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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“VICTORY GARDENS” EXPERT TO SPEAK JUNE 7

Lecture is part of full-day of activities commemorating 70th anniversary of D-Day

Wheaton, Ill., May 27, 2014 — The [First Division Museum](http://FirstDivisionMuseum.org) at [Cantigny Park](http://CantignyPark.org) will offer a free presentation on the history of “victory gardens” on Saturday, June 7. The lecture by Dr. Cecilia Gowdy-Wygant will begin at 10 am in the Visitors Center Theater. The event is part of Cantigny’s commemoration of the 70th anniversary of D-Day (June 6, 1944).

Dr. Gowdy-Wygant teaches history at Metropolitan State University of Denver and is the author of “Cultivating Victory: The Women’s Land Army & the Victory Garden Movement,” published in 2013.

During the First and Second World Wars, food shortages reached critical levels in the Allied nations. Government campaigns were introduced in both Britain and the United States to recruit individuals to work on rural farms and to raise gardens in urban areas. These recruits were primarily women, who readily volunteered in what came to be known as Women’s Land Armies. Stirred by national propaganda campaigns and a sense of adventure, these women, eager to help in any way possible, worked tirelessly to help their nations grow “victory gardens” to win the war against hunger and fascism. In vacant lots, parks, backyards, between row houses, in flowerboxes, and on farms, groups of primarily urban, middle-class women cultivated vegetables along with a sense of personal pride and achievement.

A book signing will follow Dr. Gowdy-Wygant’s presentation and copies will be available for purchase in the Cantigny Shop.

For more information about the full day of D-Day Commemoration activities on June 7, please visit FirstDivisionMuseum.org.

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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 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. 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.