



News Release

Museum Open House Set for February 16

Free behind-the-scenes experience at the First Division Museum at Cantigny Park

WHEATON, IL, Feb. 11, 2013 — The First Division Museum will host a public Open House this Saturday, Feb. 16, from 10 am to 4 pm. Admission and parking are free.

The museum houses 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.

Visitors at the family-friendly event will be able to take a behind-the-scenes tour of the museum's Collections department and see hundreds of fascinating artifacts. Items include rare helmets, books, uniforms, flags, medals and firearms normally kept under lock and key.

A World War II Scout Car from the museum's motor pool also will be on exhibit, as will the death mask of Joseph Medill, Col. Robert R. McCormick's grandfather.

In the museum lobby, living history reenactors will host display tables and answer questions. Children can "dress like a soldier" by trying on uniforms and participate in other hands-on programs. An authentic WWII-era "dog tag" machine will be operating for those wishing to purchase a vintage personalized tag.

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