

**THE VETERAN  
COMES BACK**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649729128

The Veteran Comes Back by Willard Waller

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**WILLARD WALLER**

**THE VETERAN  
COMES BACK**



COPYRIGHT 1944 BY WILLARD WALLER  
PUBLISHED BY THE DRYDEN PRESS, INC.  
AT 386 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 16  
MANUFACTURED IN THE U.S.A.  
DESIGNED BY BURNSHAW

*This book has been manufactured in conformity with government regulations for saving paper. A lighter-weight paper substantially reduces the bulk of our books, and narrower margins provide more words to each page. Smaller, more compact books save paper, metal, and labor.*

# Acknowledgements

---

I wish to acknowledge indebtedness to Ann Rosenzweig and Ursula de Antonio for help in reading and digesting materials for this book, and to Stephen Brigham and George Kaplan for certain materials that they supplied. My colleagues at Columbia University have offered criticisms and suggestions, and the staff of the Columbia University Library has been extremely helpful. Donald S. Howard, Russell H. Kurtz, and Sigrid C. Holt, of the Russell Sage Foundation, have also given assistance. Morris Zelditch, Director of War Services, Family Welfare Association of America, and Donald Ambler, of The Dryden Press, have kindly read the manuscript and have contributed certain excellent suggestions. Stanley Burnshaw, of The Dryden Press, has given help which amounted literally to collaboration.

I wish to extend my thanks to all these, and to the authors and publishers who have permitted quotation of copyrighted materials. The illustration of the soldier on the jacket is used by permission of the United States Advertising Corporation, of Chicago.

I must, of course, assume the full responsibility for any errors in this book, as well as for the opinions expressed therein.

WILLARD WALLER

Barnard College  
Columbia University

# Contents

## *Prologue and Introduction*

---

### **PROLOGUE: THE SOLDIER'S ANCIENT WRONG, 3**

### **INTRODUCTION: VETERANS —OUR GRAVEST**

### **SOCIAL PROBLEM**

Veterans and the War of Independence, 6

Confederate Veterans and the Ku Klux Klan, 9

German Veterans of World War I and Fascism, 10

Veterans: America's Gravest Social Problem, 13

### PART ONE

## *The Civilian Is Made into a Professional Soldier*

---

### **1. THE ARMY MACHINE ANNIHILATES THE SOLDIER'S INDIVIDUAL WILL**

The Army's Will Is the Only Will That Counts, 19

Regimentation Makes the Recruit a Soldier, 22

Some Part of Every Soldier Fights the Army, 23

### **2. THE SOLDIER IS ALIENATED FROM THE WORLD HE LEFT BEHIND**

The Army World Is the Real World to the Soldier, 27

The Army Breeds a Culture of Its Own, 28

The Soldier Becomes Estranged from His Loved Ones, 30

He No Longer Speaks the Language of Civilians, 32

**3. HE LEARNS THE DEEP MEANING OF  
COMRADESHIP**

- The Hunger for Solidarity Is Satisfied, 37
- The Soldier's Loyalty Is Stronger Than Death, 38
- The Best Leadership Rests on Comradeship, 40
- Veterans Yearn to Recapture Their Lost Comradeship, 42

**4. HE LEARNS TO BE CRUEL  
AND MERCIFUL**

- The Soldier Takes Hatred and Cruelty for Granted, 45
- War-Wearied Soldiers Fraternalize with Their Enemies, 46

**5. HE LEARNS TO LIVE WITH FEAR,  
HORROR, AND GUILT**

- An Episode Sometimes Condenses the Whole of Horror, 51
- Guilt Feelings Arise from One's Own Conflicting Motives, 52

**6. HE LEARNS A NEW CODE OF MORALS:  
COURAGE IS ALL**

- He "Takes the Cash and Lets the Credit Go," 58
- Courage and Valor Are the Highest Virtues, 59

**7. HE REVALUES "CIVILIZED ATTITUDES"  
AND RELIGION**

- He Takes on New Attitudes to Make Life Bearable, 67
- He Is Reported Overwhelmingly Indifferent to Religion, 68

