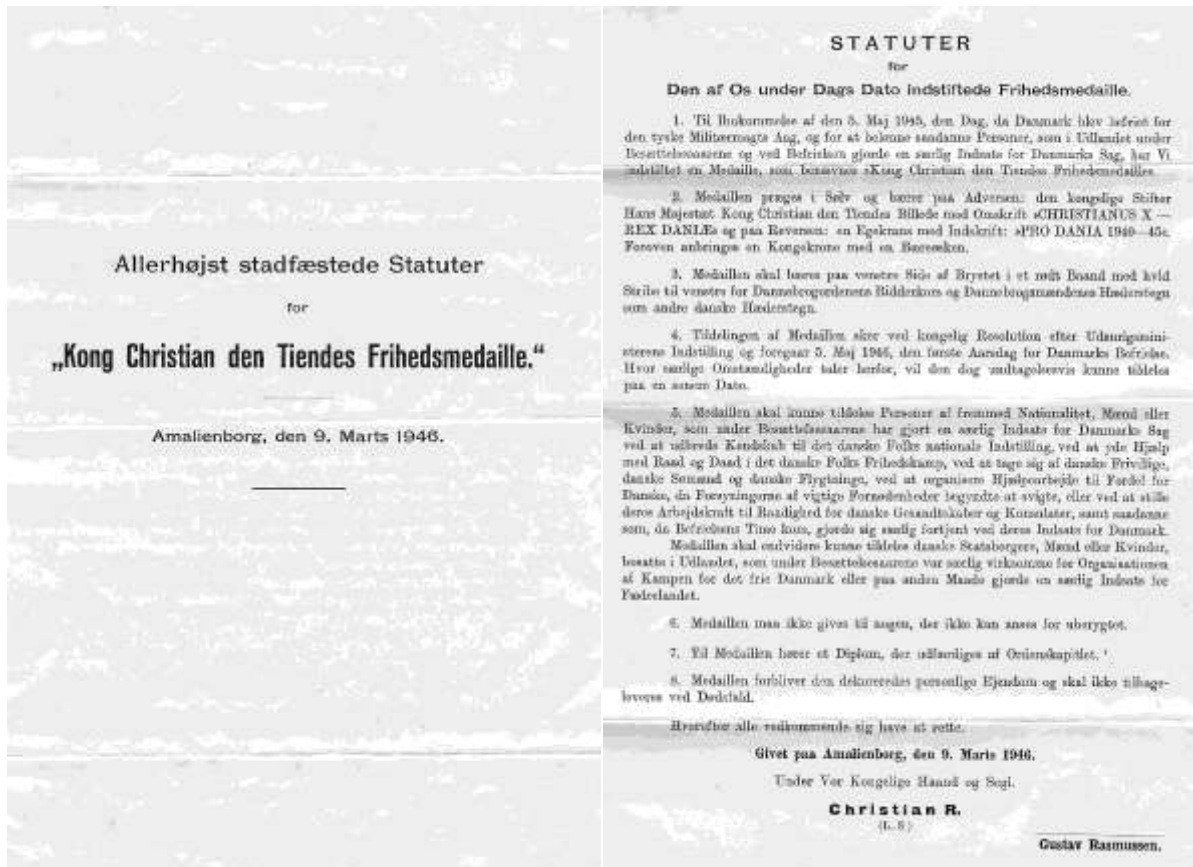
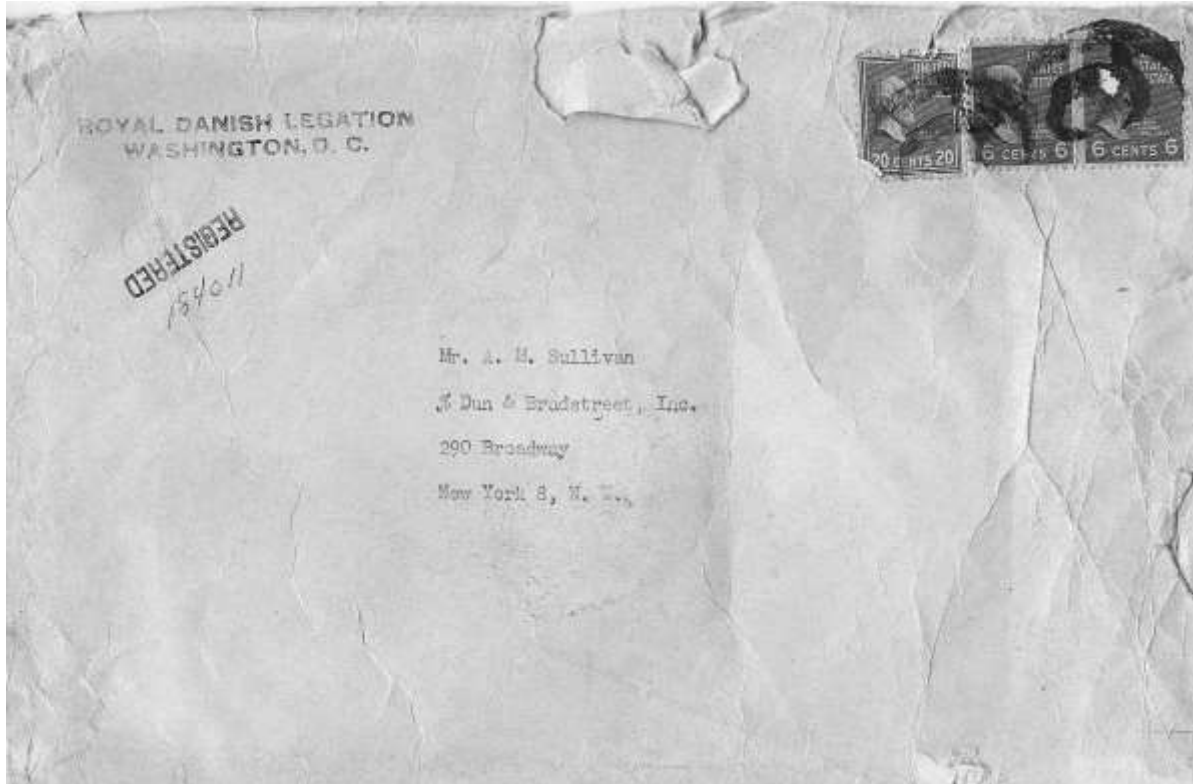


