As We See It

By DAN PATRICK

Now that a great many veterans are home from the wars, we all have had extensive opportunity to appraise them and weigh the possible effects of military service on their personalities in general and their outlook on life in particular.

It is impossible to outline a general pattern into which all veterans will fit. There are too many distinct individuals and too many varied courses of war they have followed. Roughly we can divide most of them into three distinct categories.

First, there's the combat veteran. Rows of brilliant ribbons studded with bronze, silver and sometimes gold stars attest to his valor on the far flung fields of battle.

He has seen war in the rough. He has, in some cases, killed. He has seen blood flow and he has fought for survival in the bitter struggle which knows but one rule: kill or be killed.

If you press him, he may tell you the story behind those ribbons and stars. But he isn't very voluble. He's content to thank God that the bloody mess is over and he got out alive.

We know one kid who fought in that first terrible encounter at Guadalcanal. He took the air against the flower of the Jap sky fleet and his beribboned tunic tells the silent story that he won't amplify. His folks never knew he helped sink two Jap cruisers until the citation came through from Admiral Nimitz.

No, he doesn't want to talk about the war. At present he is interested in going to college. He wants to be a public accountant. Yet, he is one of the kids we have been warned will add to our post war crime problems. We don't think so. He's seen his full of blood and thunder. He wants to swap his gun and knife for a pen and pencil.

Our combat veteran is in the minority when we consider that eight of nine men in service are of the "behind-the-lines" variety, according to military authorities.

Some of the latter type never got too enthused over the war. They went in via their draft boards without any fuss and settled down to do the thousand and one jobs assigned them.

One of their greatest trials was absence from home and service in foreign lands for one, two, three and even more years. They're back now and glad of it. They shed their uniforms as soon as they can round up civilian togs. They're anxious to get back to the prosaic existence from which war uprooted them. Soldiering to them was almost a necessary evil. They tolerated it and now that it's over they're content to sink back into the prosaic anonymity of civilian life.

Then there are those who seldom — if ever — heard a shot fired but have returned home intent on keeping their military titles through civilian life.

Their future mission in this world seems to be to impress us with what they've done and how lucky it was for us to have them in a certain place at a certain time. Why, they almost infer that the war would have been lost had this country not had the "advantages" of their service.

Unfortunately for the services they represent, many of these men are officers, not dissimilar to the 90-day wonders of the First World War.

They simply love to regale you about the "invasions" in which they participated. Of course, they tell you they were at Guadalcanal but don't mention that it was weeks and even months after the Japs there had been suppressed.

They talk about Tokyo and Yokohama as though they had to fight their way ashore. They were on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day — plus 90.

Some of them even have become experts on the internal politics of the various countries they have visited. Their stay may have been a matter of months, weeks or even days but they are — and still continue to be until someone calls their bluff — real authorities on the basis they have "invaded."

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Washington

Banking Aid for Italy U. S. Stakes in Orient;

By Tom Rogers

Washington — General Hurley's blast was no surprise to anyone who has been following the left-wing press in this country for the past six months.

Hurley, while not the best diplomat in the world, is a straightforward American. He is independently wealthy of any government salary attractions and is used to speaking his mind.

Four months ago, J. B. Powell, editor of the now revived Shanghai Weekly Review, told this reporter:

"The Communist cause in China is always pleaded for and supported from the Communists in the United States. Officially, Moscow is out of this."

And last week, the same magazine that has printed Harold Laski's articles ... out-and-out anti-Catholic ... attacked Hurley ... started a smear campaign against heroic little J. B. Powell, the most courageous enemy the Japs, the Russians, and the champions of Empire had in the Orient.

General Romulo's words to the writer a few hours before V-J announcement come back repeatedly:

"America is playing for big stakes in the Orient ... the biggest in history. She must not fail."

Despite the [illegible] around the world, there will be additional arguments marshalled against the conscription of youth. Many think that John Chamberlain's criticism of General Marshall's report will be used by some of the [illegible] [illegible]

It can't be true! Forty-seven states reduced their debts last year. And Nevada, the 48th, is now debt-free!

Biggest behind-the-scenes worker in Italy is an American banker!

"Regardless of which regime comes out on top in the present scramble for power in that country, the country will still need credit.

Ready to advance credit ... to a strong government able to prevent rioting ..." is Amadeo Peter Giannini of San Francisco, head of California's Bank of America. I'm not sure but I think it is the largest single, unaffiliated bank in the country, built on the savings of the Italians and Swiss of the west coast and brought into international finance by the genius of the Giannini.

