On the eve of the 1943 Allied invasion of Italy, just weeks before Allied bombs nearly destroyed Leonardo da Vinci’s Last Supper in Milan, President Franklin Roosevelt empowered a new kind of soldier to protect mankind’s greatest cultural treasures. In May 1944, two unlikely heroes, both Americans—an artist and a scholar—embarked from Naples on the treasure hunt of a lifetime, tracking billions of dollars of stolen art, including works by Michelangelo, Donatello, Titian, Caravaggio, and Botticelli. As German troops destroyed the historic bridges of Florence, a heretofore-unknown Nazi SS general emerged as a central figure who would later hold the artworks hostage while negotiating a secret surrender of all German forces in Italy with American spies. A gripping narrative that will appeal to fans of history, art, travel, and adventure, Saving Italy takes readers from the battlefields of Monte Cassino to the Vatican, and behind closed doors with the great Allied and Axis leaders: Roosevelt, Eisenhower, and Churchill; Hitler, Göring, and Himmler. (continued on pg. 2)

The George Clooney and Grant Heslov film The Monuments Men began filming in early March in Berlin, Germany. Clooney has assembled a remarkable cast including Cate Blanchett, Matt Damon, Bill Murray, Jean Dujardin, Hugh Bonneville, John Goodman, and Bob Balaban. In addition to a starring role, Clooney is also directing the film. He and Heslov have also written the script based on Robert M. Edsel's bestselling book, and are producing it through their company, Smokehouse Productions. The film premieres on December 18, 2013 in the United States and is being released by Sony Pictures. Twentieth Century Fox is the worldwide distributor outside North America. This will be the first feature film presentation of this significant part of World War II history.

"It's been a long time coming, but finally my vision of presenting the Monuments Men's story to a worldwide audience will soon be realized," Mr. Edsel recently commented. "I have been so impressed with the creativity and hard work of George and Grant, both of whom are passionate about these heroes' stories. This film will now ensure that these men and women's legacy will be known alongside other notable groups including the 101st Airborne Division and, more recently, the Tuskegee Airmen. However, the work of the
Monuments Men is a global story that is still being written as hundreds of thousands of objects stolen during the war remain missing. I believe this film will change that by not only bringing visibility to these missing cultural treasures, but by engaging the public to help us in our search for these belongings of others. It's an honor for me, and the Monuments Men Foundation, to be working with such gifted artists and businessmen as George and Grant to tell these heroes’ story.

Saving Italy (continued)

"After living in Florence for five years, I couldn't be more excited about the opportunity to tell the story of what this group of Monuments officers did to preserve that great nation's innumerable art treasures," Mr. Edsel recently said. "This is an entirely different story than the one I recounted in my last book, with a completely new cast of characters. The research material we uncovered on several of the story's key figures, in particular Nazi SS General Karl Wolff, fascinated me. It enabled me to tell about Wolff's incredible role in Hitler's plot to kidnap the Pope, and later his use of the missing artworks from Florence to save himself from prosecution as a war criminal. The book has received many wonderful compliments from early readers including a man I greatly admire, Tom Brokaw."

"Saving Italy is an astonishing account of a little known American effort to save Italy's vast store of priceless monuments and art during World War II. While American warriors were fighting the length of the country, other Americans were courageously working alongside to preserve the irreplaceable best of Italy's culture. Read it and be proud of those who were on their own front lines of a cruel war."

—Tom Brokaw

The Monuments Men movie (continued)
The Monuments Men has been Translated into 22 Languages -
Latest Launches in Italy, Germany, and Croatia

This prominent bookstore in Zagreb, Croatia displayed the book in grand style.

Robert standing in front of the Babylon Theater in Berlin before his first lecture in Germany.

German editions of The Monuments Men on display at a press conference in Berlin.

The team celebrating a successful launch over dinner in Berlin.

Robert and Italian Researcher Anna Bottinelli were in Rome for the Italian release and were able to witness the introduction of Pope Francis.

German Researcher Dorothee Schneider was interviewed by Austrian TV station ORF.
Monuments Men Exhibition at The National World War II Museum

The Monuments Men Foundation and The National World War II Museum are proud to announce the addition of a permanent exhibit honoring the legacy of the Monuments Men and women. The exhibit will be part of the museum’s Liberation Pavilion, projected to break ground in 2014/2015. This will be the first permanent exhibit dedicated to the memory of the Monuments Men and will provide visitors of all ages with an opportunity to relive the experience of their historic discoveries of priceless works of art. The Monuments Men Foundation is busy gathering artifacts and other related objects for inclusion in the exhibit from the Monuments Men and their families. If you have any such items, please contact Elizabeth Hudson at ehudson@monumentsmenfoundation.org or 214-219-1222 ext 104.

