

41516 - 38
THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRITAIN DELIVERS LAST SHIPMENT OF WAR PAINTINGS
TO MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

A final shipment of fourteen paintings and drawings by noted British artists has just arrived from London in time for inclusion in the exhibition Britain At War, which opens to the public Friday, May 23, at the Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street. The Museum announces with great pleasure that not a single shipment from London for the exhibition has been lost en route. All the paintings, cartoons, posters, photographs, films, camouflage and catalog information--the graphic record of a country at war--have safely reached their destination in the Museum. The first shipment was received the end of January with the arrival by boat of a large consignment of paintings previously shown in the National Gallery in London.

Not only by boat but also by Clipper plane, the material for this graphic record of Britain at war reached the United States. A single plane brought twenty-three four-pound rolls of drawings, photographs and posters. Figures on the actual weight of this shipment are not available but each roll had from thirty to thirty-five dollars worth of stamps.

Lord Halifax, the British Ambassador to the United States, will open the exhibition at a members' preview Thursday evening, May 22. That same evening from 6:15 to 6:30 he will be the principal speaker on a two-way radio program over an international hookup of the Columbia Broadcasting System. Speaking from London on the program *Harold Nicolson, Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry* will be ~~the Right Honorable Alfred Duff Cooper, Minister~~ of Information, and Sir Kenneth Clark, K.C.B., Director of the National Gallery in London. John Hay Whitney, President of the Museum, will introduce the speakers on the broadcast, which will be heard over WABC in this country.

With the opening of the exhibition to the public on Friday, May 23, New York will have an opportunity to see the soldier and civilian armies of Britain depicted in many of the visual arts--arts

which are still being carried on in wartime and which further the war effort. The last shipment, just received by boat, includes a vivid painting by Frank Dobson of a street of collapsing buildings outlined against raging flames the night of November 24, when Bristol was almost destroyed by a raid. The artist was on the scene. A painting by John Piper shows the shattered walls of Coventry Cathedral illuminated by fire November 15, the night of the great bombardment. Three eerie drawings of London's crowded underground shelters depict ghostlike forms in vast, dimly-lit catacombs. Although these weird pictures resemble frightened martyrs of the early Christian era, they merely present the fantastic spectacle of civilized man in 1941 A.D. sleeping below the surface of the world's largest city, and have been drawn by the British artist, Henry Moore, whose pre-war abstract sculpture may be seen in the Museum's sculpture garden. Also included in the shipment are portraits by Eric Kennington of famous R.A.F. flight commanders and fighter pilots.

The exhibition will remain on view throughout the summer and will then be sent on tour in this country and in Canada.

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
NEW YORK

91
11 WEST 53rd STREET
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900
CABLES: MODERNART, NEW-YORK

May 19, 1941.

TO Art Editors
City Editors

Dear Sirs:

As our Britain At War exhibition will not be ready for the critics' preview until Thursday afternoon, May 22, 1 to 5 P.M., I have asked the art editors if they will defer their weekend reviews of the exhibition until the following weekend, May 31 and June 1. All the art editors with whom I have been able to get in touch by telephone have agreed to this. Therefore the weekend art reviews of our exhibition Britain At War are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday papers of May 31 and June 1.

The art editors understand, however, that news stories of the exhibition may appear the day of its public opening, Friday, May 23.

For any further information will you please telephone me at Circle 5-8900.

Sincerely yours,



Sarah Newmeyer
Publicity Director