

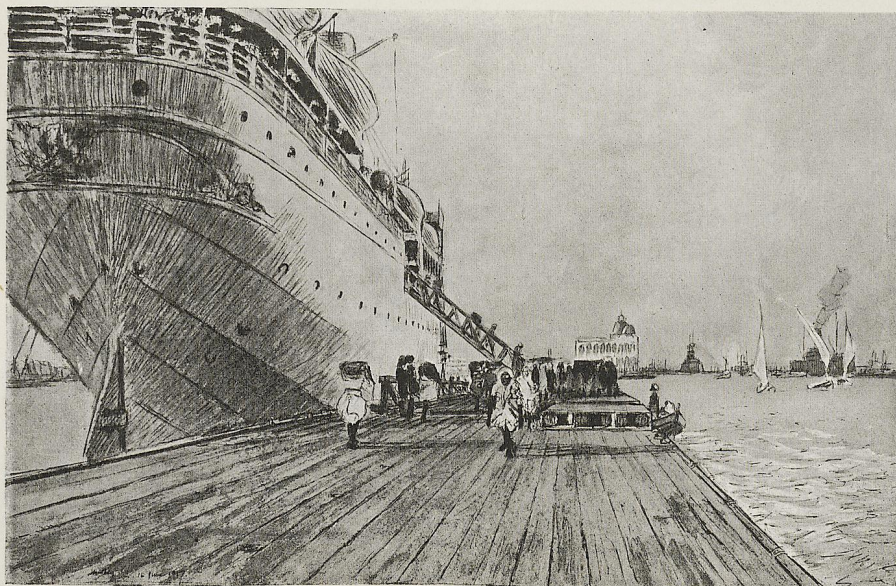
*Drawings by James McBey, Official Artist in Palestine*

DRAWINGS BY JAMES McBEY,  
OFFICIAL ARTIST IN PALESTINE.  
BY MALCOLM C. SALAMAN.

WHEN Second Lieutenant James McBey came to me, on his unexpected return from France, and told me that he had been offered the post of official artist in Egypt and Palestine—to do, in fact, for the British Army on that front what Muirhead Bone had done on the Western—I said, “It’s the chance of your life—of course you are going to accept?” “I have accepted—naturally,” he answered, his face lighted with gladness, perhaps with something more than gladness. It was the expression of a man who sees within his reach a great opportunity to use the very best of himself, and determines to grasp it with all his faculties. He had been recently, with special permission from Headquarters, spending his ten days’ leave sketching on the Somme front, the result of which has already been seen in a small group of distinguished etchings; but I surmised that whoever had wisely recommended his selection in the national interest for Egypt and Palestine must have had in mind not only his masterly

etching of the torpedoed *Sussex* lying pathetically in Boulogne harbour, but—and these pre-eminently—his remarkable Moorish set of etched plates. For in those, as in the innumerable sketches and colour-notes he had brought home from Morocco five years ago, Lieut. McBey had revealed an extraordinarily individual and sympathetic vision for the pictorial aspects of Oriental life and atmosphere. One felt confident, therefore, that, with the British Army in its multifarious activities and its numerous racial diversity, fighting its advance through Palestine over the historic battlefields of long ages towards the sacred places of universal reverence, an artist with such sensitive pictorial vision and vivid graphic faculty would certainly discover in a rich variety of incident and the appealing atmospheric mysteries of Eastern light the happy artistic motive.

That is just what Lieut. McBey has done. It is impossible to look through his first batch of 121 drawings, done in pen and ink and water-colour wash, without feeling convinced that he has fully justified his selection, and that the official pictorial record of our campaign in Sinai and Palestine, with its far-reaching results



“LOADING PROVISIONS”

FROM A DRAWING BY JAMES McBEY, OFFICIAL ARTIST IN EGYPT AND PALESTINE