

NOTE

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Directorate of History
National Defence Headquarters
Ottawa, Canada
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by Cope for DHist NDHQ

Date: 31 JUL 1985

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War Artists Programme,
Canadian Army Overseas.

18 Mar 42

Canadian Military Headquarters,
2 Cockspur Street, S.W.1,
LONDON, England.

1. A further Report is presented. This deals with the activities so far undertaken with a view to providing a pictorial record of the Canadian Army Overseas in the present war. It is believed that it may be of value to compile at the present time a brief record of the inception of what may be called the Canadian War Artists Programme.

2. It is hoped that the arrangements recently made, which are described in this Report, will have the effect of providing a collection of paintings and drawings executed by Canadian soldier-artists, which will form a very valuable part of the Canadian war records. The pictures thus provided will be a permanent visual record for the Canadian people of the work of their military forces in the present conflict. It is possible also that they will serve the special purpose of illustrating an Official History.

INCEPTION OF PROGRAMME.

3. As is well known, during the war of 1914 - 1918 much money and energy were expended in creating a large collection known as the Canadian War Memorials Paintings. In spite of this no steps were taken after the war to provide proper means of housing and displaying these pictures, and it is possible that the existence of this collection in storage at Ottawa was an obstacle in the way of official action towards the appointment of Canadian War Artists in the present war. Whether for this or other reasons, action was long delayed.

4. From the time of the first arrival of Canadian troops in the United Kingdom various proposals, it is true, were made for the appointment of official artists. The Rt. Hon. VINCENT MASSEY, Canadian High Commissioner in London, took a constant interest in the matter, and Lieut.-General CRERAR, now acting in command of the Canadian Corps, informs the writer that he himself made a number of suggestions of the same sort when Senior Officer at C.M.H.Q. There were also numerous applications from individual artists who desired employment. (C.M.H.Q. file 4/Artists/1, "Proposals to Employ Official Artists"). No definite Canadian action was taken in the United Kingdom, however, previous to October 1941. In the meantime a very extensive programme had been developed by the British Government, and official paintings depicting the activities of the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force were being produced in large numbers. This programme is described in Report

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No. 26 (dated 8 May 41), in which some comments were also made on the possibility of developing a Canadian programme.

5. It was known unofficially at this time that the Director of the Historical Section, G.S., at N.D.H.Q. had arranged for certain soldier-artists to work under his direction at Ottawa, but no intimation of an intention to despatch them to the United Kingdom had been received.

6. In September, 1941, the High Commissioner called to the attention of the Senior Officer, Canadian Military Headquarters, the fact that a Canadian artist, well known to Mr. MASSEY, was serving in the United Kingdom with 7 Cdn Recce Bn (17 D.Y.R.C.H.). This was D.3998, Trooper W.A. OGILVIE, who had arrived in this country with his unit at the beginning of September. On Mr. MASSEY'S suggestion, General MONTAGUE in October arranged for Trooper OGILVIE to be attached to C.M.H.Q. for three months' experimental duty as an official artist. The Historical Officer was assigned the duty of directing this new activity. OGILVIE was provided with equipment purchased through the Senior Officer's Contingent Fund, and was made, for the moment, an Acting Sergeant (without pay).

7. From 18 - 31 Oct 42 OGILVIE was attached to Headquarters, Canadian Base Units, ALDERSHOT, where he executed a large number of sketches showing the activities of his own and other units. After a period of work in London thereafter OGILVIE was detailed for duty for a fortnight beginning 1 Dec 42 at Headquarters, 1 Cdn Lt A.A. Regt, stationed in the Thames Estuary. He returned from this duty with many very interesting watercolours and pencil drawings of the various gunsites manned by this unit. On 18 Dec 42, after his return from this period in the field, General MONTAGUE approved his being granted the rank of Acting Staff Sergt. with pay, with effect 13 Oct 41, the date of his attachment to C.M.H.Q. OGILVIE then proceeded to work, in temporary accommodation provided for him in Canada House, on developing some of his sketches into more finished pictures.

