A MONUMENTAL MOMENT

BREAKING NEWS!
Monuments Men awarded
Congressional Gold Medal

Foundation Donates Hitler Album

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE
Monuments Men Movie Premieres
A MONUMENTAL MOMENT

FROM THE DESK OF ROBERT M. EDESEL

What a whirlwind the last few months have been since the release of The Monuments Men movie! The world premiere took place in New York City on February 4th at the Ziegfeld Theatre, with a party that followed at The Metropolitan Club. On February 7th, the film opened in box offices nationwide. From February 8–12th, I traveled with the movie cast and Monuments Man Harry Ettlinger to Europe for the four international premieres and press events. After attending the Berlin International Film Festival, where Harry received a standing ovation, our group traveled to Milan. We were granted the unique privilege of spending more than one hour admiring Leonardo da Vinci’s masterpiece, The Last Supper, in the Refectory of the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie. It was a very touching moment for everyone as the realization of how close to destruction one of the most important works of art of Western civilization had been. In an interview filmed in front of the masterpiece, George Clooney said, “That’s a lesson we have to continuously teach ourselves. Which is, before there were television and radio and even newspapers, there were paintings, and writings and carvings on a wall that told us who we are and how we got here; and if we don’t protect those, then it’s lost forever.” From Milan we flew to London, where Harry met his “colleague,” Monuments Woman Anne Olivier Popham Bell, for the first time. This extraordinary tour concluded in the City of Lights, Paris.

While the tour was filled with many special moments, what pleases me most is how the story of the Monuments Men has now, for the first time, reached a worldwide audience. The Monuments Men book has been published in 26 languages, and spent 22 weeks on The New York Times Bestsellers list, reaching the number one spot. The story of the Monuments Men is now part of our popular culture, and preserved for generations to come. Preserving these heroes’ legacy was always the foremost objective of the Monuments Men Foundation. We have now achieved that goal. The Monuments Men Foundation played an integral role working with Sony and 20th Century Fox on the promotion of the film – from the educational program and interactive websites, to answering hundreds of calls on the 1-866-WWII-ART hotline. Our researchers received dozens of leads on works of art in the United States that were possibly taken from Europe during or after the war. We are continuing our research into each of these cases. There will certainly be forthcoming restitutions of works of art as a result. We also heard from many, many family members of the Monuments Men that previously had been unknown to us. They provided us with biographical information, war service details, and photos, allowing us to continue developing our research files, writing biographies and publishing them online. These calls led to one other important discovery – a living Monuments Man, Lennox Tierney, featured in this newsletter. Several figures in well known-photos, heretofore names unknown, such as the one on the cover of Rescuing da Vinci, were identified by their children or grandchildren. It has been a remarkable experience to see how the threads of this story are still continuing to be stitched together.

I am also exceedingly proud of our efforts to honor these heroes with the Congressional Gold Medal, our nation’s highest civilian honor. There could have been no better conclusion to a truly incredible first half of 2014.
BEHIND THE SCENES
OF THE MOVIE PREMIERES

FROM NEW YORK, BERLIN, LONDON, PARIS AND MILAN –
ENJOY THESE PHOTOS FROM THE MONUMENTS MEN MOVIE PREMIERES!

Monuments Man George Stout’s granddaughters, Leslie Stout Marks (left), and Lauren Stout Parker (right), with his nephew, John Stout

Monuments Man James Rorimer’s grandson, James, granddaughter, Sarah, son, Louis, daughter-in-law, Savery & daughter, Anne, together with fellow Monuments Man S. Lane Faison, Jr’s son, George, and his wife, Lorraine

The Monuments Men author Robert M. Edsel, director and co-producer George Clooney, Monuments Man Harry Ettlinger and co-producer Grant Heslov

James Rorimer’s grandson, James, and Deanie Hancock, daughter of Monuments Man Walker Hancock, at the world premiere in New York City

Robert M. Edsel and the cast at the Berlin Film Festival

Monuments Man Harry Ettlinger receives a standing ovation at the Paris premiere
Coinciding with the May 8 anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe, Robert M. Edsel, Chairman of the Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art, David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States, Dr. Greg Bradsher, Senior Archivist, and Harry Ettlinger, one of only six living Monuments Men, unveiled “Hitler Album 6,” the most recently discovered original leather bound album containing photographs of paintings looted by the Nazis. The album was taken from Hitler’s home in Berchtesgaden, Germany, in the closing days of the war and has since been in private hands.

