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RARE D-DAY DOCUMENT CONSERVED BY FIRST DIVISION MUSEUM

Wheaton, Ill., June 23, 2016 — A rare and historic World War II document will now be available for inspection by military researchers and the general public at the First Division Museum at Cantigny Park. The artifact, Field Order #35, is the top-secret plan for the U.S. Army's 1st Infantry Division to land on "Omaha Beach" at Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944. The newly conserved document received the highest security classification.

"D-Day was a pivotal moment in American history and we are honored to not only have this priceless document but to make it accessible forever," said Paul Herbert, executive director of the First Division Museum.

The restoration of Field Order #35 was recently completed by Chicago's Graphic Conservation Company.

"Once every few years, a document comes into our lab for conservation that's an important piece of our nation's history," said Russ Maki, president of Graphic Conservation. "This one certainly fits into that category."

The artifact resides in the collection of the McCormick Research Center of the First Division Museum and is available for viewing.

Field Order #35 once belonged to Major General Stanhope B. Mason, who as a Colonel was the 1st Infantry Division's chief of staff during the Normandy invasion. He used it for planning the Division's landing at Omaha Beach. The First Division Museum received the document in 1994, when Mason's son donated his late father's military artifacts.

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About the First Division Museum

The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park, part of Robert R. McCormick Foundation, promotes public learning about America's military heritage and affairs through the history of the "Big Red One"—the famed 1st Infantry Division of the U.S. Army. The museum's main exhibit hall transports visitors to the trenches of World War I, the beaches of World War II, and the jungles of Vietnam. Outside, tanks are displayed from every era, along with artillery pieces and a personnel carrier. The Robert R. McCormick Research Center, open to the public, houses the museum's library, archival, and photo collections. In November 2016 the First Division Museum will begin a major redesign, reopening in August 2017 with new, updated exhibits highlighting the Division's activity since the Vietnam era. Visit the First Division Museum at Cantigny Park online at FirstDivisionMuseum.org.