



**News Release**

## **“Faces of the 1<sup>st</sup>” Exhibit Debuts May 25**

*Multimedia show features the stories of Big Red One soldiers from 1917 to the present*

**WHEATON, IL, May 15, 2013** — The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park invites the public to “Faces of the 1<sup>st</sup>,” a special summer exhibit opening May 25 and running through September 2. Admission is free.

What do a drummer from New York, a Chaplain from Texas, and a nurse from Wisconsin have in common? They all served in the U.S. Army’s famed 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, known as the Big Red One. “Faces of the 1<sup>st</sup>” tells their fascinating stories, plus those of 14 other soldiers who served with the Division. Veterans profiled in the exhibit, more than a year in the making, have served our nation in every major conflict since World War I.

The stories are told through the soldiers’ eyes, such as those of Marlin Burns. After enlisting in May 1917, Burns fought valiantly with the then First Division in the Toul, Montdidier, Marne, St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne offensives during WWI. Throughout the battles he saw nearly all of his comrades captured, wounded or killed. In fact, he was the only man in his squad to go unharmed during the war. Burns dealt with the stress of war by expressing his emotions by drawing and writing in a journal, which will be on display.

Christopher Stone, also featured in “Faces of the 1<sup>st</sup>,” endured a different kind of stress. While on patrol in Macedonia on March 31, 1999, he was taken prisoner by Serbian forces and held for 32 days.

“I became a better person because of it,” Stone reveals, “and I’ll be able to deal with adversity in my life in a better way, using that as a reference. For the rest of my life, I’ll be able to say that no matter what hardships I face, if I had the strength to go through that, I can certainly deal with this.”

The uniform Stone wore during his captivity is one of many artifacts on exhibit at the First Division Museum. Visitors will also see the burned boots and belt worn by Richard Trapp when his vehicle ran over an IED in Afghanistan; the helmet of Ron Campsey which shows a close call with an enemy shot; and the 20-pound medical bag nurse Jody Schroeder carried when treating injured soldiers in Iraq.

Artifacts are just part of the “Faces of the 1<sup>st</sup>” experience. The exhibit also includes four iPads, enriching the visitor experience with additional photographs and videos.

A preview is online at [Facesofthe1st.org](http://Facesofthe1st.org). The site highlights the stories, photos and artifacts of the veterans honored in this extraordinary summer exhibit.

Admission to “Faces of the 1<sup>st</sup>” and to all First Division Museum exhibits is free. Parking at Cantigny is \$5.

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**About the First Division Museum**

The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park, part of the nonprofit Chicago-based Robert R. McCormick Foundations, promotes public learning about America's military heritage and affairs through the history of the "Big Red One"—the famed 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division of the U.S. Army. It stands in tribute to all who have served our country in the armed forces. 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 personnel carriers and artillery. The Robert R. McCormick Research Center, open to the public, houses the museum's library, archival and photo collections. Visit the First Division Museum at Cantigny Park online at [FirstDivisionMuseum.org](http://FirstDivisionMuseum.org).

**Media Contact:**

Gayln Piper  
First Division Museum  
630.260.8130  
gpiper@firstdivisionmuseum.org