Album 6, created by the staff of a special task force, the Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR), documents the unprecedented and systematic looting of Europe by Adolf Hitler and the Nazis, a story recently brought to the screen by George Clooney in The Monuments Men film. The ERR was the main Nazi agency engaged in the theft of cultural treasures in Nazi-occupied countries.

“Today we are very pleased to accept a fourth album from Mr. Edsel and the Monuments Men Foundation,” said Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero. “The National Archives is the world’s leading resource on Holocaust-era assets, and these volumes enhance our role as that resource. We are grateful to the Monuments Men Foundation for its continuing work to recover cultural and historic treasures and documents that were stolen during World War II.”

Album 6 was recovered by the Foundation from an heir to an American soldier stationed in the Berchtesgaden area of Germany who entered Hitler’s home in the Bavarian Alps. The soldier’s nephew inherited the album, brought home as a souvenir, but was unaware of its historical significance until meeting with Edsel.

“The Foundation often receives such calls from veterans and their heirs, who do not know the importance of items they may have picked up during their service, or are not aware that anyone is looking for the items,” Edsel continued. “This album is just the tip of the iceberg for cultural items still missing since World War II. The role of the Monuments Men in preserving cultural treasures during conflict was without precedent. We honor their legacy by completing their mission.”

As the ERR staff looted, photographed and cataloged the French collections, they created leather bound albums, including Album 6. Each page of the album contained a photograph of one stolen item. Each item was assigned an inventory code number – a letter representing the family from whom the item was stolen; and a number denoting the item number stolen from the family.

The albums were specifically intended for Hitler in an effort to keep him apprised of the ERR’s progress in France. According to noted historian Dr. Birgit Schwarz, once Hitler received the first set of albums on his birthday in April 1943, he issued a directive that incorporated the confiscated items into “Special Commission Linz.”

This organization was responsible for building the collection for the Führermuseum, an unrealized museum complex Hitler planned to erect in his hometown of Linz,
Austria, as well as distributing art to regional museums throughout the Reich. As the director, Hitler decided which items would be placed in certain museums.

Album 6 includes images of seventy-three paintings which represented very early thefts, thus they have early inventory numbers including “EW1” (the first item stolen from Elizabeth Wildenstein). All the paintings from the album were listed on the ERR database, with six of the paintings listed as not having been restituted.

The first image seen in Album 6 is a painting stolen from the Rothschild family titled “Portrait of a Woman,” by Nicolas de Largillière. The painting was later found by the Monuments Men at the Castle of Neuschwanstein, and can be seen on the cover of Edsel’s book The Monuments Men being carried down the steps under the supervision of Capt. James Rorimer, future director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Album 6 also includes an image of an important painting by Jean-Honoré Fragonard, “Girl with Two Doves,” which sold at auction in 2000 for over $5 million. This was just one of some five million objects properly repatriated by the Monuments Men after the war.

Two other paintings featured in Album 6 are known to be in collections in the United States: “Landscape with Aquaduct,” by Nicolas-Antoine Taunay, can be seen at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; and “Portrait of Lambert de Vermont” by Nicolas de Largillière, which the Norton Simon Museum purchased from the Rothschild family in 1982.

In May 1945, thirty-nine original ERR albums were discovered at the Castle of Neuschwanstein by the Monuments Men. They had been stored there along with records that documented German confiscations and looting. The Monuments Men used these albums to assist in the restitution process. In late 1945, these albums were introduced into evidence at the Nuremberg trials to document the massive Nazi art looting operation.

Today the National Archives has custody of the original thirty-nine albums, as well as three additional albums (numbers 7, 8 and 15), discovered and previously donated by the Monuments Men Foundation. “We are proud to continue our longstanding relationship with the National Archives with the donation of the Hitler Album 6, the fourth such gift in the past six years,” stated Edsel.

Albums 6, 7 and 8 were all picked up by members of the 989th Field Artillery Battalion, stationed in the Berchtesgaden area in the closing days of the war. Edsel hopes discoveries such as these “will encourage other members of the 989th Battalion and their families, as well as all veterans, to look in their attics and basements for any lost wartime items as they may hold the clues to unravel this unsolved mystery.”