8. Maclean's Magazine of 1 Dec 41 published an account of the two artists, Sergrts. E.J. HUGHES and O.N. FISHER, who were working at OTTAWA with the Historical Section. In consequence, Canadian Military Headquarters enquired of N.D.H.Q. (telegram G.S.83, 7 Jan 42) whether it was intended to despatch these artists to Britain, describing at the same time the work undertaken by Staff Sergt. OGILVIE. On 24 Jan 42 a reply was received (telegram Hist 6, Defensor to Canmilitary, 22 Jan 42) stating that HUGHES and FISHER would shortly proceed to the United Kingdom, and concurring in a continuation of the activity of OGILVIE. Subsequently (telegram Defensor to Canmilitary, A.G.26, 1 Feb 42) information was received that commissions as 2/Lt had been granted to Sergrts. HUGHES and FISHER and that authority was also granted for equivalent rank for Staff Sergt. OGILVIE. The latter's appointment to 17 D.Y.R.C.H. appeared in C.A.O.R.O. 1648, with effect 1 Feb 42.

9. 2/Lt. E.J. HUGHES, R.C.A., reported for duty at Canadian Military Headquarters, London, on 13 Mar 42. 2/Lt O.N. FISHER, R.C.E., is expected to report within the next few weeks.

10. In consequence of these developments there is now in operation a modest programme under which there will shortly be three Canadian War Artists engaged in recording military activities in the United Kingdom under the general direction of the Historical Officer, C.M.H.Q.

11. It is worthy of note that none of these three artists can be described as a portrait painter, and it would appear desirable to extend the programme by the appointment of a well-qualified painter who can execute portraits of the senior officers of the Canadian Army Overseas as well as of soldier types generally. Canadian Military Headquarters has already been in consultation with the High Commissioner in this connection.

12. Mr. OGILVIE is a native of South Africa, but resident in Canada since 1925. He is well known in the Dominion, and in civil life is Director of the Art School maintained by the Art Association of MONTREAL. Mr. HUGHES and Mr. FISHER are both British Columbians and former pupils of Mr. F.H.VARLEY. They collaborated on mural paintings for the British Columbia exhibit at the SAN FRANCISCO Exhibition of 1939, and on other commissions. It is a notable fact that all three of these artists served in the ranks of the Canadian Active Army before being chosen for their present duty. They thus possess a first-hand knowledge of military life which will be of the greatest value.

SKETCH OF PROCEDURE.

13. Down to the present time, the work done has related entirely to units under C.M.H.Q. On 11 Mar 42, however, the writer introduced 2/Lt OGILVIE to General CRERAR at Advanced Headquarters, Canadian Corps, and asked the Corps Commander's views concerning the employment of artists in the Corps Area. General CRERAR said that he thought the best plan was for OGILVIE and HUGHES to make a "reconnaissance" of the Area in order to determine the sectors where they could work to the best advantage. This is now being arranged. General CRERAR promised that Corps H.Q. would assist in arranging subsequent matters of detail.

14. On the basis of the experience so far obtained, it appears that, while present conditions prevail, the procedure best calculated to produce good results is for artists to be attached to successive units for a period, in each case, of some weeks. Mr. OGILVIE has found that very short visits to a unit are less likely to lead to the production of interesting pictures than longer attachments which give him full opportunity to become acquainted with personnel, equipment and tactical methods.

15. It is proposed that during intervals between attachments to field units the Canadian artists should work in London on developing the sketches made in the field. Permanent accommodation in London has not yet been obtained, but a succession of temporary expedients have been adopted. At the present moment Mr. OGILVIE and Mr. HUGHES have space in MALAYA HOUSE, 57 Trafalgar Square. The possibility of renting the studio is under consideration.

16. The result of the procedure outlined seems likely to be the production of a limited number of large oil paintings, a somewhat larger number of small oils of

watercolour sketches and a very considerable number of field sketches and quick notes, which can if desired be used for development purposes at a subsequent time. Close liaison will be maintained with the Public Relations Officers, C.M.H.Q. and Cdn Corps, and it is expected that the P.R.O. photographers will be of considerable assistance. The artists themselves will also make use of cameras.

17. The Canadian War Artists will, of course, attempt to depict, so far as their numbers and resources permit, the whole of the Canadian Army Overseas, including both Corps units and those under C.M.H.Q. It is hoped before many months to send an artist to Scotland to work with the Canadian Forestry Corps, whose activities offer a particularly attractive field.

18. Arrangements have been made for maintenance of a comprehensive record of all pictures made, whether finished works or merely notes. A copy of this record, complete to the present time, is attached as Appendix "A".

