

Winslow Homer, **Sharpshooter on Picket Duty**, 1862, wood engraving on newsprint, National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.

Winslow Homer served as an artist correspondent for *Harper's Magazine* during the Civil War, living among the Union Troops for a period of time. He created many images, mostly engravings, depicting every day camp life for soldiers. One of his most haunting images is **Sharpshooter**. Instead of the traditional battle image of troops marching into combat, Homer shows an individual soldier perched in a tree using the latest technology to fire, unseen, upon the enemy. Instead of up close hand to hand combat, rifled muskets allowed for a different type of warfare, one where killing was increasingly impersonal. Homer wrote in a letter "I looked through one of their rifles once... The impression struck me as being as near murder as anything I could think of in connection with the army and I always had a horror of that branch of the service."