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of lost or stolen works of art may contact the Monuments Men Foundation at 1-866-WWII-ART (1-866-994-4278) or wviiart@monumentsmenfoundation.org.
The Monuments Men Foundation is proud to announce that the President of the United States has signed into law The Monuments Men Recognition Act, a bill that awards these heroes of civilization with the Congressional Gold Medal, our nation's highest civilian honor.

“This legislation is a fitting tribute to a group of brave and selfless individuals who went to war, not to fight or to kill, but to preserve our connection to our greatest human endeavor - our culture,” said Congressman Michael Capuano, co-sponsor of the House bill.

“I have been looking forward to this day since I first learned the story of the Monuments Men,” said Representative Kay Granger, the original co-sponsor in the House. “I am profoundly grateful that the legacy of the Monuments Men will now forever be honored and recognized by the United States. What started out as an untold story from World War II has become a celebrated chapter in our nation's history. [Having these heroes] recognized with Congress’ highest honor has been a remarkable journey.”

In just five months, the small team at the Monuments Men Foundation worked through the rigorous process to obtain Congressional support for the Congressional Gold Medal. It did so without the assistance and expense of lobbyists or outside consultants.

The Monuments Men Foundation will now work in concert with officials at the United States Mint on the design of the unique Gold Medal, a process that takes about twelve months. Ultimately, there will be a Congressional ceremony next year to present the medal to the living Monuments Men.

“I don't believe it can be overstated how significant the contributions of the Monuments Men are to the preservation of many of the world’s most remarkable pieces of art,” said Granger. “The story of the Monuments Men is one that has to be told, and should be shared as an instrumental part of U.S. and world history... I am grateful to Robert Edsel who uncovered the story behind this unique World War II unit and brought it to life for all of us to recognize the significant contributions of these brave men and women.”

(Rep. Granger’s impassioned speech prior to the bill’s final approval can be viewed at www.monumentsmenfoundation.org/the-heros/congressionalgoldmedal)

Much credit is due to our early supporters, Representatives Kay Granger and Michael Capuano in the House of Representatives, and Senators Roy Blunt and Robert Menendez in the Senate. And much credit is due to YOU, for without your support of the Monuments Men Foundation, such achievements simply would not be possible.
MODERN DAY MONUMENTS MEN

The Monuments Men Foundation, author Robert Edsel, and publisher Little, Brown donated 1,000 copies of the No. 1 New York Times best-selling book, The Monuments Men, to members of the U.S. military, including the 353rd Civil Affairs Command Functional Specialty Teams who are in charge of Cultural Property Protection (Monuments, Arts, and Archives). The officers had recently completed resource protection training at the Metropolitan Museum of Art hosted by Modern day Monuments women Laurie Rush, Corine Wegner, and the staff of the MET.

MOVIE NIGHT AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Invitations to the White House are rare; even more so to attend a private screening of a movie. So it was a special privilege for Robert Edsel to be invited by co-producers George Clooney and Grant Heslov to join them and a very small group at the White House for a screening of The Monuments Men. Among those in attendance were Deputy Secretaries of State Bill Burns and Heather Higginbottom; Secretary of the Army John McHugh; U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Director Sara Bloomfield and Archivist of the United States David Ferriero. For Edsel, meeting President Obama, and introducing him to Monuments Man Harry Ettlinger, were treasured moments.

NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM EXHIBIT

The Monuments Men Foundation and The National World War II Museum, located in New Orleans, Louisiana, have formally announced the addition of a permanent exhibit honoring the Monuments Men and women. The exhibit will be part of the museum's Liberation Pavilion, projected to break ground in late 2015. This will be the only permanent exhibit in the world to recognize the work of the Monuments Men. It will provide visitors of all ages with an opportunity to relive the experience of their historic discoveries of priceless works of art. We are continuing to gather artifacts and other related objects for the exhibit. If you have any such items, please contact Elizabeth Hudson at ehudson@monumentsmenfoundation.org or you may call our office at 214-219-1222 ext.104.
At the end of May, Robert Edsel visited Italy for the launch of the Italian translation of his most recent book, Saving Italy. The “Monuments Men: Missione Italia” book tour stopped in Florence, Rome and Milan. Edsel presented the story of these heroes to hundreds of people in both English and Italian.