19. Arrangements are, further, being made for pictures executed by the Canadian War Artists to be photographed by the Dark Room establishment of the Public Relations Officer, C.M.H.Q. This will provide a degree of permanent record against the possibility of the loss of originals by enemy action, either in the United Kingdom or while in transit to Canada.

20. It is proposed that a proportion, at least, of the original pictures shall be forwarded to National Defence Headquarters in small consignments as means of transport prove available. The first consignment, it is hoped, can be despatched at an early date. In the meantime, photographic prints of a considerable number of representative pictures so far executed by Mr. OGILVIE are attached to the present Report as Appendix "B".

21. As noted above, expenses for artists' materials have so far been met out of the Contingent Fund of the Senior Officer, C.M.H.Q. It is proposed to continue this procedure unless or until it becomes inadequate. It is now understood that a considerable quantity of artists' materials is being forwarded from the Historical Section at M.D.H.Q., and receipt of this will considerably reduce the amount of purchasing necessary in this country, at least for some time to come.

WAR OFFICE ARTISTS EMPLOYED WITH CANADIAN TROOPS.

22. In addition to the work of the Canadian War Artists, it should be noted that the High Commissioner has arranged for a limited number of British War Artists to be employed in painting Canadian Forces. So far only one of these artists has engaged in this activity. This is Captain HENRY LAMB, M.C., A.R.A., who has been at work with 12 Cdn Army Tk Bn (1 Cdn Army Tk Bde) since 11 Nov 41. During this period Captain LAMB has produced portrait drawings of many of the Officers and men of this unit. He has also done portrait drawings of Major-General P.J. MONTAGUE and Col. HAMILTON GAULT, and has painted a small and hasty, but decidedly successful, oil portrait of Major-General F.E. WORTHINGTON.

23. Captain LAMB is an eminent British portrait painter. He is, incidentally, no stranger to military life, having served throughout the last war as an Infantry Medical Officer, first in the Middle East and subsequently in France.

24. The Historical Officer, C.M.H.Q., has undertaken the duty of making arrangements for Captain LAMB and any other War Office artists who may be detailed to work with Canadian troops. These arrangements have been limited to obtaining the facilities in accommodation, etc., necessary to Captain LAMB for his work.

25. The pictures produced by Captain LAMB remain the property of the British Government.

CANADIAN SECTION, LONDON DISTRICT FORCES EXHIBITION.

26. A word may be said in the present Report of the London District Forces Exhibition which is at present on view at the National Portrait Gallery. This Exhibition, though primarily intended for the forces in the London District, also includes a Canadian Room, to which all Canadian Forces in the United Kingdom were invited to contribute. A very large number of exhibits were received and, so far as space permitted, all of them, without distinction of quality, were hung or otherwise exhibited. The exhibits include a large number of pictures of various types, and, in addition, sculpture and handicrafts.

27. Six of Mr. OGILVIE'S pictures (Nos. 15, 16, 24, 25, 78, 81) have been included in the exhibition, and Mr. OGILVIE himself devoted a week to the very arduous task of arranging the Canadian Room, which he carried out with great success. His large oil painting "Light Anti-Aircraft Gunners at a Fighter Station" (showing a 40-mm. gunsite manned by 109 Cdn Lt A.A.Bty at HORNBURGH, Essex) was favourably noticed by The Times (London) of 10 Mar 42. Mr. J.B. BICKERSTETH, Educational Adviser to the Corps Commander, who was in great part responsible for the idea of having a special Canadian Section in this Exhibition, is now making arrangements to move the Canadian Section to points in the Corps area, where it will be exhibited for a short time after the close of the London Exhibition on 31 Mar 42.

C.P. Stacey

(C.P. Stacey) Major,
Historical Officer (S.D.2),
CANADIAN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS.

