



**Immediate Release**

## **Churchill War Rooms celebrates 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

**This April, Churchill War Rooms celebrates the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its public opening, with a new display showcasing never before seen objects.**

Revealing the little known story of the rooms following their closure at the end of the Second World War, new items on display include personal correspondence discussing the fate of the War Rooms, a private admissions ticket from the days visitors had to request special entry to view the site and a poster from 1984, advertising the exciting forthcoming opening of the Cabinet War Rooms to the public.

**Phil Reed, Director of IWM's Churchill War Rooms says:**

"In May 1940, Prime Minister Winston Churchill stood in the Cabinet Room of what is now known as The Churchill War Rooms and pronounced 'this is the room from which I will lead the war'. When the bombs and v-weapons were raining down on London in the Second World War that is just what Churchill did. The Cabinet Room, Map Room and the room, from which he delivered four of his wartime speeches, still survive today. I believe that nowhere else captures the spirit of Churchill and the atmosphere of those times, as in these carefully preserved historic spaces. As you walk the corridors of the Churchill War Rooms today, you walk in the steps of Churchill".

Since opening 30 years ago, the Churchill War Rooms has shared its unique and important history with millions of visitors. Located in the heart of Westminster, visitors to Churchill War Rooms can view this complex of historic rooms and most secret of spaces, left as they were in 1945. Also housed within the site is the award winning Churchill Museum which combines cutting-edge technology and multimedia displays with rare and significant historical items. Churchill War Rooms are part of the IWM family of five museums, also including HMS Belfast, IWM London, IWM Duxford and IWM North.

**For further information, images, or to arrange an interview please contact:**

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– Ends –

**Notes to Editors:**

**Churchill War Rooms**

Churchill War Rooms was the secret underground headquarters where Winston Churchill and his team directed the course of the Second World War. We show visitors where the staff lived and worked, explain how the decisions made here changed the course of history and reveal Churchill himself and his role in British history.

Open Daily: 9.30am – 6pm. Last admission 5pm. (Closed 24 – 26 December).

Admission\*: £17.50 Adults; £14.00 Concessions (Senior, Student, Disabled); Children (under 16) Free; Special rates for groups of 15 or more.

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\* Please note entry prices include a voluntary donation, making a valuable contribution to the care and conservation of this historic site.

## 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, is transforming with new First World War Galleries and a new Atrium with large object displays which will open on 19 July 2014 to mark the Centenary of the First World War. 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](#).

## 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 on 19 July 2014. For more information visit [www.1914.org](http://www.1914.org).

