



Our National World War II Museum



Speaking before 400 people at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans on September 19 was one of the most meaningful moments in my life. My only regret was that my father, Ray, a marine corp veteran of the Pacific theater, didn't live to see the museum and

experience this wonderful moment. He would have felt so at home among the dozens of veterans in attendance.

For those of you who haven't yet visited the museum, you are missing out on one of life's great experiences! Families abound; kids love it! Who wouldn't enjoy walking past tanks, beneath C-47 transport planes and Spitfires hanging overhead, through the vast exhibition spaces with moving films in every corner of the museum? The National World War II Museum is surely one of our nation's great cultural and historic treasures.

Dr. Nick Mueller, lifelong friend of the late Dr. Stephen Ambrose, has executed the vision he and Dr. Ambrose shared to preserve forever the epic struggle to defeat the most pernicious evil the world has ever known. On November 5-7, the museum will celebrate the grand opening of its latest expansion space which includes a one of a kind 4-D theater where a special film about the war, created by



Veteran Steve Scalice, Dr. Nick Mueller (President of the National WWII Museum), Robert Edsel, and Purple Heart veteran John J. Witmeyer, Jr.

From the Desk of Robert M. Edsel



Honor our Veterans

Wednesday, November 11 is one of only two days Americans are asked to honor the brave men and women who make possible the freedom we enjoy and too often take for granted. Memorial Day honors those veterans who died while in military service; Veterans Day is a broader holiday that honors all military veterans.

I believe one of the sources of our nation's success through the end of World War II was the concept of shared sacrifice, i.e., while our soldiers fought to preserve our way of life, citizens on the home front were called upon to sacrifice - through rationing, taxes, working extra jobs. It was tough on our soldiers and a hardship for those at home. That approach changed dramatically with the war in Vietnam when the idea of "guns and butter" - having it all - prevailed. It's been that way since, much to our nation's detriment in my view.

This November 11, fly your flag, thank a veteran for their role in providing us this good life, and say a prayer of thanks that we've got so many brave men and women in uniform risking their lives to protect us so we can enjoy ours.



This C-47 transport plane is just one of several aircraft that hang overhead in the museum's entry hall.

Dr. Nick Mueller and his team provided us with a great hard hat tour of the new facilities, opening November 5!



Tom Hanks, will be shown - there and nowhere else! I saw a very brief preview during my tour of the museum and let me say - it is an astonishing experience. Going to a normal movie theater will never be the same.

C-SPAN was present to record the evening's event, which was broadcast three times on C-SPAN2's BookTV in October. If you didn't catch the program last month, it can be seen in its entirety on their website at <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/289298-1>.

The Monuments Men Launch Party at the Metropolitan Museum of Art



Sarah Rorimer (grandaughter), Anne Rorimer (daughter), Met Director Thomas Campbell, and James Rorimer (grandson) stand before the photograph of Monuments Man James J. Rorimer in the background.

Met's sixth director. (Rorimer's son, Louis, was sadly unable to be with us). We were especially grateful that Thomas Campbell, the current (and only ninth) director of the Met, was present to share his perspective on the importance of the role these Monuments Men and women had in preserving so much of the cultural world we enjoy today.

It was fitting that our launch party for my book, *The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves, and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History*, was held at the Met, site of the critical meeting that took place in December 1941 in the immediate aftermath of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and America's formal entry into World War II. This meeting led to the creation of the "Monuments Men" under the direction of Paul Sachs, Francis Henry Taylor, George Stout, and others.

It was a special evening, in particular for the Rorimer family and the Met. Gathered together were the grandchildren and one of two children of Monuments Man James Rorimer, who after the war became the



Wonderful New Moments Connecting People...



James Rorimer, Anne Rorimer, George and Lorraine Faison, son and daughter-in-law of Monuments Man S. Lane Faison, Jr., and Sarah Rorimer.



Robert, Monuments Man Harry Ettlinger, and Paul Rodzianko.



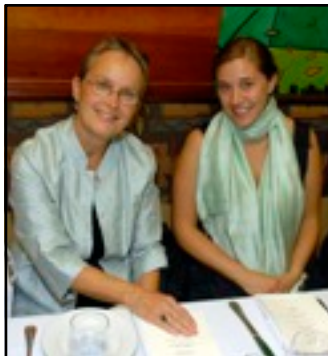
Thomas Campbell, Robert, and Dr. Edmund Pillsbury.



Robert, Martha McGeary Snider, and Curtis Giesen.



James Rorimer and Sally Kubn, daughter of Monuments Man Charles Kubn.



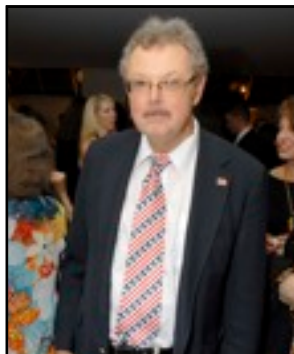
Deanie Hancock French, daughter of Monuments Man Walker Hancock, and Sarah Rorimer.



Lola Scarpitta Knapple, daughter of Monuments Man Salvatore Scarpitta, and Robert.



