**Bomb Store**, 1942
Oil on paper
27.5 x 36 cms
(10.81 x 14.15 in)
P.O.A.

Ex Guillaume Gallozi 1989,
Exhibited: Gallozzi The British War Artists NYC 1989, #8
Provenance: The Artists Family.

The frenetic activity of war-time workers in an artificially lit Ministry of Defence underground bomb store is captured by Bomberg’s agitated expressionism. Their movements are, however, careful as heavy high explosive shells are stacked within the 90 foot deep disused gypsum mines near Stone Pit Hills commandeered by RAF Fauld at Tutbury near Burton-on-Trent. Bomberg’s ambition to be acknowledged, in the present guise as a war artist, led to a two week commission from the Artist’s Advisory Committee to work in these unusual settings. The ‘Bomb Store’
series, ranging from painted canvases to drawings on grease proof paper, cohered with the
artist’s earlier interests in mechanistic forms, in human figures, in animated motion, and in walls
of rock. Richard Cork explained how, during two weeks of intensive documentary art making,
the artist presents the store as a dark, eerie chamber permeated by intimations of a human a
human tragedy that these bombs would inflict when unleashed on historic cities. Nevertheless,
Bomberg clearly thrived during this commission and, as Cork again stressed Seems to have
explored this unsettling locale without any trepidation