



September 2015

IWM marks Black History Month with a programme of Free Events and Tours

Visitors to the Imperial War Museums this October can discover more about the role of the black community at home and on the fighting front, from the First World War through to the present day.

A **special screening** will be held at IWM London (Sun 25 Oct) of two documentary films held in our collections telling the stories of African and Caribbean men who fought in the Second World War. Each will be introduced by their Directors. Discover the story of **Eddie Noble** a Jamaican born London resident who served in the RAF in the Second World War – **who inspired Andrea Levy's best-seller *Small Island***. Find out about the 100,000 African soldiers who fought in Burma and their story of courage and survival in the documentary ***Burma Boy*** (1 – 2.30pm).

Visitors can see our new display at IWM North – ***Mixing It: The Changing Faces of Wartime Britain*** and find out about Peter Thomas, the first Nigerian pilot to serve with the RAF.

Join us for a series of interactive talks at IWM London where expert historians will reveal through the moving personal accounts held in IWM's collections what it was like for black servicemen to serve during the First and Second World Wars.

Historian Stephen Bourne's talk *Black Poppies* (31 October, 1pm) will be accompanied by a free display telling stories of Britain's Black Community during the First World War. Hear the voices and stories of those who served in the West India Regiment in Palestine during the First World War in historian Tony Warner's talk (1 November, 11.30am) and in the afternoon (2.30pm) Warner will reveal the experiences of black pilots and troops who fought in the Second World War.

IWM London

Film Screenings in the Cinema

<p><u>Burma Boy</u></p> <p>Sunday 25 October</p> <p>1 – 2.30pm</p> <p>Screening and Q & A No Pre-Booking Required</p>	<p>Join us for a screening of the award winning documentary <i>Burma Boy</i> (2011) which tells the story of the 100,000 African soldiers who fought in Burma during the Second World War.</p> <p>It is a story of survival and courage, and the power of human solidarity, transcending race, culture and religion of this forgotten group within 'The Forgotten Army' itself.</p> <p>Introduced by Director Barnaby Phillips, also author of <i>Another Man's War</i> the screening will be followed by a Q and A.</p>
<p><u>Eddie Noble: A Charmed Life</u></p> <p>Sunday 25 October</p> <p>3 – 4.30pm</p>	<p>Hear the story of Jamaican born London resident Eddie Martin Noble (1917 – 2007), who influenced author Andrea Levy's award-winning novel <i>Small Island</i>.</p> <p><i>Eddie Noble: A Charmed Life</i> (2009) explores the issues around the colonisation of the Caribbean, the racism that ensued in the RAF during the Second World War and racial inequality in post-war Britain.</p>

Screening and Q & A No Pre-Booking Required	Finally, the film looks at the legacy of the Windrush Generation in Britain. Director Patrick Vernon will introduce the documentary and take part in a Q&A after the screening.
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Talks

<u><i>The Motherland Calls: Britain's Black Servicemen and Women 1930-45</i></u> Saturday 24 October 1 – 2.30pm	Join historian Stephen Bourne as he presents an illustrated talk about the participation of Britain's black community on the home front and in the armed services during the Second World War. The talk is based on Bourne's books <i>Mother Country</i> and <i>The Motherland Calls</i> .
<u><i>Black Poppies: Britain's Black Community and the Great War</i></u> Saturday 31 October 1–2.30pm	Come along to hear about the military and civilian wartime experience of black Britons during the First World War in this illustrated talk by historian Stephen Bourne. A free display (open all weekend) will also be available to explore featuring highlights from Bourne's latest book <i>Black Poppies – Britain's Black Community and the Great War</i> . The display was developed with Southwark Council and funded by the Heritage Lottery First World War grant scheme.
<u><i>On Active Service: What Were Black People Doing in the First World War?</i></u> Sunday 1 November 11.30am –1.30pm	Hear recorded interviews with First World War veterans – including those who served in the West India Regiment in Palestine – and other conflicts across the globe in this illustrated talk with historian Tony Warner.
<u><i>Black Veterans from the Second World War</i></u> Sunday 1 November 2.30 – 4.30pm	Find out about the African and Caribbean war effort during the Second World War including the lesser-known stories of black and Asian secret agents in this interactive talk by historian Tony Warner. Watch interviews revealing the experiences of black veterans from Spitfire and bomber pilots to Nigerian and Somali troops who fought in Burma.

