

When Soldiers Take Up The Pencil and Brush

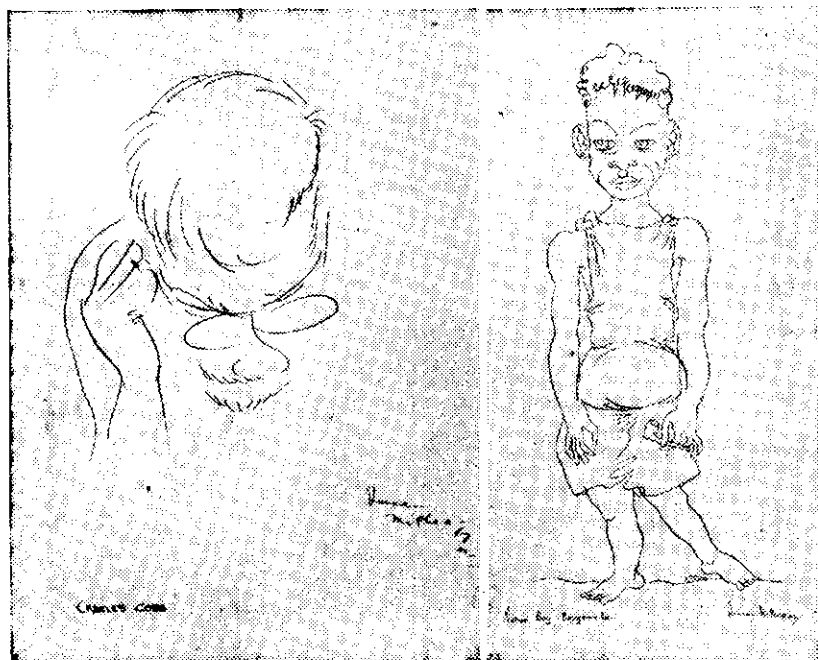
EARLY this year, the U.S. Special Service Division, which corresponds roughly to our A.E.W.S., asked fighting men in the Solomon Islands to submit drawings, paintings, sketches and carvings for a collection that would be exhibited in the Pacific War Zone, and would show how servicemen were expressing themselves. From more than 1500 entries, which included anything from tin helmets adorned with female figures to really good oil and water colours, some 300 pieces were chosen to be exhibited. The Allied committee which made the selection included Lieut. Russell Clark, Official War Artist attached to the New Zealand Forces.

Now, the exhibition is in Wellington, where it was opened by His Excellency the Governor-General, last week. *The Listener* saw the collection in the last stages of being assembled, and we reproduce here a selection from the paintings and drawings, including two by the New Zealander Duncan McPhee, who was with the R.N.Z.A.F. in the Islands.

The collection includes a few wood carvings and small sculptures and several oils, but the bulk of it consists of pencil drawings and water colours. Makeshift materials had to be used in many of the oil paintings, for the artists found themselves in the Solomons without proper canvas or colours. Pieces of old tent were stretched on crude frames and house-paint was sometimes used; even brushes had to be improvised in some cases, and men who wished to make casts of their models had to depend on the plaster they could get from hospitals.

Artists (other than official artists) of the U.S. Army, Navy and Marine Corps are represented, and the New Zealanders contributed a small proportion. The exhibition was sponsored by the American Special Service Division in the Islands, but has been brought to this country by the R.N.Z.A.F., and is being shown under the auspices of the Air Force Educational Services, augmented by the inclusion of work from New Zealand stations.

The exhibition will be on view later at Dunedin (January 12-26), Christchurch (February 9-23), and Auckland (March 9-23).



"Charles Cobb," a clever portrait in a few lines by the New Zealander Duncan McPhee. "Native Boy, Bougainville," another pen drawing by Duncan McPhee.

Items From The ZB's

ACCLAIMED in Sydney as one of radio's best comedies for many years, *A Date with Janie* is now being heard from Station 12B every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10.30 a.m. In selecting Gwenda Wilson, one of Australia's best known and most popular stage stars, to play the lead, the producers took into consideration the fact that she had made an outstanding success of the part when *A Date with Janie* was staged in Sydney last year. More than 20 of Australia's leading radio stars support Gwenda Wilson in this show, which will start from 22B on December

18, 32B on January 1 and 42B on January 15.

A DELIGHTFUL Christmas programme for children is being heard from Station 12B, entitled "Santa's Magic Christmas Tree." A fascinating story has been woven round the exploits of Santa Claus, Billie and Babs, Gee Willikins, a gnome who is Santa's right-hand helper, a Wicked Wizard, and many other Christmas characters during a visit by Billie and Babs to Santa's Magic Christmas tree up at the North Pole. The programme is being featured from 12B every Thursday and Friday evening at 6.30.



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