Writing, Book, Thinking, Believe, Historical, War, Historian, Army, Clever, Years, Night, I Can, Cities, D Day, Battle, Luck, Stupid, Archives, Doe, Half

To begin impatiently is the worst mistake a writer can make

~Antony Beevor

If you smash a city when you're trying to capture it, you actually end up providing the perfect terrain for the defenders while blocking the access for your own armoured vehicles.

~Antony Beevor

I just write the sort of book that I would enjoy reading myself, a book that is both scholarly and recreates the experience of people at that time.

~Antony Beevor

Few things reveal more about political leaders and their systems than the manner of their downfall.

~Antony Beevor

I believe passionately in preemptive pessimism, especially before a book comes out. I expect the worst both from reviewers and sales, and then, with any luck, I may be proved wrong.

~Antony Beevor

I think it's outrageous if a historian has a 'leading thought' because it means they will select their material according to their thesis

~Antony Beevor

I joined the Army in 1965 and served with the 11th Hussars, which I loved. The regiment was so relaxed - a salute was more like a friendly wave.

~Antony Beevor

The duty of a historian is simply to understand and then convey that understanding, no more than that.

~Antony Beevor

I feel slightly uneasy at the way historians are consulted as if history is going to repeat itself. It never does.

~Antony Beevor

The British bombing of Caen beginning on D-Day in particular was stupid, counter-productive and above all very close to a war crime.

~Antony Beevor

I think one of the great disasters (in military history) is the way that the Second World War has become the defining reference point for every crisis and every conflict.

~Antony Beevor

The blurring of fact and fiction has great commercial potential, which is bound to be corrupting in historical terms.

~Antony Beevor

I just love the days when you come out of the archives with half a dozen excellent descriptions or poignant accounts of personal experiences.

~Antony Beevor

I can't envisage stopping writing.

~Antony Beevor

I am not someone who believes I am going to find a historical scoop.

~Antony Beevor

It takes me three or four years to research and write each book and the individual stories stay with you for a long time afterwards.

~Antony Beevor

When my first novel was published, I went in great excitement round bookshops in central London to see if they had stocked it.

~Antony Beevor

When I was a child I had something called Perthes' Disease which meant I was on crutches, so I was bullied at school and all that sort of stuff.

~Antony Beevor

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