The first presentation took place at the Galleria dell’Accademia in Florence, in front of Michelangelo’s David, the famous masterpiece that also appears on the cover of Edsel’s book. The event was organized and sponsored by Friends of Florence, a non-profit organization founded by Simonetta Brandolini. Since 1998, Friends of Florence has sponsored restorations of some of the most important Florentine monuments and works of art, thus establishing itself as one of today’s “Monuments Men.”

In Milan, Edsel presented his book in the “Sala della Passione” in the Palazzo di Brera (home of the Brera Pinacoteca). There he was introduced by Sandrina Bandera, Superintendent of Cultural Heritage and Director of the Pinacoteca di Brera and by Aldo Bassetti, Director of the Association Amici di Brera (Friends of Brera), both of whom praised Edsel’s endeavor stating that he was now “a friend of Brera for life.”

Carlo Orsi, a very well known art dealer and President of the Association of Antiques dealers, spoke of his fifteen-year friendship with Edsel. It was a joy to also have Sergio Giliotti attend the presentation. Giliotti fought in the same partisan brigade as Don Guido Anelli, one of the key characters in Edsel's book.

Edsel's presentation in Rome took place in the most prestigious room of the Vatican Museums: the Salone di Raffaello, where Raphael's masterpieces, including his last work, The Transfiguration, are displayed. Edsel was introduced by Director of the Vatican Museums Antonio Paolucci, who spoke about his meeting with the late Monuments Man Fred Hartt. Interestingly enough, one of Paolucci's first tasks as Superintendent of Florence (before becoming Director at the Vatican) was deciding what to do with Hartt's jeep, “Lucky 13,” that sat inside the garage of the Pitti Palace. A few familiar faces in the audience included the director of the American Academy in Rome, Christopher Celenza, as well as the director of the British School, Christopher Smith.

The book tour ended where it began: in Florence, with an incredibly successful evening in the Refectory of Santa Croce. Guests were greeted by Paola Vojkovic, who graciously organized the event; Giuseppe de Micheli, Director of the Opera di Santa Croce; Sarah Morrison, Consul General of the United States; Carlo Francini, representative from the Florence UNESCO office, and Andrea Davis, from the U.S. Tuscan Association. Superintendent of Florence Cristina Acidini also attended.

Such a successful tour would have not been possible without extensive behind-the-scenes work of Italian publisher Sperling&Kupfer. We are glad that the people of Italy now have the opportunity to read Saving Italy and learn about the invaluable contribution of the Monuments Men, and many Italian art officials and volunteers, who preserved our precious cultural heritage!
On Saturday, February 15, 2014, Harry Ettlinger returned to his hometown of Karlsruhe, Germany to receive a wonderful honor: the “Staufer Medal in Gold.” Baden-Württemberg's highest and most rarely presented decoration, for his and all of the Monuments Mens’ service to protect Europe’s cultural legacy during World War II.

Ettlinger’s story is personally intertwined with one of Rembrandt’s Self Portrait paintings. As a boy, Ettlinger saw only a photograph of the famous work despite living just blocks away from the Kunsthalle Museum, where the painting hung. Years passed before seeing it as a Monuments Man, when he entered the Heilbronn salt-mine.

On February 15th, Ettlinger visited the painting again, this time, not as teenager, but as an honoree of a prestigious award presented only every ten years. In the presence of Prof. Pia Müller-Tamm, the museum’s director; Dr. Tessa Rosebrock, provenance researcher; Christy Fox, Monuments Men Foundation Senior Executive; Dorothee Schneider, Senior European Researcher, and many members of the press, Ettlinger was presented the “Staufer Medal in Gold.”

However, it was Karlsruhe mayor, Dr. Frank Mentrup, who presented Ettlinger with two more momentos: his birth certificate, and photos of his grandfather’s shop in Karlsruhe before the war.

State Minister for Culture Walter Jürgen expressed his thanks to Ettlinger, “[This] was an emotional adventure because you repaid evil with good. You committed yourself to saving the culture of a nation that years before had forced you to leave your home and emigrate. I would like to ask you to do me a favor: Come back to Baden-Württemberg and the Kunsthalle Karlsruhe to look at ‘your’ Rembrandt as often as possible. We would be honored.”

