

War & Art

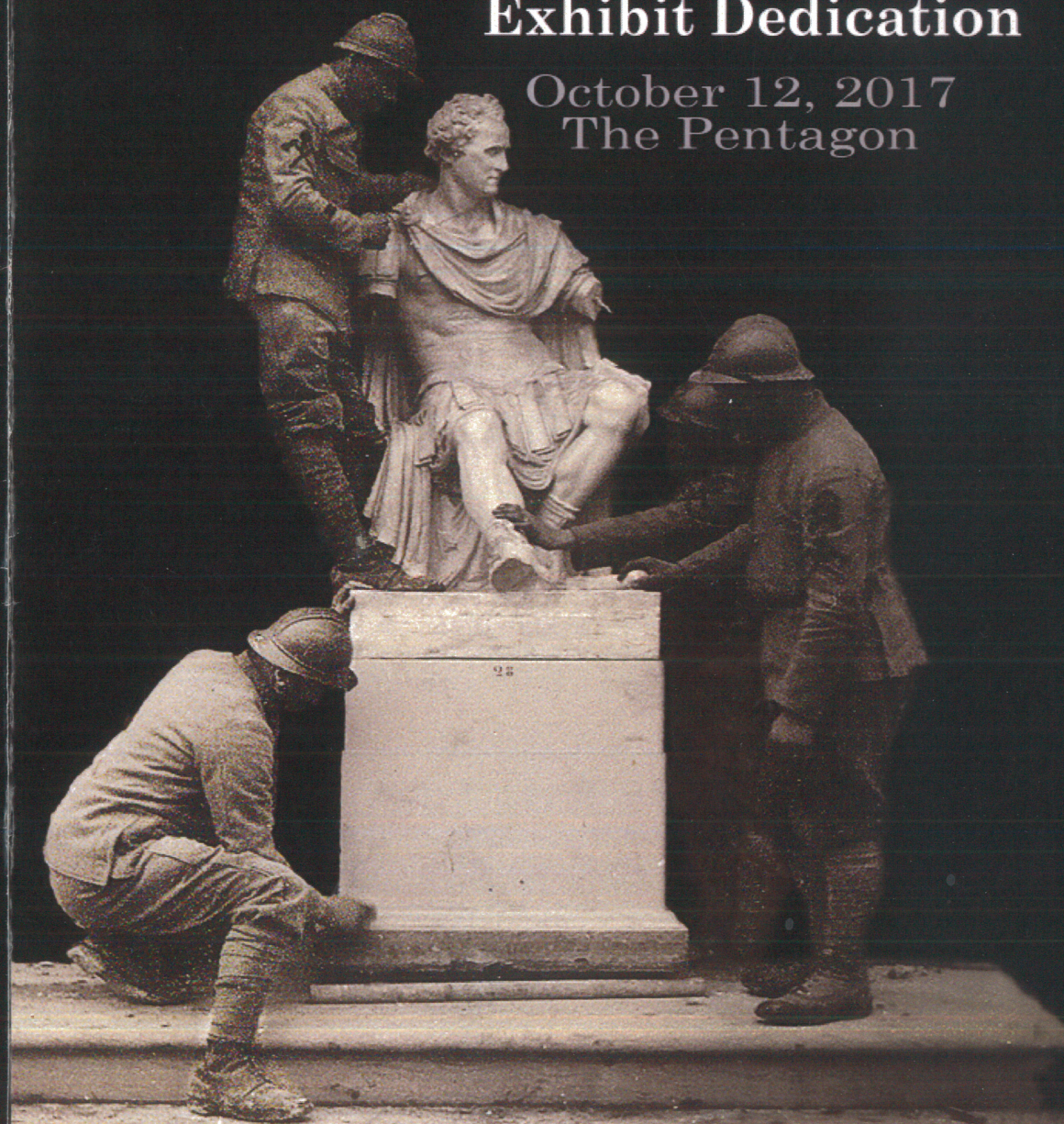


War & Art

WWI—USA in ITALY

Exhibit Dedication

October 12, 2017
The Pentagon



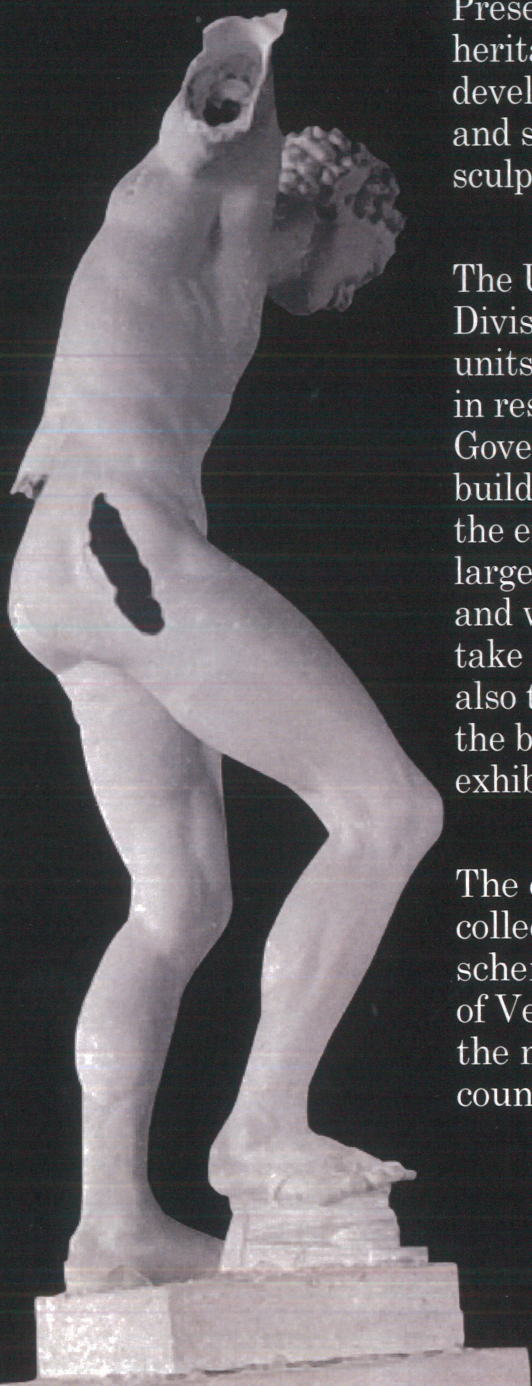
Destruction and protection of Italian Cultural Heritage during World War I

War & Art

During the First World War, air raids and land battles caused the destruction of many of Italy's art, architecture and historical assets. Preservation of its historical and artistic heritage became a great concern and led to the development of complex measures to protect and safeguard mobile artworks like paintings, sculptures and ancient illustrated manuscripts.

The U.S. 332nd Infantry Regiment, 83rd Division, with attached medical and supply units, was sent to the Italian front in July 1918 in response to urgent requests from the Italian Government. Its principal missions were to build up Italian morale and to depress that of the enemy by creating the impression that a large force of Americans had reached that front and was preparing to enter the battle line and take part in the fighting. A pivotal role was also to help protect Italian works of art from the bombings, as we can see from this unique exhibition at the Pentagon.

The exhibition represents one of the largest collections of photographs that focus on the scheme to safeguard the artistic heritage of Venice and the Veneto region, and the measures implemented to protect its countless artifacts and historical buildings.



Sequence of Events

Arrival of the Official Party

Welcome

Ms. Deanna DeSante

*Deputy Director, European Policy
Office of the Secretary of Defense*

Remarks

Mr. Tom Goffus

*Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
Europe and NATO*

The Honorable Armando Varricchio

The Ambassador of Italy to the United States

The Honorable Theodore Sedgwick

*Commissioner to the
U.S. WWI Centennial Commission*

Mr. Tom Christianson

*Historian
Office of the Secretary of Defense*

Professor Renato Miracco

Curator and Cultural Attaché

Closing Remarks

Tour of the Pentagon