Needless to say, Togliatti, the Italian Communist leader, is finding his resources nothing to attract interested parties from Giannini's loans. Nenni, the Socialist, is equally nettled. Giannini says nothing; waits.

Briefly Noted — Britain's action against American transatlantic lines was badly timed. (We were making five flights a week on one line, cut fares nearly 20%.)

Britain has neither the planes, the ability, nor the know-how to match us in a free-trade competitive market. Our lines are not subsidized — and yet we are [illegible] greater comfort [illegible] than they can. Or anyone else can. But they'll work often.

Personal reflections — There has been a lot of talk about Communist sympathizers in the State Department. We've had them in all the other departments [illegible]

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Bishops' Warnings Seen Substantiated

BY J. J. GILBERT

Washington — The grave warnings sounded by Catholic authorities and reinforced by editorial comment in the Catholic Press have at last found a counterpart in the secular papers of the nation.

Resigning as American Ambassador to China, Maj. Gen. Patrick J. Hurley said his efforts to carry out his work in Chungking were hampered by American career diplomats there, and that when he sought relief from the situation these men "were placed in the Chinese and Far Eastern division of the State Department as my supervisors." In the Department, he further charged, "most of them have continued to side with the communist armed party and at times with the imperialist bloc against American policy."

Two passages in the statement issued by General Hurley on this occasion strikingly recall the statement issued by the Catholic Bishops of the United States on November 18.

General Hurley said that "we began the war with the principles of the Atlantic Charter and democracy as our goal," yet with the end of the war in the Far East, our Lend-Lease supplies were being used "to undermine democracy and bolster imperialism and communism."

The Bishops in their statement said: "In the Atlantic Charter we were given the broad outline of the peace for which we fought and bled and, at an incalculable price, won a grand martial victory. It was that ideal of peace which sustained us through the war, which inspired the heroic defense of liberty by millions driven underground in enslaved countries. It made all oppressed nations confide in us as the trustee of their freedom. It was the broad outline of a good peace. Are we going to give up this ideal of peace? If, under the pretext of a false realism, we do so, then we shall stand face to face with the awful catastrophe of atomic war."

The Bishops had said earlier: "During the war perhaps it may have been necessary for strategic reasons to postpone final decisions on many questions mooted at the conferences of the three great powers. Now we must face the facts."

General Hurley's resignation and charges led to bitter debate on the floors of Congress, and the introduction of resolutions in both the Senate and House calling for investigations. While Representative Carl Curtis of Nebraska called upon the Secretary of State to fire "every communist and near communist" in the State Department, Senator Edwin C. Johnson of Colorado said the United States "is drifting toward war with Russia with certainty and speed;" that "we are trying to bluff Russia with the conscription of teen-aged boys, but we are only fooling ourselves," and that "panic action, appeasement and defeatism must certainly end in disaster."

On the day that General Hurley announced his resignation, Senator Burton K. Wheeler of Montana addressed the Senate for four hours, and declared that "we must quit appeasing Russia and let her know once and for all that we did not fight this war to let her enslave the people of Europe." This was called "the first [illegible] attack" upon the new United Nations Organization [illegible] of legislation [illegible] this country's participation in the UNO.

Senator Wheeler's address and the treatment it received in the press recalled to mind that the Catholic Bishops last April, on the eve of the United Nations Conference in San Francisco, warned:

"Isolationism, whether expressed in the refusal of a nation to assume its obligations in the international community, or realized in the setting up of a sphere of influence in which a great nation surrounds itself with weak puppet states, or disguised in a balance of power policy, is no answer to the world's problems or indeed to the problems of any nation. There is, however, the danger present at this time, that if in the name of realism an attempt is made to substitute for a [illegible] what is in effect only an Alliance of the Great Powers, many nations will take refuge in isolationism. Disillusionment in our country will express itself in the isolationism of the abstentionist."

Subsequently, the Catholic Press reported a series of happenings which was leading persons of divergent interests to believe that communists were pursuing a policy deliberately designed to [illegible] and aggravate already desperate situations in Europe, in the hope of disgusting this country with participation in European — and particularly Eastern European — affairs.

An editorial in the Scripps-Howard newspapers thanks General Hurley for "a great public service," saying he "has pried the lid off a smelly mess that for months has been the subject of ugly rumors."

The Catholic Bishops' statement of November 18 was, of course, on a much broader scale and higher plane than the particular instances which prompted General Hurley's interest-arresting declaration upon his resignation. However, thoughtful persons saw in the earlier statement by the American Hierarchy a solid and provocative challenge to the people of this country to take stock [illegible]