



PRESS RELEASE

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Cliff Laube (845) 486-7745

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library author talk and book signing:

Geoffrey C. Ward, screenwriter and author of

THE WAR: AN INTIMATE HISTORY: 1941-1945

HYDE PARK, NY -- The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum is pleased to announce that **Geoffrey C. Ward**, coauthor -- with Ken Burns -- of **THE WAR: AN INTIMATE HISTORY: 1941-1945**, will speak at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center on Friday, December 7, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Ward will show a segment of the film **THE WAR** and discuss his work developing the screenplay and publication. Following the talk, he will be available to sign copies of his book.

Written by Geoffrey C. Ward and Ken Burns, the same award-winning team who created the landmark **THE CIVIL WAR**, **THE WAR** is the companion volume to the major PBS television series of the same name. The vivid voices that speak from the pages of **THE WAR** are not those of historians or scholars. They are the voices of ordinary men and women who experienced -- and helped to win -- the most cataclysmic war in history. Focusing on the citizens of four towns -- Waterbury, Connecticut; Mobile, Alabama; Sacramento, California; Luverne, Minnesota -- **THE WAR** follows a handful of people from 1941 to 1945. Woven largely from their memories, this compelling narrative unfolds as the war unfolded -- month by bloody month, with the outcome always in doubt.

THE WAR explores the iconic events of World War II, from Pearl Harbor to the liberation of the concentration camps, but the book also encompasses other worlds --

those of prisoners of war and Japanese American internees, defense workers and schoolchildren, and those who struggled simply to keep families together while their men were shipped off to Europe, the Pacific, and North Africa. Enriched by maps and 450 photographs, including many never seen before, this is an intimate, profoundly moving chronicle of the war that shaped our world.

KIRKUS REVIEWS said of **THE WAR**, “Epic . . . This history manages to be at once pointedly cautionary and celebratory in a Capraesque sort of way . . . Ward and Burns take a wide-angle approach, considering the effects of combat on the home front and providing plenty of photographs that have not been seen dozens of times in other books; the absence of iconic Iwo Jima and Times Square shots is refreshing, the inclusion of made-for-moderns images of mayhem and death often disturbing, which is just as it should be . . . An introduction to the war for the uninitiated, and a scrapbook of sorts for those who remember it.”

Geoffrey C. Ward wrote the script for the film series **THE WAR** and is the winner of five Emmys and two Writers Guild of America awards for his work for public television. He is also a historian and biographer and the author of fourteen books, including **BEFORE THE TRUMPET: YOUNG FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT, 1882-1905** and **A FIRST CLASS TEMPERAMENT: THE EMERGENCE OF FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT**. He won the National Book Critics Circle Award in 1989 and the Francis Parkman Prize in 1990.

Copies of the book **THE WAR** will be available for sale after the talk. There is no charge for this program. Please contact Cliff Laube at (845) 486-7745 or email clifford.laube@nara.gov with questions about the event.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum is dedicated to preserving historical material and providing innovative educational programs, community events, and public outreach. It is one of twelve presidential libraries administered by the National

Archives and Records Administration. For information about the FDR Presidential Library call (800) 337-8474 or visit www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu.

Historic Hyde Park is a group of government and private non-profit organizations based in Hyde Park, New York. Each has a unique mission, but all are united in their dedication to extending the legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt to new generations. HHP includes the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. For more information about HHP visit www.HistoricHydePark.org.