

# The Angel of the Resurrection



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## **Background**

American sculptor, Walter Hancock (1901-1998), created this monument in 1951-52 to commemorate the 1,307 Pennsylvania Railroad Workers who fought and died in World War II.

The sculpture entitled "Angel of the Resurrection" is the centerpiece of the Pennsylvania Railroad World War II Memorial in Philadelphia's 30th Street Station.

General Omar Bradley spoke at the monument's dedication ceremony on August 10, 1952.

## **What to Look For**

**Monumental Size** - The enormous statue stands 28 feet above an 11-foot pedestal, which allows it to fit the open space of the massive train station without seeming too small or too large.

**Verticality** - The sculpture is 1) centered between two tall Corinthian columns, and 2) narrowly crafted with the soldier upright, aligned with the figure of the angel, giving the impression of ascending, upward movement: resurrection.

**Soldier** - The angel is raising, not a body, but a soul from the battlefield, symbolized by the lack of a uniform on the soldier.



**Flames** - At the base of the statue we see flames, which represent the "flames of war" and perhaps also the flames of hell from which the soldier was saved by his act of self-sacrifice for others.

**Bronze** - A dark metal statue contrasts sharply with the light marble of the elegant columns.

**Plaques** - (Front) "In memory of the men and women of the Pennsylvania Railroad who laid down their lives for our country 1941-1945." (Back) "That all travelers here may remember those of the Pennsylvania Railroad who did not return from the Second World War."

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## **Arti-Facts**

- Date: 1952
- Medium: bronze
- 39 ft. total: 11 ft. (pedestal), 28 ft. (statue)
- Weight: 9.5 tons