Boeing Center Dedication at The National World War II Museum

Once again, the remarkable team at The National World War II Museum has set the standard for excellence in design and execution. The dedication of the US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center, on January 12, 2013, honored Boeing’s instrumental role in helping win World War II. The presence of dignitaries and numerous veterans made for a festive weekend of events, all of which reminded us once again of the sacrifices so many others have made to provide us with the freedom we enjoy today. As the staff of the museum has noted about the Freedom Pavilion: “Exhibits and interactive experiences paint the picture of a nation mobilized for war — those who answered the call of service and those who supported our fighting forces by producing planes, ships, tanks and other vital machinery in unprecedented numbers.”
In September, a wonderful group accompanied Monuments officer Harry Ettlinger through a tour of western Europe to key sites that played an important role in the work of the Monuments Men. The most poignant moment occurred at the Netherlands-American Cemetery in Margraten, Holland, where Harry and Robert Edsel laid flowers at the grave of Monuments officer Walter Huchthausen, just one of the 8,301 Americans buried there. The following week the group visited the historic Castle of Neuschwanstein. This marked the first time Harry had been to the castle since May 1945 when he arrived there alongside Monuments Man James Rorimer. Thanks to The NWWII Museum staff for organizing the trip.
The Emma Lazarus Statue of Liberty Award

On December 10, 2012, the American Jewish Historical Society presented the Emma Lazarus Statue of Liberty Award to the Monuments Men. Harry Ettlinger accepted the award on behalf of all of the men and women who served in the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives section. The Emma Lazarus Statue of Liberty Award is the American Jewish Historical Society’s highest honor and is presented to an individual or group which has demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment to strengthening the American Jewish community. Past award winners include Henry Kissinger, the Honorable Edward I. Koch, and Elie Wiesel. In addition, Jay Pomrenze accepted the Legacy Award in honor of his father, Monuments Officer Colonel Seymour Pomrenze, who passed away last year. More details and photographs may be found on the AJHS website at www.ajhs.org.

Sgt. Lane Faison Returns Home

Dr. Nick Mueller, President of The National World War II Museum is fond of reminding everyone that “Freedom is not free.” Seeing our young men and women in uniform reminds us of that fact. Too many have given their lives to protect the freedoms we often take for granted. It is then a joyous occasion when these veterans return home to us, safe and physically unharmed. One such returnee was Sgt. Lane Faison, USMC, grandson of S. Lane Faison, Jr, a Monuments officer who also served in the Art Looting Investigation Unit of the OSS. Lane returned home from his second tour of duty in Afghanistan in October 2011. His father, Sandy, recalled, “When the buses arrived, the crowd swarmed them...an unbelievable sight to witness such joy.” Thanks to you, Lane, and to all our men and women, who quietly and without complaint defend our nation.
Departed Hero: Mark Ritter Sponenburgh

Monuments Man Mark Sponenburgh recently passed away at the age of 95. A sculptor, historian, and educator, Mark Sponenburgh began his service with the MFAA in late 1945. He was initially stationed at the Wiesbaden Collecting Point where he saw the famed *Bust of Nefertiti*, among other treasures, and was then assigned to the Altaussee mine. While at Altaussee, Sponenburgh supervised the transportation and packing of artworks and led the first armed convoy to the Munich Collecting Point, driven through the snowy, narrow roads of the Alps.

As a sculptor, Sponenburgh’s works focused on the relationships of nature to art, which in his eyes “glorify one another,” and particularly those of animals, the sea, and natural phenomena. Found objects and natural materials of the northwest also repeatedly appeared in his sculptures. In 1961 he embarked on a lengthy career at Oregon State University, where he was named Professor Emeritus in 1984. A colleague at OSU referred to him as a “superb lecturer and teacher, and most highly respected by undergraduate and graduate students alike.” In 1990, Mark and Janeth Hogue Sponenburgh donated their art collection to the Hallie Ford Museum of Art at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. The collection consists of over 250 Ancient, European, Middle Eastern, and Asian art objects. This soft-spoken World War II veteran and Monuments Man will be missed by the many people whose lives he touched.