# King Christian X of Denmark's Medal of Liberation presented to A.M. Sullivan



King Christian X of Denmark's Medal of Liberation presented to A.M. Sullivan



July 31st, 1946

I hereby have the honour and pleasure to inform you that on May fifth, 1946, the anniversary of the liberation of Denmark, His Majesty the King has most graciously bestowed on you "Kong Christian den Tiendes Frihedsmedaille" (King Christian X's Medal of Liberation) as an appreciation of your contribution to Denmark's cause during the years of Nazi occupation.

In forwarding the Medal, I should like to convey to you my hearty congratulations.

Please acknowledge receipt of the Medal.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Povl Beng-Jensen".

Povl Beng-Jensen  
Charge d'Affaires e.i. of Denmark

Mr. A. M. Sullivan  
c/o Dun & Bradstreet, Inc.  
290 Broadway  
New York 8, N. Y.



*Efter allerhøjeste*

*Befaling udfærdiget i*

*De Kongelige Ridderordeneres  
Kapituls - Sekretariat.*

*Undertegnede Kansler for De Kongelige Ridderordener  
gør herved vitterligt: at det allernaadigst har behaget Hans  
Majestæt Kongen ved allerhøjeste Resolution at tildele*

*Hr. A. M. Sullivan*

*den til Thukommelse af Danmarks Befrielse den 5. Maj  
1945 indstiftede*

**Kong Christian den Tiendes Frihedsmedaille**  
*fra den 5. Maj 1946 at regne.*

*København, Amalienborg, den 15. Maj 1946.*

*Harald*  
*Kins til Danmark.*

King Christian X of Denmark's Medal of Liberation presented to A.M. Sullivan



## **King Christian X of Denmark's Medal of Liberation presented to A.M. Sullivan**

I found the lumpy envelope among my Aunt Catherine Sullivan's personal effects. I heard the tale behind this medal many times from my mother and my aunt over the years but I assumed it had been lost to the junkies who repeatedly burglarized Cathy's Greenwich Village apartment. According to the story, my grandfather, A.M. Sullivan, was honored shortly after World War II by the King of Denmark for his support of the Danes' struggle against Nazi Germany. My grandfather evidently used his position as editor in chief at Dun's Review and his connections in the press to promulgate news of the resistance in Denmark. In particular, there was one story of Christian Danes wearing the yellow Star of David in solidarity with the Danish Jews who were forced to wear it. Some of these Christians were reportedly sent to concentration camps along with the Jews. It was a moving story of bravery and sacrifice and made me very proud of my grandfather for his part in spreading the story. When I found the medal and proclamation, I decided to do some research to get more details and context. What I discovered was disappointing. It turned out that the story was not true. It was part of a British propaganda effort to sway American public opinion to generate support for joining the war effort in Europe. The good news was that most Danish Jews escaped Denmark before Hitler sent in occupation forces. There being no physical barriers (mountains, major rivers etc.) between Germany and Denmark, it was plain that the Nazis could overrun the country in a matter of days. Though he hated Hitler, King Christian X saw no point in fighting the inevitable and seeing his country destroyed for nothing. The 2000 or so Jews who chose to stay behind while the others left mistakenly thought they could survive the Nazi occupation. King Christian was allowed to maintain his office but without any power. He still did his best to maintain morale among his people by riding unescorted on horseback through Copenhagen. His tepid response to Hitler's birthday greeting apparently enraged the Führer to the point that he sent troops into Denmark.

I don't know if A.M. Sullivan ever knew that he was spreading propaganda but it doesn't really matter. It's a legitimate tool of war and the Allies did prevail. Maybe his role helped turn the tide in some small way. Anyway, he received a medal from a King. That's pretty cool. – Mike Tuohy