

# William Westmoreland

## Quotes

*Military, War, Vietnam, Peace, Thinking, Men, Believe, Names, Fear,  
Communication, Lynching, Operations, Engagement, Problem, Age, Criticism,  
Jobs, Made, Tv News, Television*

I do not believe that the men who served in uniform in Vietnam have been given the credit they deserve. It was a difficult war against an unorthodox enemy.

~William Westmoreland

It became very clear that Hanoi was in effect strategically running the Viet Cong operation.

~William Westmoreland

Militarily, we succeeded in Vietnam. We won every engagement we were involved in out there.

~William Westmoreland

Without censorship, things can get terribly confused in the public mind.

~William Westmoreland

We were succeeding. When you looked at specifics, this became a war of attrition. We were winning.

~William Westmoreland

Television is an instrument which can paralyze this country.

~William Westmoreland

They're asking women to do impossible things. I don't believe women can carry a pack, live in a foxhole, or go a week without a bath.

~William Westmoreland

War is fear cloaked in courage.

~William Westmoreland

This was a type of war that we'd had no experience with before. Some of our policies were kind of trial and error in character.

~William Westmoreland

We have reached an important point when the end begins to come into view.

~William Westmoreland

I've made this statement many times: If I would have to do it over again, I would have made known the forthcoming Tet Offensive.

~William Westmoreland

We'll blast them back into the stone ages!

~William Westmoreland

When the soldiers came home from Vietnam, there were no parades, no celebrations. So they built the Vietnam Memorial for themselves.

~William Westmoreland

As the senior commander in Vietnam, I was aware of the potency of public opinion - and I worried about it.

~William Westmoreland

My wife was my greatest asset. I didn't marry her until after World War II, but she has complemented me in every job I've ever had

~William Westmoreland

I was participating in my own lynching, but the problem was I didn't know what I was being lynched for.

~William Westmoreland

The military don't start wars. Politicians start wars.

~William Westmoreland

When I took command in Vietnam, I gave great emphasis to food and medical care - and to the mail

~William Westmoreland

Anytime it was advertised that I was going to be at a particular place, the radicals would be there, the cameras with TV news.

~William Westmoreland

The Vietnam memorial is a masterpiece. The names of the dead are listed there, chronologically. Just the names.

~William Westmoreland

I don't take criticism lying down.

~William Westmoreland

In the end, we lost IndoChina to the communists. But we did not lose Southeast Asia.

~William Westmoreland

President Johnson did not want the Vietnam War to broaden. He wanted the North Vietnamese to leave their brothers in the South alone.

~William Westmoreland

I haven't yet figured out how I was made first captain, because I was not an outstanding student. I was an adequate student.

~William Westmoreland

The last man in the world who should have been criticized was the American soldier. They should have criticized me.

~William Westmoreland

The politicians in Washington just had no idea about the complexity of the situation in South Vietnam.

~William Westmoreland

The military lead turbulent lives, but they are people like everybody else.

~William Westmoreland

I don't think I have been loved by my troops, but I think I have been respected.

~William Westmoreland

I have no apologies, no regrets. I gave my very best efforts.... I've been hung in effigy. I've been spat upon. You just have to let those things bounce off .

~William Westmoreland

By the end of the summer of 1973 I thought it was virtually impossible for South Vietnam to survive. How in the heck could they?

~William Westmoreland

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