



**Thursday 25 August 2016**

## **August Bank Holiday Fun at IWM Duxford**

This August bank holiday, join IWM Duxford for its final weekend of summer holiday activities.

Through the series of interactive sessions on offer, families can immerse themselves in the world of aviation and discover what life was really like for the men and women who served in war and conflict.

Feel history in your hands as you hold and examine a selection of artefacts that bring to life the story of the Battle of Britain, one of the most significant air campaigns of the Second World War. Objects include items of pilot's clothing, anti-aircraft shells and civilian defence Air Raid Precaution items such as gas masks.

Join the *Duxford during the Battle of Britain* tour to hear stories about the people who served at RAF Duxford during this vital Second World War air campaign, with a particular focus upon the 1940 Operations Room and the *Battle of Britain* exhibition.

The Lancaster Experience offers the rare opportunity to peer inside the Lancaster Bomber and step into the shoes of the men of Bomber Command who served in this type of aircraft during the Second World War.

**Battle of Britain Object Handling Sessions**  
**Friday 26 and Monday 29 August; 12 – 3pm**  
*Battle of Britain* exhibition

With a selection of artefacts relating to the Battle of Britain to pick up and examine, visitors can learn all about the story behind one of Britain's most famous Second World War air campaigns. Objects include items of pilot's clothing, anti-aircraft shells and civilian defence items representing the experiences of people both on the ground and in the air.

***Duxford during the Battle of Britain* Tour**  
**Friday 26 August; 1.30pm and 2.30pm (approx. 30 minutes duration)**  
Next to the Hurricane in the *Battle of Britain* exhibition

Join our tour guide on an exploration of IWM Duxford's historic site and hear about the people who served at RAF Duxford during the Battle of Britain, with a particular focus upon the 1940 Operations Room and the *Battle of Britain* exhibition.

**The Lancaster Experience**  
**Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 August; 11am – 3.30pm**  
**Interpretative Sessions; 11am, 12pm and 1pm (approx. 20 minutes duration)**  
*AirSpace* exhibition

Families have the opportunity to peer inside the legendary Lancaster Bomber and learn how this type of aircraft played such a significant role in the Second World War.

The sheer magnitude of the aircraft, coupled with its compact interior and aroma of a Second World War Bomber creates an authentic impression of what life was like for the young men who flew and fought in Lancasters.

Join our historic interpreter, who will be dressed as a member of Bomber Command, and find out more about the Lancaster crew members, from their individual roles, to their uniform and the equipment and weapons they used. Visitors will also learn about the famous Dambusters Raids and the development of the bouncing bomb.

– Ends –

For further press information please contact:

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## Notes to Editors

### Summer Holiday Activities

- IWM Duxford is open from 10am to 6pm during the August bank holiday weekend.
- Summer holiday activities are included in general admission to IWM Duxford.
- Please check the IWM website ([iwm.org.uk/duxford](http://iwm.org.uk/duxford)) for up-to-date information regarding all summer holiday activities. IWM Duxford reserves the right to change or cancel activities where necessary.

### IWM Duxford

IWM Duxford is Britain's best-preserved Second World War airfield, with a fascinating history that dates back to the First World War. Its story reflects the landmark achievements made in aviation history. IWM Duxford is Europe's premier aviation museum, where historic buildings intersperse with state-of-the-art exhibition halls, including *AirSpace* and the *American Air Museum*. Historic aircraft can regularly be seen taking to the skies from Duxford's wartime airfield. Through the rich displays of aircraft and the powerful stories of the men and women involved, we tell the story of the impact of aviation on the nature of war, on people's lives and on the social and economic history of the region. With one of the finest collections of tanks, military vehicles and artillery in the UK, we also show the impact of technological development on war and conflict.

Open Daily: Summer 2016: 15 March to 24 October 2016 10am to 6pm. Last entry at 5pm.

### IWM

IWM (Imperial War Museums) tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War.

Our unique Collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people, places, ideas and events. Using these, we tell vivid personal stories and create powerful physical experiences across our five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force. We

challenge people to look at conflict from different perspectives, enriching their understanding of the causes, course and consequences of war and its impact on people's lives.

IWM's five branches are **IWM London**, IWM's flagship branch with six floors of exhibitions and displays; **IWM North**, housed in an iconic award-winning building designed by Daniel Libeskind; **IWM Duxford**, a world renowned aviation museum and Britain's best preserved wartime airfield; **Churchill War Rooms**, housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall; and the Second World War cruiser **HMS Belfast**.

### **First World War Centenary**

**2014 - 2018** marks the centenary of the First World War, a landmark anniversary for Britain and the world. IWM will mark the centenary by leading a vibrant, four year programme of cultural activities across the country, including the opening of brand new First World War Galleries at IWM London in 2014. For more information visit [www.1914.org](http://www.1914.org)

