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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART  
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(Note: Photographs of paintings available)

BRITAIN DELIVERS WAR PAINTINGS TO MUSEUM OF MODERN ART.

LORD HALIFAX TO OPEN EXHIBITION.

On Thursday evening, May 22, Lord Halifax, Great Britain's Ambassador to the United States, will formally open at the Museum of Modern Art an exhibition of the Art of Britain At War, designed to show the wartime roles England assigns to her artists and designers. It will be composed of oils, watercolors, drawings, prints, posters, cartoons, films, photographs, architecture and camouflage of the present war as well as work of British artists during the first World War. The exhibition will open to the public Friday morning, May 23, and will remain on view throughout the summer. It will then be sent by the Museum to other cities in the United States and Canada.

The nucleus of the exhibition opening in May will be the group of paintings, watercolors and prints which the Museum expected to open as a much smaller exhibition in November 1940. After several postponements the Museum was finally forced to abandon it as, due to wartime shipping conditions, the pictures did not arrive although word had been received that the shipment had left London early in November. The Museum received the shipment late in January.

After weeks of further negotiation with British officials in this country and by cable with London the Museum decided that it would be possible to augment the material already received with other work done by British artists since the first material was sent. The selection of the paintings, watercolors and drawings for the exhibition has been made by Sir Kenneth Clark, K.C.B., Director of the National Gallery in London. No new material has yet arrived at the Museum but word has been received from London that some of it is already on the way and that more will be sent shortly.

During the first World War Great Britain developed an original policy for using its artists to record various aspects of the conflict.

Encouraged by the success of this experiment the Ministry of Information lost no time at the beginning of this war in enlisting artists in a scheme of similar scope. Leading painters and draughtsmen were appointed as official artists to the Navy, the Army and the Air Force. These artists wear uniforms and live and work with the various units to which they are attached. They may, indeed, go into action with those units and see the worst--and the best--of the war with their own eyes. Other artists are given special assignments on the civilian front: in the armament factories or the air-raid shelters; and any artist may submit work to a committee of the Ministry of Information which may purchase it for the nation if it is considered of sufficient interest. Now, after little more than a year of the war, a very interesting collection of war pictures has been built up and exhibited at the National Gallery in London.

A representative selection of these pictures will be exhibited in the Museum of Modern Art. It includes the work of veterans like Sir Muirhead Bone and Sir William Rothenstein and the work of artists like Paul Nash and Eric Kennington who first made their reputation with their paintings of the last war. It also includes the work of several artists whose names will be unfamiliar because it is only in this war that they are revealing their talent. All these artists have had one aim: to show the reality, the pathos, the humor and the tragedy of the war, which only the sensitive artist can see and record. This is sometimes best achieved by the rapid sketch, and in the drawings of Feliks Topolski, Edward Ardizzone, Anthony Gross will be found a keen and human observation quite beyond the means of the camera. Ardizzone was with the expeditionary force in France, and his drawings give a vivid impression of that confused phase of the war. He has now been transferred to the London front, and sketches like Shelter Scene and A Pub in Silvertown convey with the fidelity and realism of a Daumier the atmosphere in which the people of London are now living. Topolski is attached to the Polish forces in Great Britain, and he shows how a true artist can snatch beauty from the most trivial incidents. Particular interest attaches to the vivid sketches of

Midshipman Worsley, for in this case it is not an officially appointed artist who is recording an aspect of the war, but a member of the fighting forces.

Among the artists whose work will be shown in the exhibition are Edward Ardizzone, John Armstrong, Edward Bawden, Sir Muirhead Bone, Richard Eurich, Barnett Freedman, Anthony Gross, Keith Henderson, Eric Kennington, Henry Moore, Paul Nash, John Piper, R. V. Pitchforth, Eric Ravilious, Sir William Rothenstein, Graham Sutherland, Feliks Topolski and Midshipman J. Worsley, R.N.R.