IWM North

Display: <u><i>Mixing It: The Changing Faces of Wartime Britain</i></u> From 12 Sept 2015	With large-scale movements of people to Britain, the national and ethnic diversity of the population in Britain during the Second World War was unprecedented. On display for the first time, <i>Mixing It</i> will reveal the forgotten histories of service personnel and civilians who came to Britain during the Second World War. This small, powerful display will be based on specially recorded oral histories, presented alongside archive material and new research by the University of Huddersfield in partnership with IWM. Stories told in the new display include Una Marson, the first black female to make programmes on BBC Radio and Peter Thomas, the first Nigerian pilot to serve with the RAF.
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<p>Tour:</p> <p>A Closer Look: Black History Month</p> <p>Daily throughout October 3.30pm</p>	<p>Discover stories of Black and Commonwealth service personnel from the First World War onwards.</p> <p>Hear the story of Lilian Bader and how she overcame prejudice around her British and Barbadian heritage, to join the Women's Auxiliary Air Force and rise to the rank of Acting Corporal during the Second World War</p>
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For further press information please contact:

Bryony Phillips, Corporate Communications Manager at IWM on 020 7416 5316 / bphillips@iwm.org.uk

Notes to Editors

About the Experts

- **[Stephen Bourne](#)**
 Stephen Bourne is historian of Black Britain. Based locally to IWM London, he has published numerous books including his most recent publications *Black Poppies – Britain's Black Community and the Great War* (The History Press 2014); *The Motherland Calls – Britain's Black Servicemen and Women 1939-45* (The History Press 2012) and *Mother Country – Britain's Black Community on the Home Front 1939-45* (The History Press 2010). Bourne has worked with IWM for over 15 years and recently featured in IWM's film *Whose Remembrance?*
- **[Barnaby Phillips](#)**
 Barnaby Phillips, is the Europe correspondent for Al Jazeera, previously working as the BBC correspondent in Nigeria from 1998 –2001. After making the film 'Burma Boy' he wrote a critically acclaimed book on the same story, called 'Another Man's War'.
- **[Patrick Vernon](#)**
 Patrick is a film maker and cultural historian with particular interest in African and Caribbean family genealogy. He is the Founder of *Every Generation* an organisation concerned with mentoring young black people and making them aware of their cultural heritage www.everygeneration.co.uk. He also founded the 100 Great Black Britons campaign www.100greatblackbritons.com
- **Tony Warner**
 Activist and cultural historian, Tony Warner is the founder of Black History Walks, who offer guided walking talks exploring the African history across London.
<http://www.blackhistorywalks.co.uk/>

IWM North

The multi award winning IWM North brings the national collection to northern audiences. Designed by world-renowned architect Daniel Libeskind to represent a globe shattered by conflict, the iconic building, innovative and dynamic exhibitions, use of digital media through hourly Big Picture Shows and public events explore how war shapes lives and inspires and encourages debate.

Open Daily: 10am - 5pm.

IWM North, The Quays, Trafford Wharf Road, Manchester M17 1TZ

Free

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iwm.org.uk / @I_W_M / www.facebook.com/iwm.north

IWM London

IWM London - IWM's flagship branch - tells the stories of those whose lives have been shaped by war through the depth, breadth and impact of our Galleries, displays and events. Visit our brand new First World War Galleries featuring over 1,300 objects from IWM's collections, explore what life was like at home during the Second World War in [A Family in Wartime](#); delve into the world of espionage in [Secret War](#); visit our award-winning [Holocaust Exhibition](#); discover stories of bravery in [The Lord Ashcroft Gallery: Extraordinary Heroes](#); see work by some of Britain's most significant 20th Century artists in our [art galleries](#) or take in our latest major temporary exhibitions.

Open daily from 10am – 6pm

IWM London, Lambeth Road, London, SE1 6HZ.

Free

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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 attract over 2 million visitors each year. [IWM London](#), our flagship branch, marks the Centenary of the First World War with new permanent First World War Galleries and a new Atrium with iconic large object displays. Our other branches are [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](#).