Departed Hero: James Reeds

Monuments Man Jim Reeds passed away at the age of 91. Reeds began his service with the MFAA in France under the direction of Monuments officers Lt. Comdr. George Stout and Maj. Bancel LaFarge. He was one of the earliest members of the MFAA. Following the Allied victory, Reeds was stationed at Wiesbaden, Germany and later at U.S. Forces European Theater Headquarters in Frankfurt-Hoechst. As chief clerk for the office, Sergeant Reeds responded to incoming messages regarding works of art that had been discovered in the field.

Reeds began his long career in linguistics at the University of Missouri – Kansas City in 1969, and was named associate professor emeritus upon his retirement in 1990. He traveled to Poland in 1984 to teach as a Fulbright Professor at the University of Lodz. Reeds later moved to Kansas City, Missouri with his wife Hedy, whom he met while serving in the MFAA. On June 6, 2007, the 63rd anniversary of D-Day, Jim was one of four Monuments Men who attended the ceremony at the United States Senate to celebrate the unanimous passage of Resolutions by both Houses of Congress that for the first time honored the service of the Monuments Men. Later that year, Jim and three other Monuments Men returned to Washington on the occasion of the Monuments Men Foundation’s receipt of the National Humanities Medal from President Bush. Seeing Jim and the other Monuments Men receive these long overdue tributes filled everyone in attendance with joy.
Monuments Men Newsletter

Spring 2013

Number XXVII

Six Years of Honoring the Heroes

June 5, 2007
Senator Hillary Clinton took time out of her busy schedule to meet with Robert Edsel and Monuments Men Bernie Taper, Harry Ettlinger, and Horace Apgar.

June 6, 2007
A ceremony at the Senate marked the passage of Congressional Resolutions in both houses honoring the Monuments Men.

November 1, 2007
Chief Archivist of the United States, Professor Allen Weinstein, and Robert Edsel stand before one of the two “Hitler Albums” that was donated to the National Archives.

November 15, 2007
The Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art received the 2007 National Humanities Medal from President George W. Bush.

December 3, 2007
Presentation of a Congressional Flag and Gold Leaf Resolution to British Monuments Woman Anne Olivier Popham Bell by U.S. Ambassador to the Court of St. James’s Robert H. Tuttle.

Labor Day 2009
Presentation of a Congressional Flag and Gold Leaf Resolution to Monuments Woman Mary Regan Quessenberry.
We Need Your Help!

“The credit belongs to the officers and men of the combat echelons whose veneration for priceless treasures persisted, even in the heat and fears of battle.”

- General Dwight D. Eisenhower speaking about the Monuments Men

The Monuments Men Foundation is a not-for-profit IRS approved 501(c)(3) entity created to honor the work of the 345 or so men and women from thirteen nations who protected monuments and other cultural treasures from the destruction of World War II, and to complete their mission. Your donation will help preserve the legacy of the men and women who served in the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives (“MFAA”) section, known as “Monuments Men,” by raising public awareness of the importance of protecting and safeguarding civilization’s most important artistic and cultural treasures from armed conflict, while incorporating these expressions of man’s greatest creative achievements into our daily lives. The small team of the Foundation relies on public and private financial support to underwrite the costs of its work. Your support is essential. To become a part of the success of this Foundation, visit www.monumentsmenfoundation.org/donations or use the donation form below.

Donor Information
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City: ________________________________ State: ______________ Zip Code: ____________

Gift Amount
I would like to make a gift to the Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art
$50   $100   $250   $500   $1000   other

Billing Information
Check Enclosed: Please charge my:     Visa     Master Card     American Express     Discover
Credit Card No. _________ / _________ / _________ Expiration Date: ______ / ______

Tributes If this donation is given in someone’s honor, or for a special occasion, please provide details below and we will be pleased to send an acknowledgement card or letter:
Name: _______________________________________Address: _____________________________________________________________________
City: ___________ State: ________ Zip Code: __________ Tribune Purpose: ____________________________________________

Please mail this form to: Monuments Men Foundation - 1501 Dragon Street, #102 - Dallas, TX 75207
Check out our new Website at www.monumentsmen.com!

We’ve updated and reorganized our website. You can now find information on Saving Italy, The Monuments Men, Rescuing Da Vinci, The Monuments Men movie, and The Rape of Europe documentary, as well as our educational program - The Greatest Theft. Keep up with Robert’s speaking engagements and the latest news about these heroes. Also available are bios on the Monuments Men, archival photos and documents, and Robert’s blog.

https://www.facebook.com/RobertEdselAuthor
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Elizabeth Hudson: ehudson@laurelpublishingllc.com

All photos courtesy of Robert M. Edsel Collection unless otherwise noted.