



Immediate Release

Prime Minister, David Cameron announces £5 million for IWM London's new First World War Galleries

The Prime Minister, David Cameron announced £5 million funding for the new First World War Galleries at IWM London in a speech on 11 October 2012 outlining national plans to commemorate the First World War Centenary.

The new ground-breaking Galleries will open at IWM London in summer 2014, as part of a transformed museum and IWM's programme for the Centenary. The immersive and interactive galleries will draw upon the latest historical analysis of the war and will enable IWM to display more of the exceptional collections and tell the stories of those who lived, contributed, fought and died.

The Prime Minister, David Cameron said, "The transformation of IWM London will see the museum re-opened as a centerpiece of our commemorations for the Centenary of the First World War and with it, new generations inspired by the incredible stories of courage, toil and sacrifice that have brought so many of us here over the past century."

"I have brought my children here several times and really believe in the importance of what this museum does. So I am delighted that the Government will provide a further £5 million today towards the transformation project. This project will be a vital component of Centenary commemorations and will ensure that many more parents and children come to this very special place to learn about a defining part of our history and to remember the sacrifice of all those who have given their lives for us in conflicts across the last century."

Diane Lees, Director General of IWM said, "We are delighted by this announcement of funding for the Galleries and also the support for the First World War Centenary Partnership and the Centenary commemorations."

"The Imperial War Museum was established while the First World War was still being fought to ensure that future generations understood the causes and consequences of the war and to remember the men, women and children who played their role. Now that the First World War is outside living history, we are the voice of those veterans and the custodians of their stories."

"We remain as committed as ever to continuing our founding mission and supporting the Nation's commemorations. This funding will help us do so."

IWM has extensive plans for the First World War Centenary, including new Galleries at IWM London and a major temporary exhibition at IWM North. Beyond the museum buildings, IWM is leading the First World War Centenary Partnership, a growing network of over 2,000 local, national and international cultural and educational organisations spanning 38 countries. The Centenary Partnership will present a four year vibrant programme of cultural events and activities engaging millions of people across the world.

IWM will also launch an innovative digital platform and invite people to become citizen historians and create online profiles to honour the millions of men and women who made life-changing contributions. This will create an online memorial called Lives of the First World War – a significant digital legacy for future generations.

– Ends –

For further press information please contact:

Lucy Donoghue, Head of Communications on ldonoghue@iwm.org.uk / 020 7416 5311

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

Notes to Editors:

Transforming IWM London

Over the next decade IWM London – IWM’s flagship branch – is being remodeled. We are transforming IWM London, creating new spaces and ways for our visitors to explore our rich collections.

In summer 2014 we will launch the first phase, with the opening of brand new First World War Galleries to mark the 100 year anniversary of the start of the First World War, our new atrium at the heart of the museum, with iconic objects and striking exhibits displayed across rising terraces and balconies, new shops and a café which will open directly onto Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park and a greatly improved visitor experience.

IWM London will be temporarily closing to the public from 6 January 2014 until summer 2014, when we will fully re-open the museum. This is to allow us to continue our transformation and until 6 January 2014, access around the museum building will be limited with the main atrium and large objects covered from view. Our large objects including aircrafts, tanks and artillery will be on display once again when we fully re-open in summer 2014. Please visit iwm.org.uk for more details.

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. 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. Our family learning sessions and events encourage debate and challenge people’s perceptions of war.

IWM London is temporarily closed 6 January – July 2014 as we ‘[Transform IWM London](#)’. The museum will partially re-open with the new major exhibition [Truth and Memory: British Art of the First World War](#) and will fully re-open in July 2014 when we launch our brand new [First World War Galleries](#) to mark the 100 year anniversary of the start of the First World War and unveil a [new Atrium](#), new shops and a park-side café.

Open Daily: 10am – 6pm (except 24 - 26 December 2013 and 6 January – July 2014)

IWM London, Lambeth Road, London, SE1 6HZ

T: 020 7416 5000

E: mail@iwm.org.uk

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

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 in summer 2014 to mark the Centenary of the First World War (Please note IWM London is partially open, and in summer 2014 the museum will fully reopen). 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 in 2014. For more information visit www.1914.org.

