



ALL EARS!!

*The Litchfield Fund
Weekly Newsletter*

"We just don't hear it on the street, we have our ears spread across all the fields!!!!!"



Litchfield

Philosophers, authors, screenwriters & songwriters seek a beautiful, inspirational, comfortable location to create! They search for a meaningful phrase that will become historic & will last through time. Yet, under the extreme conditions of battle, there have been members of Our Nation's military, who have not only inspired others with their actions & deeds, but also with words *that have stood the test of time*. Holding to our Memorial Day tradition, *All Ears!!* steps aside from this week's news to honor the men & women who willingly serve and *those who have fallen* in defense of our fragile, precious, *Sacred Freedom!*

(We apologize for the saltier language in this week's All Ears!!, but we want to present these quotes as history recorded them!)

Memorable Words: There was a time in grade school when children learned the quotes of our great American heroes. On 18th of April in '75, Paul Revere shouted, "*the British are coming!*" Nathan Hale's famous quote may have really been, "*I am so satisfied with the cause in which I have engaged that my only regret is that I have not more lives than one to offer in its service.*" Though shortened in length, it has not lost its meaning. At Bunker Hill, (sunglasses would not be invented for more than 150 years) William Prescott told his men to assure the trueness of their shot by saying, "*Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes!*" With two on, two out & two strikes at the Battle of Flamborough Head, John Paul Jones declared, "*I have not yet begun to fight!*" We prefer another quote from the intrepid Captain! Asked later that same day if they should lower the flag (*strike the colors*) & surrender, he answered, "*I may sink, but I'll be damned if I strike!*" Captain John Parker, at the Battle of Lexington, reflected how many in our military likely feel, "*Stand your ground. Don't fire unless fired upon, but if they mean to have a war, let it begin here.*" It was Captain James Lawrence, aboard the *USS Chesapeake* during the War of 1812, whose dying words were, "*Don't give up the ship!*" The *Hero of Lake Erie*, Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, sailed under a flag displaying his friend's words on a ship bearing his name, the *USS Lawrence!* During the battle, the *Lawrence* took so much damage, Cmdre. Perry transferred his command to the *USS Niagara*, but only after the chaplain & purser helped the crew fire one last shot! After defeating the British near Put-in-Bay, he took the surrender on the *Lawrence!* The Commodore wrote to General William Henry Harrison these immortal words, "*We have met the enemy and they are ours; two ships, two brigs, one schooner and one sloop.*"

During the Civil War, Captain David Farragut's immortal words at Mobile Bay have since been paraphrased. Having asked why his ship was not moving forward, the answer was "*Torpedoes!*" Capt. Farragut responded, "*Damn the torpedoes! Four bells, Captain Drayton, go ahead. Jouett, full speed!*" At the Battle of Missionary Ridge, a Wisconsin infantry regiment was pinned down by enemy fire from the ridge. In a time when bugles & company flags were used to communicate on the battlefield, a young lieutenant named Arthur saw his color bearer fall! He grabbed the colors, shouted "*On Wisconsin!*" & led his men in an uphill charge to take the ridge! Not only did

his words become immortalized as the Badger football fight song (copied by thousands of high schools), but Arthur rose to General, became the first Governor of the U.S. territory of the Philippines & was the father of another great General, Douglas McArthur.

Almost everything General Norman Cota said on Omaha Beach was inspirational. He calmly told his men, while leading them on a breakout through Hitler's Atlantic wall, "*Gentlemen, we are being killed on the beaches. Let us go inland and be killed.*" When trying to rally his troops to break through the enemy defenses, he encountered a group of soldiers huddling for cover. When told they were the 5th Rangers, Gen. Cota shouted, "*Well, God damn it then, Rangers, lead the way!*" Ever since, the Rangers *lead the way*, these very words becoming their motto!

When the Battle of the Bulge began, a tank commander was trying to maneuver his Sherman tank into safety behind the crumbling & reforming Allied lines! He came upon the 325th Glider Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division. (The 325th job was to bring ammo & supplies to the battlefield, *crashing down in their plywood planes under fire!*) A young PFC was digging a foxhole. When the tank commander confirmed he was looking for a safe place, the PFC responded, "*Well, buddy, just pull your tank in behind me. I'm the 82nd Airborne, and this is as far as the bastards are going!*" Lt. George Rice made one final supply run to the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne, that had been sent to the frontlines at Bastogne lacking supplies, ammo & winter clothing. He told the legendary Easy Company commander, Capt. Dick Winters, that the Nazis were about to cut the last open road, that they were about to be surrounded. Capt. Winters responded, "*We're paratroopers, we're supposed to be surrounded.*" As General Anthony McAuliffe, commanding the troops at Bastogne, tried to get some much-needed sleep, he was awakened by his staff. Two Nazi couriers had been brought blindfolded to the command post, under a flag of truce, carrying a formal request for surrender. Supposedly, the General crumbled the paper up & said, "*Aw Nuts!*" The couriers would not take "no" for an answer, needing a formal reply for their superiors. The General & his staff huddled. It was decided his first response was best! Colonel Joe Harper typed up the 4-letter response: N U T S! When the confused Nazis asked what it meant, the Colonel replied, "*In plain English? Go to hell!*"

It is a thin line, the void between peace & anarchy. Both at home & abroad, there are men & women who don a uniform, announce their presence in the public square & step into that void, walking the line in defense of our *Sacred Freedoms*. We owe a debt of unpayable gratitude to each & every one. To those who have fallen, whose stories remain unfinished, we owe a special debt. To them we can only humbly say, *we will never forget*. They remain on guard, on patrol, on watch, on station, always faithful; forever vigil, forever ready.

Seeds, Sprouts, Grow, Harvest!

The Litchfield Fund – *Tom Malanga*

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