**8. HE IS BORED AND REBELS,  
REBELS AND IS BORED**

- Boredom Comes from Frustration, 73
- He Devises Ways of Escaping from Boredom, 75

**9. WHEN PEACE BREAKS OUT,  
THE ARMY COLLAPSES**

- The Soldier Thinks the Army's Job Is Done, 77



**ENTR'ACTE: SOCIETY CHANGES WHILE  
THE SOLDIER IS AT WAR**

- War Takes Over the Economic System, 82
- War Plays Havoc with Family Relationships, 83
- Juvenile Delinquency, Education, Boom Towns, 84
- Race Riots and Other Explosions, 86
- Civilians Are the First to Weary of War, 88
- The Chasm between the Army and Society Deepens, 89

## PART TWO

*The Soldier-Turned-Veteran  
Comes Back to an  
Alien Homeland***1. THE VETERAN IS BITTER—  
AND WITH REASON**

- Military Skills Are Useless for Peacetime Living, 92
- The Soldier Comes Home Angry, 95
- How Far Is This Bitterness Justified? 105
- How Long Does This Bitterness Last? 109

**2. MANY THINGS INTERFERE WITH  
THE VETERAN'S ADJUSTMENT**

- The Civilian World Is Changed, Confused, 113
- Every Veteran Is at least Mildly "Shell-Shocked," 115
- The Veteran Is Somewhat Like a "Motherless Child," 119
- And So, Is Often Dependent, 121
- And Sometimes Criminal, 124
- ... But Everything Worth While Takes Time, 127

### **3. THE VETERAN MUST ADJUST TO FAMILY LIVING**

- War Brides of World War II, 131
- The Veteran Doubts His Ability to Love, 134
- Are War Marriages Really Marriages? 136
- Chances for Success of Post-War Marriages, 139

### **4. THE VETERAN MUST ADJUST TO OUR CLASS ECONOMY**

- The Veteran Must Usually Start at the Bottom, 144
- He Feels That His Country Owes Him a Job, 145
- From Army Caste System to Peacetime Class System, 147

### **5. SOME VETERANS RETURN TO SCHOOL**

- Veterans: A Very Special Type of Student, 151
- Their Difficulty in Adjusting to School, 154

### **6. TYPES OF VETERANS: DISABLED, PROFESSIONAL, NORMAL**

- The Disabled: Society's Greatest Responsibility, 159
- McGonegal and Gibson: Two Remarkable Veterans, 162
- The Veteran Who Is Psychoneurotic, 165
- The Choices in Dealing with Psychoneurotics, 168
- Pauperized Veterans: Society's Handiwork, 169
- Those Who Make a Career of Being Veterans, 170
- "The Lost Generation": Professional Veterans, 171
- The Majority of Veterans Readjust—in Time, 173

### **7. VETERANS STICK TOGETHER IN THE POST-WAR YEARS**

- They Feel at Home Only with Other Veterans, 177
- Veterans Are Immigrants in Their Native Land, 180

**ENTR'ACTE: POLITICALLY, THE VETERAN  
IS A DAMOCLEAN SWORD**

- Veterans Believe in Action—Not in Talk, 184  
They Can Become Politically Dangerous, 186  
Demagogues Will Try to Make Them into Stormtroops, 188

## PART THREE

*Our Past Attempts—and  
Failures — to Help the Veteran***1. VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS ASSIST HIM  
TO READJUST**

- Why Veterans Want Their Own Organizations, 193  
Some Earlier Veterans' Organizations, 196  
The Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), 197  
Driving a "Six-Mule Team Through the Treasury," 199

**2. THE AMERICAN LEGION  
OF WORLD WAR I**

- The Varied Program of the Legion, 206  
The Legion and Academic Freedom, 210  
The Legion's Military Preparedness Program, 211  
What Veterans' Organization Contribute to Society, 213

**3. ATTEMPTS TO HELP WITH PENSIONS  
AND OTHER RELIEF**

- Pensions and Other Relief Before World War I, 216  
Pensions and Other Relief for World War I Veterans, 220  
The Ethics of Pensioning Ex-Soldiers, 222  
What Veterans on Relief Have Received, 226  
Veterans' Preferences and Other Benefits, 231