

Betcha Dinna Know Much About the Artist Arthur Singer

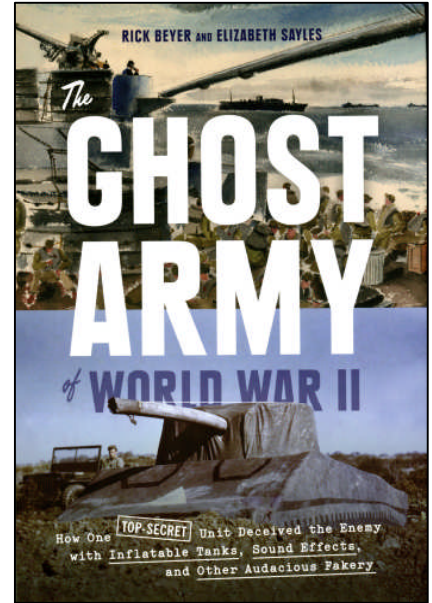
By Stan Cronwall

Well, I didn't either until I decided to read "The Ghost Army of World War II". This book runs less than 250 pages but is crammed full of stories and pix about the diverse group of people brought together to create diversions and deceptions to fool German Intelligence just before and after Operation Overlord - the D-Day invasion of Normandy, France.

This top secret unit was known on paper as the Twenty-Third Headquarters Special Troops. Armed with little more than inflatable tanks, rubber artillery, exceptional radio skills, and sound equipment with a very small contingent of men actually carrying weapons they ranged up and down the front lines misleading the enemy as to the strength, location, and identity of American units.

This unit of never more than eleven hundred men was able to simulate two Divisions conjuring up phony convoys, phantom divisions and make-believe headquarters.

One of these men was Arthur Singer who went on to become one of America's best-known wildlife artists. In "Ghost Army" there are ten examples of his illustrations done during down times during the war. Below is one of Singer's war-time scenes showing the convoy taking the group across the Atlantic to Great Britain.



His post-war career began with doing illustrations for *American Home*; then wildlife features for *Sports Illustrated* and bird illustrations for the World Book Encyclopedia.

He went on to illustrate more than 20 books including the very popular "Birds of the World" and "Birds of North America". He traveled extensively across the United States as well as to Africa, the Middle East, Europe and South America to see new species in their natural habitats.

In 1982, he and his son Alan Singer created the "Birds and Flowers of the Fifty States" series of stamps for the United States Postal Service. Reportedly it was one of the largest selling issues in the history of U.S.P.S.

Below is a cropped pane of the Birds & Flowers Issue of 1982. A self-portrait done in 1945 is below. Arthur Singer died in 1990 at the age of 72.

