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## **TANK SUPPORT ON OMAHA BEACH**

*June 6 Date with History speaker will explore the role of tanks on D-Day*

**Wheaton, Ill., May 24, 2022** – The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park continues its acclaimed Date with History series with a program featuring U.S Army veteran and First Division Museum volunteer Steve Fixler on **Monday, June 6, at 7 pm CT.**

This is a free presentation offered in person and online. For the in-person program, at the Cantigny Park Visitors Center, registration is not required, and parking is free. Online viewers must register in advance at [FDMuseum.org](http://FDMuseum.org) to receive a Zoom link.

On this 78<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day, Fixler will explore the use of tanks at Omaha Beach on the coast of Normandy, where the Army's 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division battled their way to victory on June 6, 1944. To secure that victory, the Big Red One received support from the 741<sup>st</sup> Tank Battalion during the initial assault landings. In addition, the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was backed up by the 743<sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalion. Fixler will explain how the strategy worked.

Fixler spent 25 years in the U.S. Army, in Armor, as both Enlisted and as an Officer. One year after retiring in 2004, he joined the First Division Museum as a volunteer. He works as a docent in the museum and with the Historic Vehicle Fleet. Tours of the Tank Park are his specialty.

The First Division Museum will be open on Monday, June 6, to commemorate D-Day. Regular hours are 10 am to 5 pm, Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is free with paid parking (\$5 per car weekdays; \$10 weekends). Visit [FDMuseum.org](http://FDMuseum.org) for additional details.



*Steve Fixler in the First Division  
Museum Tank Park*

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### **About the First Division Museum at Cantigny Park**

The [First Division Museum](http://FirstDivisionMuseum.org), 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. The museum's main exhibit hall, First in War, transports visitors to the trenches of World War I, the beaches of World War II and the jungles of Vietnam. A second exhibit hall, Duty First, explores the 11D's history in more recent times. The Robert R. McCormick Research Center, open to the public, houses the museum's library, archival and photo collections. Outside, tanks from every era are interpreted, along with artillery pieces and a personnel carrier.

Solemn memorial markers and commemorative statuary also command visitors' attention. The museum's "Footsteps of the First" travel program, in partnership with Academic Travel Abroad, will explore Normandy and other key sites in Western Europe, October 6-15, 2022. Full details, including the itinerary and registration, are on the museum [website](#).