

★ ★ WILLIAM S. PHILLIPS ★ ★  
**AMERICAN HOMEFRONT**  
★ ★ ★ SERIES ★ ★ ★

---

**FACT SHEET**

---

**ABOUT THE AMERICAN HOMEFRONT SERIES**

- A series of paintings with a nostalgic look at the American Homefront during WWII
- The change in mood and direction of the war at home is reflected in the paintings as the series progresses.
- The aircraft shown in the paintings begins with a somber B-17 in *If Only In My Dreams* and ends with a more cheerful return to civilian aviation activities in *The Dream Fulfilled, Where the Love Light Shines*
- The American Homefront Series includes five images, one of which is not completed:
  - *If Only in My Dreams (1942)*
  - *A Christmas Leave, When Dreams Come True (1943)*
  - *Summer of '45: And All Creation Rejoiced (1945)*
  - *The Dream Fulfilled, Where the Love Light Shines (1945)*
  - and a new painting

---

## IF ONLY IN MY DREAMS (1942)

- Limited Edition Print Release Date: August, 1993
- Anniversary Edition Canvas Release Date: March, 2005
- First of the American Homefront Series
- The first painting depicting Phillips Bay, the artist's fictitious all-American community
- Set at Christmas, 1942
  - Candles shine in each window
  - The church opens its doors for prayer
  - The family dog waits patiently for his master's return
  - In the distance, a B-17 carries its crew to an uncertain future
- Includes the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress
  - During WWII, B-17s were among the most modern aircraft in the U.S. inventory
  - The B-17 received the name Flying Fortress from a Seattle reporter who commented on its defensive firepower
  - Between 1935 and May of 1945, 12,732 B-17s were produced. Of these aircraft, 4,735 were lost during combat missions
  - Today, fewer than 100 B-17 airframes exist and even fewer are in airworthy condition
- Title comes from the lyrics to the Christmas classic "I'll Be Home for Christmas"
  - One of America's most popular homegrown holiday songs
  - On October 4, 1943, Crosby recorded "I'll Be Home for Christmas" with the John Scott Trotter Orchestra for Decca Records
  - Shot to the top ten of the record charts (as "White Christmas" had for Crosby the previous year)
  - Earned Crosby his fifth gold record
  - The song was at the top of charts for 11 weeks
  - The original Bing Crosby and countless other versions have been popular sellers ever since
  - Struck a bittersweet note when it finished with "... if only in my dreams."
  - It touched a tender place in the hearts of Americans, both soldiers and civilians, who were then in the depths of World War II

---

## A CHRISTMAS LEAVE, WHEN DREAMS COME TRUE (1943)

- Limited Edition Print Release Date: July, 1994
- Anniversary Edition Canvas Release Date: To Be Announced
- The car that was in the driveway of *If Only in My Dreams* is now on the way to a happy reunion
- The dog that waited so patiently for his master's return in *If Only in My Dreams* now sits beside his owner
- The young man in the car is home on leave
- The hopeful mood extends even to the aircraft in the image: The DC-3
- Includes the DC-3 (known in its wartime version as a C-47)
  - The Douglas DC-3 is considered by some the most successful civil aircraft ever built
  - The first DC-3 flew in 1935
  - There were 11,000 DC-3s by the end of 1944, accounting for over 90 % of the world commercial aircraft
  - President Eisenhower said the DC-3 was one of the West's four weapons, the other ones being the jeep, the bazooka and the nuclear bomb
  - Many DC-3s are still in service (about 2000 by some count)

---

## SUMMER OF '45: AND ALL CREATION REJOICED (1945)

- Limited Edition Print Release Date: May, 1995
- Anniversary Edition Canvas Release Date: March, 2004
- Fourth of July, 1945
- The war in Europe has ended
- The boy and girl symbolize the post-war hope that perhaps soon all would live in peace
- The distant thunderstorm represents the “cloud of war” moving away
- Includes a civilian version of the new Lockheed Constellation (or “Connie”):
  - Ushers in a new era of peacetime air transportation
  - Of all airliners ever built in America, the checkered career of the Constellation has to be amongst the most colorful
  - Designed specifically for Transcontinental and Western Airlines (TWA) in 1939
  - The Lockheed Model 49 Constellation was first flown in 1943 and almost immediately commandeered by the US Army Air Force for use as a VIP transport
  - At the end of WWII, Lockheed bought back from the Army as many as were available and began delivering Connies to the airlines of the world

---

## THE DREAM FULFILLED, WHERE THE LOVE LIGHT SHINES (1945)

- Limited Edition Print Release Date: July, 1995
- Anniversary Edition Canvas Release Date: To Be Announced
- It's the holidays of December, 1945
- The war is finally over
- Three generations of the family from *If Only in My Dreams* and *A Christmas Leave, When Dreams Come True* are finally back together for good
  - The son, who has been fighting in the war, walks up the steps to his grandparents' house with his fiancée
  - Followed by the loyal dog that waited for him in *If Only in My Dreams* and rode with him (perhaps on his way to propose marriage) in *A Christmas Leave*
- A Beechcraft Staggerwing, symbolizing a return to peacetime aviation, flies off in the distance
  - The Beech Aircraft Company was formally organized in April 1932, and in November of that same year, the first Beechcraft Model 17 Staggerwing made its maiden flight
  - This classiest of classic airplanes transported many military generals and executives throughout WWII and for years afterwards
  - Even today the Beechcraft Model 17 Staggerwing is comparable to modern private aircraft