**MEET LENNOX TIERNEY**

Born in 1914, Lennox Tierney is one of the last six living Monuments Men. He graduated from the University of California in 1936 with a focus in Asian art. He then earned a master’s degree in Asian art history and Japanese art from Columbia before receiving his doctorate from Sogetsu Ryu. After the outbreak of WWII, Tierney studied Japanese for 14 months at the U.S. Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Due to his “valuable preparation,” Tierney was assigned to General MacArthur’s Occupation Headquarters in Japan as Commissioner of Arts and Monuments following the end of the war. In this role, he advised on all topics regarding arts, monuments, and culture, in particular the restoration of damaged cultural sites. He also photographed cultural sites, wrote reports, and served as translator when needed. Tierney often worked independently at Occupation Headquarters and liaised with Monuments Men such as Langdon Warner, Sherman Lee and Laurence Sickman.

Upon his return home, Tierney became a professor and Chair of the Art Department at Pasadena City College, and later at the University of Utah as Professor Emeritus of Japanese Art History. He served as curator of Asian art at the Mingei International Museum, curator of Japanese art at the Utah Museum of Fine Arts, and founded the Pacific Asia Museum in Pasadena.

In 2006, Tierney was presented with the Reischauer International Education Award by the Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana. A year later, he was granted the Order of the Rising Sun Award by the great Emperor of Japan for his work promoting cultural exchanges between the Japan and the United States. At 100, Tierney is still actively sharing his passion for Japan and currently lives in Salt Lake City, Utah.
SEVEN YEARS OF HONORING HEROES
ON JUNE 6, 2014, THE MONUMENTS MEN FOUNDATION CELEBRATED ITS SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY.
TAKE A LOOK BACK AT SOME OF OUR PROUDEST MOMENTS.

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.

December 3, 2007
Presentation of a Congressional Flag and Gold Leaf Resolution to Monuments Woman Mary Regan Quessenberry.

Labor Day 2009
The “Monuments Men,” were a group of approximately 350 men and women from thirteen nations, most of whom volunteered for service in the newly-created Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives (MFAA) section during World War II. Many had expertise as museum directors, curators, art historians, artists, architects, and educators. Their job description was simple: to protect cultural treasures so far as war allowed.

The Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art honors the legacy of the Monuments Men and women and their unprecedented and heroic work protecting and safeguarding civilization’s most important artistic and cultural treasures from armed conflict during World War II. In addition to raising public awareness of the importance of protecting cultural treasures, the Foundation is documenting the contribution of each Monuments Man and women and gathering artifacts from key family members for use in the soon-to-be constructed Monuments Men Exhibition at the National World War II Museum. The Foundation also continues its work to complete the mission of the Monuments Men by locating and returning to the rightful owners some of the hundreds of thousands of works of art and cultural items missing since the war.

The ongoing work of the Foundation depends on the support of the public. These cultural treasures belong to us all; their survival depends on people of good will. Won’t you please show your appreciation for the Monuments Men and women and the work of the Monuments Men Foundation by supporting our ongoing efforts? Your gift, and those of others, are critical to our continued success.

To contribute, fill out the form below and mail to 154 Glass Street, #106, Dallas, TX 75207, or visit our website, www.monumentsmenfoundation.org/contribute.

Help Us Complete the Mission of the Monuments Men

Name: ___________________________  Address: ___________________________
City: ___________________________ State: ___________ Zip Code: ________________
Phone: __________________________ Email Address: _________________________

Gift Amount
I would like to make a gift to the Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art (circle amount)
$50  $100  $250  $500  $1000  Other: ___________

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

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:
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TAKE THE MONUMENTS MEN HOME TODAY!

Learn more about the Monuments Men in any of the three books written by The New York Times #1 Bestselling author Robert Edsel, available through online retailers and at bookstores nationwide!

NOW AVAILABLE ON DVD & BLU-RAY!

If you would like to stay up-to-date with the Monuments Men story, subscribe to our newsletter, or if you have any information on the whereabouts of missing works of art, please call 1-866-WWII-ART or visit our websites:

www.monumentsmenfoundation.org and www.monumentsmen.com

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