



Immediate Release

IWM Film Archive's *Britain at War* wins prestigious FOCAL International Award

**Free screening at IWM London
24 May 2012, 12.30pm**

At The ninth annual FOCAL International Awards held at The Lancaster London Hotel last week, IWM Film Archive's entry for The Award for Best use of Footage in a Home Entertainment Release won against stiff opposition from the BAFTA-winning *Senna* and ITV's restored TV series from the 1970s *The Persuaders*.

The previously unreleased amateur colour film of *Britain during the Second World War* shows two hours of remarkable footage shot by the renowned camerawoman Miss Rosie Newman, including film of London during The Blitz, aircraft manufacture, a Spitfire squadron, scenes on board a Royal Navy destroyer and the arrival of wounded. The film is presented with a reconstruction of the original music track - the first opportunity for more than 60 years to see and hear the film as the camerawoman intended.

To celebrate the film's success visitors can come along to a **free screening** at IWM London's cinema on 24 May 2012, 12.30pm and hear from one of the curators in the film archive.

The DVD (available from the IWM shop) also offers an alternative commentary track and a short bonus feature on the life and films of Rosie Newman. This unique amateur film was left to IWM in Rosie Newman's will, but it wasn't until much later, with the discovery of her original 78rpm records, that IWM was able to realise its ambition of making this available in its entirety to a wider audience. Based on extensive research by Jane Fish of the Film Archive and working with the creative team at Strike Force Entertainment, a restored HD version was completed in 2011. Packaged with a facsimile of Miss Newman's book, the original music and a commentary, this release not only contributes to our knowledge of WWII, but also gives an appreciation of how good archive film can be.

Sue Malden, Chair, FOCAL International, said, "This year's entries were very special indeed. With more than 180 submissions from 18 countries the judges had a difficult task on their hands. The winners – from the UK, USA, France, Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands - all demonstrated outstanding use of archive material, and highlighted the importance of preserving film in order to remind us of our collective history."

– Ends –

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Notes to Editors:

- For a sneak preview of the clip see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8L7mkgso1So>

- For more information see FOCAL's press release online at <http://www.focalint.org/member-news/news/1301/final-focal-international-award-nominations-announced-now>

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