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### **Author James Bilder to Discuss “Artillery Scout”**

**Wheaton, Ill., April 19, 2017** — The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park welcomes author James G. Bilder on Wednesday, May 3. He will discuss “Artillery Scout: The Story of a Forward Observer with the U.S. Field Artillery in World War I.”

The free presentation inside the Cantigny Visitors Center begins at 7:30 pm. Parking also is complimentary.

In “Artillery Scout,” published in 2014, Bilder profiles an American “doughboy” soldier on the front lines in Europe. The book pulls from stories shared by his grandfather—an artillery scout in France during World War I—as well as military records and diaries from Army officers.

For his efforts, Bilder was named a finalist for the Army Historical Foundation’s *Distinguished Writing Award*. His visit to Cantigny is timely in that 2017 marks the centennial of America’s entry in the Great War.

The author earned a B.A. in Journalism from Lewis University and a M.S. from Loyola University. He is the co-author of “A Foot Soldier for Patton” with his father, Michael. Bilder served as mayor of Worth, Illinois, from 1993-2001, and resides in the southwest suburbs of Chicago.

Doors open at 6:30 pm on May 3. Copies of “Artillery Scout” will be available for sale in the Cantigny Shop. Le Jardin will offer a cash bar and a limited food menu. Coffee is complimentary.

This event is part of the First Division Museum’s *Date with History*, a monthly series featuring lively discussions with authors, panelists, historians and special guests. Information about upcoming programs is online at [fdmuseum.org](http://fdmuseum.org).

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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. The First Division Museum is currently closed for a major renovation with a grand reopening set for August 26, 2017. Visit the museum online at [fdmuseum.org](http://fdmuseum.org).