

Program on World War II “Marine Raiders” Slated for December 7

WHEATON, IL, November 21, 2011 — The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park invites the public to a presentation on Wednesday, December 7. Military history author Colonel Jon T. Hoffman (Ret. USMC) and two Marine Raider veterans will discuss the elite unit’s role following the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941. The free program, 70 years to the day after Japan’s surprise attack, begins at 7:30 pm.

The United States was unprepared for World War II, which it entered immediately following Pearl Harbor. Because manpower and resources were severely restricted in the Pacific, the Marine Corps was tasked with forming a special commando unit to conduct raiding operations. The resulting units, known as the Marine Raiders, participated in some of the most famous battles of WWII: Tulagi, Guadalcanal and Bougainville. During those battles, the Raiders and their attached Navy Corpsmen earned 7 Medals of Honor, 136 Navy Crosses, 21 Distinguished Service Crosses, 330 Silver Stars, 18 Legions of Merit, 6 Navy & Marine Corps medals, 3 Soldier Medals, 223 Bronze Stars, and 37 Letters of Commendation.

Colonel Hoffman, in addition to other books, is the author of “From Makin to Bougainville: Marine Raiders in the Pacific War” (1995) and “Once a Legend: ‘Red Mike’ Edson of the Marine Raiders” (2001). Two Marine Raider veterans from Illinois, Harold Berg and Ralph Burlingham, will accompany Hoffman and reflect on their personal experiences.

Doors open at 6:45 pm. Admission and parking are complimentary. For more information, call 630.260.8187.

The event is part of the First Division Museum’s popular series, *A Date with History*. The monthly programs feature an evening of lively discussion with authors, panelists, historians and special speakers. Information about upcoming programs is online at FirstDivisionMuseum.org.

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About the First Division Museum

The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park, part of the 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 online at FirstDivisionMuseum.org.

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