

NEWS RELEASE

National Gallery of Art
Washington, D. C.

FOR RELEASE: Immediately

WASHINGTON, February 18: ⁻¹⁹⁴⁴ "The Army at War", an exhibition of paintings and drawings by American artists at Army bases throughout the world, will open on Sunday at the National Gallery of Art, David E. Finley, Director, announced today.

More than a hundred pictures, revealing some of the immensely varied war-time activities of the Army in Italy, the South Pacific, Alaska, North Africa, Brazil, and elsewhere, will be put on display.

The exhibition comprises the work of nineteen of the American artists sent to Army bases to make a broadly-planned graphic record of all aspects of the war. The purpose of this project has been to bring home to the American people a vivid account of Army activities in many countries.

Actual jungle fighting in the South Pacific area is depicted in a series of paintings by Aaron Bohrod, who was in the first wave of troops that attacked Rendova. This artist took part in dangerous landings, and made notes of actual fighting scenes which he recorded on canvas. Army combat episodes likewise were recorded by Howard Cook, who painted various aspects of American battles in the South Pacific area.

The paintings of American artists stationed in England reflect the immense war activities in that country. Sergeant Olin Dows presents a graphic view of many phases of Army training and invasion preparations, as well as other phases of military life abroad.

Canvases by Joe Jones and Henry Varnum Poor serve to bring home a full imaginative realization of the life of the U. S. soldier in Alaska. Both artists were impressed by the deep patriotism of the Eskimo, as their work shows. In the far Aleutians, Edward Laning and Ogden Pleissner recorded scenes of a dramatic and forlorn country, as well as the gallantry, patience and daring of the American airmen in this area.

The exhibition includes drawings and paintings of North Africa by George Biddle, Sergeant Mitchell Siporin and Lieutenant Rudolph Von Ripper. The tremendous transport activity at Natal, Brazil, is reflected in the work of Reginald Marsh, while a number of skillful pictures by Captain Barse Miller show life aboard crowded transport ships sailing to battle areas.

Artists like Winslow Homer were active in the Civil War, while other pictorial records were made in the Spanish-American War and the first World War. However, these efforts were casual and sporadic, whereas the present exhibition is the result of highly organized world-wide coverage of the Army's war activities in this country and abroad.

Mrs. Henry Morgenthau, Jr., wife of the Secretary of the Treasury, points out in the foreword to the catalogue that the exhibition is not restricted to actual battle scenes.

"If the artist concentrated on fighting action alone, leaving out all aspects of the months of preparation, the long voyages with their dreary transport hours, the landings of soldiers and supplies, if he omitted everything except the actual conflict, he would give us an entirely false conception of modern war", says Mrs. Morgenthau.

Consequently, this exhibition is not limited to a record of highly dramatic moments of fierce combat, but gives a more comprehensive account of all the many sided aspects of the war.

These pictures were loaned by the War Department, and are the property of the United States Army. A number of them appeared in the magazines LIFE and COLLIER'S.

The exhibition will close March 19.