



News Release

First Division Museum Sponsors 2012 Research Fellow

Dr. John C. McManus will research the 1st Infantry Division's success on D-Day

WHEATON, IL, February 7, 2012 – The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park is pleased to announce its 2012 Research Fellow. Dr. John C. McManus, Associate Professor of U.S. Military History, Missouri University of Science and Technology, will research how and why the 1st Infantry Division, U.S. Army, succeeded on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

“We’re delighted to award this fellowship to a scholar of John McManus’s caliber,” said Dr. Paul Herbert, Executive Director of the First Division Museum. “While the story of the actual fighting on Omaha Beach is well known, the deeper story of why the 1st Division triumphed there, with profound consequences to this day, needs analysis.”

Upon successful completion of his fellowship, Dr. McManus will write a book on his findings in conjunction with the Cantigny Military History Series, the museum’s publishing arm. The Cantigny Military History Series presents books with an emphasis on the history of the 1st Infantry Division—the famed “Big Red One”—and its role in American military history.

“I am very honored to be awarded a First Division Museum fellowship,” Dr. McManus said. “The museum has made a great deal of excellent scholarship possible, and I am hopeful of adding to that fine legacy. The division’s rich and storied history is endlessly fascinating to me, especially its experiences at Omaha Beach. My hope is to shed much new light on this crucial moment in history.”

The First Division Museum offers research fellowships to history majors, graduate students, doctoral candidates and post-doctoral scholars. Fellowships are decided on the basis of using the history of the 1st Infantry Division to further the museum’s mission. Applicants were required to submit a detailed research proposal and CV, and applying students also needed at least one letter of recommendation from a current professor, faculty advisor or department chair.

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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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