BLACK AND WHITE

Serial No.	Negative.	Medium.	Title.	Unit, Place and Date.
1	70	Pencil	Despatch Rider	H.Q. Cdn Base Units, FARNBOROUGH Oct 41
2	74	Pencil	Despatch Rider	" Oct 41
3		Pencil	Despatch Rider	" Oct 41
4		Pencil	Despatch Rider	" Oct 41
5	64	Conte	Carriers Starting for an Exercise	7 Cdn Recce Bn near FLEET Oct 41
6		"	Carriers in a Wood	7 Cdn Recce Bn nr CROOKHAM CORNER Oct 41
7		Brush drawing	Carriers	7 Cdn Recce Bn ALDERSHOT AREA Oct 41
8	63	Conte	Searchlights behind BLENHEIM Barracks	FARNBOROUGH Oct 41
9	69	Pencil	Gun and Predictor	109 Cdn Lt A.A.Bty No.5 Site HORNCHURCH 7 Dec 41
10		Pencil	Hofors on Seawall Site	35 Cdn Lt A.A.Bty "L" Site near CORYTON Dec 41
11		Conte	Gun Drill	35 Cdn Lt A.A.Bty "L" Site near CORYTON Dec 41
12		Conte	Gun Drill, on Barge "TATAM II"	35 Cdn Lt A.A.Bty THAMES off HOLE HAVEN 5 Dec 41
13		Pencil	Gun Platform, "TATAM II"	" 6 Dec 41
14	24	Conte	"TATAM II"	" 4 Dec 41

WATERCOLOUR AND GOUACHE.

SECURITY.

Serial No.	Negative.	Medium.	Title.	Unit, Place and Date.	
15	66	Watercolour	Despatch Rider	BORDON	Oct 41.
16	65	Gouache	Night Convoy	BORDON-PARMEBOURGH ROAD	Oct 41.
17		Watercolour	River Gunsite	35 Cdn Lt A.A.Bty "L" Site CORYTON	2 Dec 41
18	68	Watercolour	Dummy Gun and Gunners	109 Cdn Lt A.A. Bty HORNCHURCH	13 Dec 41
19		Watercolour	River Gunsite	35 Cdn Lt A.A.Bty "A" Site CORYTON	3 Dec 41
20		Watercolour	Maintenance	109 Cdn Lt A.A.Bty HORNCHURCH	11 Dec 41
21		Watercolour	Gun on "TATAM II"	35 Cdn Lt A.A.Bty off HOLE HAVEN	Dec 41
22	72	Watercolour	Arrival of T.C.15 ("Andes")	LIVERPOOL (painted in London from notes)	22 Nov 41
23		Gouache	Carriers climbing	near BORDON	Oct 41
24		India Ink and Water- colour	R.C.O.C. Depot.	BORDON	Oct 41
25	67	Gouache	Carriers	7 Cdn Recce Bn ALDERSHOT AREA	Oct 41
26	25	Watercolour	Quadruple Lewis on "Ritz" Tower.	89 Cdn Lt A.A.Bty TILBURY DOCKS	10 Dec 41
27		Gouache	Carriers at Evening	7 Cdn Recce Bn near FLAET.	Oct 41

WATERCOLOUR AND GOUACHE.

Serial No. Negative. Medium. Title. Unit, Place and Date.

28	73	Watercolour	Covered Gun	109 Cdn Lt A.A. Bty	12 Dec 41
76		Watercolour	Maintenance	109 Cdn Lt A.A. Bty HORNCHURCH (ESSEX)	Dec 41
77		Watercolour (30" x 22")	Maintenance	Enlarged version of 76 Painted in LONDON	
78		Watercolour	North Atlantic	T.C.12 B. (Painted in LONDON from notes made on voyage).	Aug 41
79		Watercolour (23" x 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ ")	North Atlantic	Enlarged version of 78. Painted in LONDON	Feb 42
80		Watercolour	Arrival of T.C. 15 (Reina del Pacifico)	LIVERPOOL (Sketch painted in LONDON from notes).	

QUICK SKETCHES AND NOTES.

Serial No.	Negative.	Medium.	Title.	Unit, Place and Date.
29		Pencil	Gunnery	s.s.STRATHEDEN (T.C.12.B). Aug 41
30		Pencil	Destroyer Escort	T.C.12.B. Aug 41
31		Pencil	Submarine Watch	s.s.STRATHEDEN (T.C.12.B) Aug 41
32		Ink	On Deck	s.s.STRATHEDEN (T.C.12.B) Aug 41
33		Ink	At Rail	s.s.STRATHEDEN (T.C.12.B) Aug 41
34		Pencil	Guard off Duty	s.s.STRATHEDEN (T.C.12.B) Aug 41
35		Ink	Sleeping on Deck	s.s.STRATHEDEN (T.C.12.B) Aug 41
36		Pencil	Soldier resting	Haig Lines Sep 41
37		Pencil	Off Duty	Haig Lines Sep 41
38		Pencil	Carriers	CROOKHAM CORNER Oct 41
39		Pencil	Writing Room	NAAFI Canteen, ALDERSHOT Sep 41
40		Pencil and Wash	R.C.O.C. Depot	BORDON Oct 41
41		Brush drawing	Carrier	ALDERSHOT AREA Oct 41
42		"	Haying on a Parade Ground	FARNBOROUGH Oct 41
43		Wash drawing	NAAFI Canteen	WLENHEIM Barracks, FARNBOROUGH Oct 41
44		Pencil and Wash	Despatch Rider	BORDON Oct 41

QUICK SKETCHES AND NOTES.

