



News Release

Rare Museum Treasures on Display at February 18 Open House

Family-friendly event will feature guided tours, kids' activities and other attractions

WHEATON, IL, February 8, 2012 — The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park will host an Open House on Saturday, February 18, from 10 am to 4 pm. Admission is free with paid parking (\$5 per vehicle; \$2 before 10 am).

Visitors at the family-friendly event will enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour of the museum's lower-level Collections department and see hundreds of artifacts seldom on public display. Items will include rare helmets, uniforms, flags, medals and firearms normally kept under lock and key.

The First Division Museum has more than 15,000 items in its permanent collection. At any given time, only about 5% of them are on exhibit. The rarest items are generally not on permanent display, so the Open House is truly a special opportunity for military history buffs as well as the general public.

Also downstairs, the Robert R. McCormick Research Center will exhibit priceless documents such as five letters handwritten by Abraham Lincoln.

On the museum's main level, visitors can see a World War II era dog tag machine in action, more seldom displayed artifacts and meet military re-enactors in the traveling gallery. Guided tours of the museum's main exhibit hall will be available as well.

Hands-on educational activities for children and families include:

- **I-Spy** – Borrow a flip book and match the photos with the real objects inside the First Division Museum's exhibit hall.
- **Smells Like History** – Sniff the scent bottle and try to identify the smell.
- **Dress Like a Soldier** – Try on WWI and WWII uniforms and equipment.
- **What's New in WWII?** – Learn about scary, scandalous and sweet new inventions of the 1940s. Create something "silly" to take home.
- **Poppies** – Find out why the poppy is called the "remember flower." Create your own poppy to take home.

More information and a pictorial preview of the Open House are online at FirstDivisionMuseum.org.

Cantigny Park is open in February on weekends (Friday through Sunday) from 9 am to sunset. Museum hours, including the Robert R. McCormick Museum, are 10 am to 4 pm. Admission to both museums is free. Cantigny will resume 7-day operations on Thursday, March 1.

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About the First Division Museum

The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park, part of the Robert R. McCormick Foundations, 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. 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.

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