



War Art – A Glimpse of the Every Day

Interpretation of Art - an activity for all ages.

During the Second World War many people had to adjust to a new way of living. This was particularly true for those who went overseas to support the war effort. In his 1943 drawing titled “My Living Quarters”, artist Squadron Leader George Broomfield captured the interior of a Nissen hut that might have served as his living quarters. While many huts were set up in a dormitory style, some appear to have been single quarters. These were most likely given to higher ranking officers.

Take a look at Broomfield’s drawing and try to identify as many items or features of the building as you can. (The Education Department found 18.)

Of the items you identified, which ones can you also find in your room? Do they look the same? At your place, are some items maybe in a different room?

Is there anything missing from the picture that you would expect to find in a room?

As you probably noticed, the room is fairly bare. When military personnel went overseas, they usually did not take a lot of stuff with them.

If you had to go to a place far away for a few weeks, and could only take one or two bags, what would you take?

After you analyzed Broomfield’s work, take a look at the postcard drawn by Ron Clarke. How does his Nissen hut compare to Broomfield’s?