Serial No.	Negative.	Medium.	Title.	Unit, Place and Date.		
45.		Pencil.	Inspecting Predictor.	109 Cdn Lt A.A.Bty HORNCHURCH	Dec 41	
46		Pencil	Damaged Spitfire	HORNCHURCH	Dec 41	
47		Pencil	Dummy men	HORNCHURCH	Dec 41	
48		Pencil	Dummy for Bofors site	HORNCHURCH	Dec 41	
49		Pencil	Dummy for Bofors site	HORNCHURCH	Dec 41	
50		Pencil	Men wiping gun	109 Cdn Lt A.A.Bty	Dec 41	
51		Gouache	Note for Background	89 Cdn Lt A.A.Bty THAMES off HOLE HAVEN	Dec 41	
52		Gouache	Note for Background	89 Cdn Lt A.A.Bty THAMES off HOLE HAVEN	Dec 41	
53		Pencil	Note for Bofors Shells	HORNCHURCH	Dec 41	
54		Pencil	"Reina del Pacifico" T.C.15.	LIVERPOOL	22 Nov 41	
55		Pencil	Princes Landing Stage	LIVERPOOL	22 Nov 41	
56		Conte	T.C.15 "Oronsay"	LIVERPOOL	22 Nov 41	
57		Conte	T.C.15 "Andes" "Oronsay"	LIVERPOOL	22 Nov 41	
58		Conte	T.C.15 "Reina del Pacifico"	LIVERPOOL	22 Nov 41	
59	71	Conte	T.C.15 "Orcaades"	LIVERPOOL	22 Nov 41	
60		Conte	T.C.15 "Andes"	LIVERPOOL	22 Nov 41	
61		Pencil	T.C.15 "Reina del Pacifico"	LIVERPOOL	22 Nov 41	

QUICK SKETCHES AND NOTES.

Serial No.	Negative.	Medium.	Title.	Unit, Place and Date.		
62		Conte	"Andes" at anchor T.C.15.	LIVERPOOL	22 Nov 41	
63		Conte	Skyline Note	LIVERPOOL	22 Nov 41	
64		Pencil	Note of Tank Turret		15 Nov 41	
65		Pencil	Anti Tank Tactics		15 Nov 41	
66		Pencil	Anti Tank Tactics		15 Nov 41	
67		Pencil	Spitfire	HORNECHURCH	Jan 42	
68		Pencil	Spitfire	HORNECHURCH	Jan 42	
69		Pencil	Background note	HORNECHURCH	Jan 42	
70		Pencil	Note for No. 3 Site	109 Bty 1st Cdn L.A.A. HORNECHURCH	Jan 42	
71		Pencil	Barrel Spanner (Bofors)	HORNECHURCH	Jan 42	
72		Pencil	Unloading Tool "	HORNECHURCH	Jan 42	
73		Pencil	Barrel Bearer "	HORNECHURCH	Jan 42	
74		Pencil	Predictor and Gun	109 Bty 1st Cdn L.A.A. HORNECHURCH	Dec 41	
75		Pencil and Wash	Parade	PARNBOROUGH	Oct 41	

OIL PAINTINGS

Serial No.	Negative.	Medium.	Title.	Unit, Place and Date.
81		Oil (37 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 27")	Canadian Anti aircraft Gunners at a Fighter Station	Painted in LONDON Jan - Feb 42. A subsequent visit was made to HORNCHURCH in middle Jan in order to make detailed notes and drawings of tools - back- ground material, planes etc. for the Canvas which is based on water colour No. 28. 109 Cdn Lt A.A.Bty.
82		Oil (27" x 19")	Carriers near ALDERSHOT.	Painted in LONDON from sketches and notes made in the latter part of October (Oct 20 - Oct 29 1941). 7 Cdn Recce Bn (17 D.Y.R.C.H.)