Ann Faison, Steve Glauber, Eve Segal, and Sandy Faison, son of Monuments Man S. Lane Faison, Jr.



Robert Michael Posey, son of Monuments Man Robert Posey.



Peter McGuigan and Diego Edsel.



...and Two Years of Incredible Memories Honoring the Heroes!



June 5, 2007

Senator Hillary Clinton took time out of her busy schedule to meet with Robert Edsel and Monument Men Bernie Taper, Harry Ettlinger, and Horace Apgar at her office in Washington, D.C. Senator Clinton was delighted to receive a copy of *Rescuing Da Vinci* on behalf of her husband, former President Bill Clinton.



June 6, 2007

A ceremony at the Senate marked the passage of Congressional Resolutions in both houses honoring the Monument Men and their work. Pictured from left to right: Monument Men Bernie Taper, James Reeds, Harry Ettlinger, and Horace Apgar, Representatives Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) and Kay Granger (R-TX), Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), and Robert Edsel.



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 by the Monument Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art.



November 15, 2007

The Monument Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art received the 2007 National Humanities Medal. President George W. Bush greeted Robert Edsel and Monument Men James Reeds, Seymour Pomrenze, Harry Ettlinger, and Horace Apgar in the East Room of the White House.

(Eric Draper, White House)



The Monuments Men Foundation Plays an Important Role in the Restitution of Two 400 Year Old Books to Germany



Dr. Bob Thomas, German Ambassador Klaus Scharioth, J. Christian Kennedy, Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues at the Department of State, and Adrienne Thomas, acting Chief Archivist of the United States.

The Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art attended a ceremony at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. at which an American veteran, Bob Thomas, returned two library books he had taken as war souvenirs from the Merkers salt mine in April 1945.

Dr. Thomas first contacted the Monuments Men Foundation in early 2007 at which time the Foundation began extensive research into the origin of these two books. Happily, through the Foundation's persistent effort, Dr. Thomas realized the opportunity at hand to return these books to their appropriate homes - one was returned to the Akademische Bibliothek in Paderborn, and the other was sent to the Foreign Ministry until its final destination was determined. Accepting both books on behalf of a grateful nation was German Ambassador Klaus Scharioth.

SIBA and NAIBA Book Conferences

I spoke at the annual gathering of the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance on September 25 in Greenville, South Carolina, and again to the North Atlantic Independent Booksellers Association in Baltimore, Maryland on October 4. What a group of passionate and dedicated people! I had numerous discussions with individuals who told me about their love of books, their passionate commitment to encourage others to read, and most flattering of all their love of the Monuments Men story. An incredibly literate and very down to earth crowd, I really enjoyed getting to know everyone I met.

Thank you all for your commitment to making *The Monuments Men* a huge success!



In Greenville, South Carolina with some of the people who made this such a wonderful event including my fellow Hachette authors, Robert Hicks and Elizabeth Kostova.



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Lots of People to Thank!

We can never say “thank you” enough, and this event-filled month really added to an increasingly long list! Our team at Hachette has worked hard to ensure the book’s success: thanks in particular to CEO David Young for co-hosting the book launch. Ms. Emily Rafferty, President of the Met, and Director Thomas Campbell personally ensured we would have a successful event; thank you for making this possible! Dr. Nick Mueller and his great team at the National World War II Museum - Kat, Meg, Jeremy, Clem, Craig, and Kacey in particular - you are all wonderful! C-SPAN’s great team, in particular Cleve Corner and Rich Hall, do a tremendous job to deliver the best production quality possible. We’re especially appreciative to them for making the commitment to be in New Orleans. Finally, those on my team - Christy Fox, Elizabeth Hudson, James Early, Michele Brown, Bret Witter, Peter McGuigan and his great team at Foundry, and my family - thank you all!



Michelle Rapkin, Robert and Gina Wynn.



Book signing at Hachette's offices.



David Young, Tom Campbell, Harry Ettlinger, and Robert.



Marilyn Wright, Christy Fox, and Norma Edsel.



Elizabeth Hudson and Bret Witter.



Robert with Jeremy Collins.



Jana Burson, Preston Cannon, and Pamela Clemments.

Welcome to our New Website: www.monumentsmen.com

Our new website has additional photos, letters, and Nazi documents not seen in *The Monuments Men*, as well as Monuments Men biographies, news and reviews, upcoming events, links to our other projects, and Robert’s blog. You can also follow Robert on Facebook and Twitter!



<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Robert-Edsel/130960233032>



<http://twitter.com/RobertEdsel>

ROBERT M. EDSSEL SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS AND BOOK SIGNINGS

Dallas Museum of Art	Dallas, Texas	November 19, 2009
Speed Art Museum	Louisville, Kentucky	November 20, 2009
Southern Methodist University	Dallas, Texas	November 23, 2009
National Gallery of Art	Washington, D.C.	January 17, 2010
Palm Beach Country Club	Palm Beach, Florida	February 12, 2010

To subscribe to the *Monuments Men Newsletter*, or to provide us with comments, please contact Elizabeth Ivy Hudson: ehudson@laurelpublishingllc.com.

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