

ROBERT M. EDSEL

December 12, 2006

Re: Update No. 1

Dear Everyone,

In my effort to broadly tell the remarkable journey of the Monuments Men, your story, it occurred to me that many of you might enjoy being a part of my journey. I decided to write this letter to keep you up to date on our progress and keep you informed of important upcoming events. I thought I would begin this first update with a broad overview of my efforts.

Current MFAA List (enclosed)

We have 348 names on our list, of which we have written full biographies on 93. We believe we have assembled enough information on 133 additional Monuments Men to, over time, write their biographies as well. Research continues on the remaining 122 names on this list. If you have information on any of the men and women listed, or have additional stories about them, we would like to hear them.

Living Monuments Men

There are 13 living Monuments Men. As most of you know, S. Lane Faison, Jr. died on Veterans' Day, November 11, 2006, at the age of 98. I interviewed Lane and had a wonderful conversation with him just a week or so before his death. This news saddened me greatly.

I am enclosing a schedule listing the names, addresses, and general biographical information on each of the living Monuments Men in case you have a desire to contact each other. If any of the enclosed information is incorrect please contact Karen Evans in my office at (214) 219-1222, ext. 106, with the correct details.

Veterans' Day Op-Ed piece

I wrote the enclosed Op-ed piece for submission to 26 newspapers across the country for Veterans' Day. Of the 26, only 2 decided to publish it: *The Oklahoman* (Oklahoma City) and the *Toledo Blade*. We received only a few rejections including the *Albany Times Union* (concerning S. Lane Faison, Jr.). No reply whatsoever was received from the others. That upsets me greatly, but we'll just bear down and keep pushing forward, undeterred!

Congressional Resolution

Based on our most recent conversations with her staff, Congresswoman Kay Granger (R), a respected member of Congress since 1997 and former mayor of Fort Worth, Texas (1991-1995), will submit the enclosed Resolution when Congress reconvenes the week of December 4th. This is only the first step in the recognition process, but it is an important first step.

Rescuing Da Vinci

I've been on the road for three weeks straight promoting my book, the stories of the Monuments Men, and the film, *The Rape of Europa*. The film was well received at festivals in Boston on November 12th, and Nashville on November 15th. More festival showings are planned. There are also a number of museum showings upcoming in early 2007.

I speak about the subject at every possible opportunity. When people hear me speak they are very excited and want to learn more. That's the good part. The frustrating aspect is the difficulty in getting major media and print journalists to listen long enough to understand the enormous contribution you and the other Monuments Men made. I always make the point of what a current story this is vis-à-vis high-profile sales of restituted paintings, the disastrous handling of the National Museum in Baghdad, etc. Some get it, others don't...yet, I sense some progress these past two weeks, but it is S-L-O-W. While that's irritating, it just fuels me to redouble my efforts.

These updates will be sent once per month unless something dramatic happens in the interim, in which case I'll contact you sooner. If ever you wish to speak with me, please call me directly on my cell phone or contact my most able assistant, Karen Evans, who by now you all know. Our numbers may be found below.

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday! I am **thankful** for the opportunity to know each of you, and to make your journey and these stories known to all.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Edsel