes.

Senator George McGovern

The people who are doing the work and the fighting and the dying, and those who are doing the talking, are not at all the same people.

Katherine Anne Porter

"You're immature. You've been unable to adjust to the idea of war."

"Yes, sir."

"You have a morbid aversion to dying. You probably resent the fact that you're at war and might get your head blown off any second."

"I more than resent it, sir. I'm absolutely incensed."

". . . Misery depresses you. Ignorance depresses you. Persecution depresses you. Violence depresses you. . . . You know, it wouldn't surprise me if you're a manic depressive!"

Joseph Heller

A 1979 survey concluded that more Vietnam veterans had died by their own hand than in combat.

John Langone

Look at an infantryman's eyes, and you can tell how much war he has seen.

Bill Mauldin

The enemy aggressor is always pursuing a course of larceny, murder, rapine, and barbarism. We are always moving forward with high mission, a destiny imposed by the Deity to regenerate our victims while incidentally capturing their markets, to civilize savage and senile and paranoid peoples while blundering accidentally into their oil wells or metal mines.

John T. Flynn

Since this is an emergency, all robots will now have their patriotism circuits activated.

Commander Zapp Brannigan on *Futurama*

Patriotism assumes that our globe is divided into little spots, each one surrounded by an iron gate. Those who have had the fortune of being born on some particular spot consider themselves better, nobler, grander, more intelligent than the living beings inhabiting any other spot. It is, therefore, the duty of everyone living on that chosen spot to fight, kill, and die in the attempt to impose his superiority upon all others. The inhabitants of the other spots reason in a like manner, of course.

Emma Goldman

When we're talking about war, we're really talking about peace.

George W. Bush

U.S. out of North America!

Source unknown

Patriotism is a beautiful thing — to love your country, your land, and your people, and to have a deep emotional affinity. But it can be so easily corrupted to polarized thinking, to harming others and ourselves, if we don't realize what it is that is beautiful. It is beautiful because it is love.

Patricia Sun

The love of one's country is a splendid thing. But why should love stop at the border?

Pablo Casals

To save your world you asked this man to die.

W.H. Auden

Sunbeams are welcome and may be sent to The Sun, 107 North Roberson Street, Chapel Hill, NC 27516. We're sorry, but we're unable to respond personally to your suggestions.