



LIFE'S COVER

The painting of the Madonna and Child on the cover by Lauren Ford is reproduced in approximately the size of the original. It was inspired by the 16th Century Flemish master, Gerard David, whose *Enthroned Madonna* altarpiece hangs in the Louvre. As she usually does, Miss Ford has painted the likeness of someone she knows into the figure—in this case, Mme. Geneviève Fauconnier with whom she used to stay on her trips to France. Starting on page 32 of this Christmas issue LIFE presents a portfolio of 11 religious paintings by Miss Ford.

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LIFE'S PICTURES

W. Eugene Smith has accompanied U. S. troops invading Saipan, Guam and Leyte, where he took pictures of the wounded in a Filipino church (pages 13-17). The war on Leyte has cost the lives of three correspondents, one photographer. During his work on the islands Smith was shot through the trouser leg, his belt was shot off, bouts of fever made him lose 35 pounds. He lost one camera at Leyte and for the first two weeks used another on which he had made a vital repair with a rubber band.

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