



Newsletter Issue 40, July 2018

Heroic Resilience

Resilient may be the best word to describe Bruce Sundlun. In the 1970's Sundlun revived his company after it fell into financial trouble. After two unsuccessful attempts, Sundlun won the Rhode Island Governorship in 1990. Simultaneously, Sundlun's personal life, namely his five marriages and a paternity suit from his daughter, also captured the public's attention. Sundlun's long and at times difficult career, however, is only part of his story. As the pilot of a B-17 "Flying Fortress" nicknamed "Damn Yankee," Sundlun's aircraft was hit by enemy fire while returning a mission over Solingen, Germany, on December 1, 1943. In the subsequent aerial attack and crash, five crew members were killed and four others were captured. Sundlun, one of the last crew members to bail out, parachuted into Belgium and managed to evade capture by hiding in churches. By way of stolen bicycles, Sundlun made his way to France, where he joined the resistance under the *nom de guerre* "Salamander" and waged guerilla war along the Swiss border. He even gathered intelligence for the United States Office of Strategic Services. Mr. Sundlun passed away in 2011; he was decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with an Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Purple Heart. Today his crew is memorialized in Jabbeke, Belgium. Mr. Sundlun's attended the dedication of a memorial in 2009.

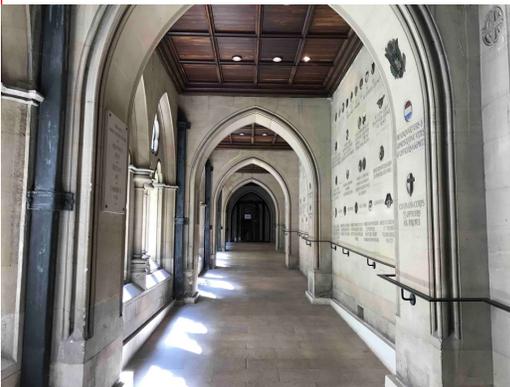


About AMWO

Our summer intern this year is Thomas Mologne, a rising junior from the University of Notre Dame studying Political Science and French. Thomas' summer got off to an exciting start with Memorial Day ceremonies at the Lorraine and St. Mihiel American Cemeteries, where Lillian Pfluke was the master of ceremonies. Since then he has been updating the AMWO database, particularly focusing on memorials to the soldiers and units who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. On July 4th Thomas and Lillian visited 31 separate sites throughout Belgium and Luxembourg, so be on the lookout for more memorials from the Bugle!

Rediscovering WWI in Paris

Despite its eternal link with World War II, Paris does not lack monuments dedicated to the American role in World War I. Both the American Cathedral in Paris and the American Church in Paris honor the United States' involvement in the "Great War." The American Cathedral is the site of a "Memorial Cloister," an entire corridor featuring engravings dedicated to the divisions of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) and civil organizations who participated in the conflict. The cloister, dedicated on May 30, 1923, by American ambassador Myron T. Herrick, Maréchal Ferdinand Foch, and French President Raymond Poincaré, displays the insignia of each unit and the number of soldiers or volunteers they lost. Additionally, plaques were added in 1994 to commemorate the soldiers who rest in the World War II American military cemeteries in Europe. Just across the Seine, the American Church houses a stained glass window dedicated to the AEF and Franco-American friendship. George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette, flanked by an American 'doughboy' and an 18th century French soldier, are at the center of the window.



This image recalls the French assistance offered during the American Revolutionary War and the eventual American repayment of this debt in 1917. The window shows other notable figures such as Abraham Lincoln and St. Martin of Tours. For a complete WWI experience in Paris, we encourage you to also see Place des États-Unis and Pershing Hall, both of which are in walking distance of the two churches and the Champs-Élysées.

