



Release

A NATIONAL FILM BOARD

THE NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA, OTTAWA

Set-up: W. Hewitson Cable Code - NAVYART Prod. No. 52-309-7

Camera: W. Sutton Cable Address - STARK, CANADAFILM, OTTAWA

284' Fine Grain Positive

ART ON THE HIGH SEAS

.....

CANADIAN SAILORS OF AIRCRAFT CARRIER HMCS MAGNIFICENT ENTHUSIASTIC WIELDERS OF BRUSH -- BUT - NOT FOR SWABBING DECKS -

.....

"MAGGIE'S ART CLUB" HUGE SUCCESS FLAT-TOP COMPETES WITH PARIS' FAMOUS MONTMARTE AS ART CENTRE

.....

Aboard HMCS Magnificent, Halifax, N.S. - December 00, 1952

When HMCS Magnificent sailed on a four-month cruise to the Mediterranean and European waters, the word "painting" had no more immediate significance to her officers and men than adding a new coat of paint to the 18,000 ton carrier's huge hull. But a sea-going artclass, unique in Canadian art annals, has changed all that. A band of 25 enthusiastic sailor-artists -- who call themselves "Maggie's Art Club" -- has made the ship's company more art conscientious than a deluxe tour of Paris' famous Montmarte district.

The club was formed by Lieutenant Commander C. Anthony Law, DSC, CD, a former official war artist and well known Canadian painter of landscapes and seascapes. Organizing the club as a hobby group his only requirement for entry was: "anybody who was interested was welcome". Most of the painting was done when the Maggie hit port during its cruise in such varied locales as Greece, Malta, North Africa, England and Scotland. Commander Law and his club literally painted the town - and the countryside.

To quote from TIME magazine: "It was enough to make an old salt weep. On a cruise to the Mediterranean last summer, the sleek gray aircraft carrier Magnificent, pride of Canada's Navy began looking like a ruddy art gallery. The radio room walls sprouted brightly coloured canvasses, the shipwright shop was festooned with art, so was the barber shop".

Commander Law has made no effort to influence the style of his painters. "I have tried to let them develop their own",

he said, "and they have come along amazingly well. Right now we have some who lean towards impressionists, the surrealists, the romanticists, and a few are trying non-objectives for a change".

Maggie's first art class is breaking up as its members get transferred to new ships. But Commander Law's pupils say they will keep on painting - and spread the habit through the Royal Canadian Navy.

S H O T L I S T

284' fine grain
positive

"MAGGIE'S ART CLUB"

- 1 1. MLS Sailors painting on flight deck of Maggie.
2. MS . Reverse
- 2 3. CS Sailors sketching.
4. MLS Aircraft suspended in air - pan to sailor painting on radar deck.
3. 5. MLS Reverse of sailor
4. 6. MS Art class in session - Commander Law instructing.
5. 7. MCS Law instructing at art model.
8. CU Commander Law
- 6 91 CU Model
- 9 10. CS Artist working at painting of model.
8. 11. CS Another artist working at painting of model.
- 7 12. MS Reverse angle of art class in session.
13. MS ~~Artist painting in living quarters.~~
14. MS Lieutenant Commander Wilgress (son of Dana Wilgress Under-secretary of State for External Affairs) painting in his cabin.
- 11 15. MS Barber shop -- Gaston Boulanger in barber chair -- his paintings in background. Center painting is of HRH Prince Charles.
- 13 16. CS Boulanger in chair.
- 14 17. CU Portrait of HRH Prince Charles.
- 11 18. CU Painting of ship
- 12 19. CU Landscape
10. 20. MS Shipwright shop - sailors busy making frames.
21. MLS Sailors leaving ship on their way to paint landscapes.
22. LS Herring Cove, N.S., - artists on wharf -- pan to subject being painted.
23. MS Artists at work on wharf.
24. CS Officer painting in boat.
25. LS Artists on wharf.