



*"I had a sort of a motto, "No details, no paper, and no regrets." No details-don't go about setting machine guns on different sides of bushes. That is done a damn sight better by a platoon commander. Then, no paper. You cannot entirely do without paper, but you can get rid of quite a lot of it. Do not have people coming to you with huge files, telling you all about it. Make the man explain it; and if he cannot explain it, get somebody else who can. When I say "no regrets", that is important. You do the best you can. You may have gotten it wrong; you may have lost a battle. You may even have lost a good many of your men's lives which hurts more, but do not have regrets. Do not sit in the corner and say, "Oh, If I had only gone to the left instead of the right," or "If I had only fought in front of the river instead of behind it." You have done the best you could-it hasn't come off. All right! What's the next problem? Get on to that. Do not sit in the corner weeping about what you might have done.*

*No details, no paper, no regrets"*

-Field Marshall Williams Slim (1891-1970)

The above quote is an excerpt from a speech given by Field Marshall Sir William Slim to CGSC in April of 1952. It was later published in the May 1990 [edition](#) of Military Review. The article titled, [Higher Command in War](#) , is an excellent read for leaders wishing to

reflect on their own leadership philosophy. It's also a great article to include in any leader professional development program.

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