



18 March 2013

IWM releases over 14,000 sound archive recordings online.

For the first time in the history of IWM, almost half of the archive of sound recordings, including personal accounts of the First World War, has been made freely available online to the public.

Recordings relating to the [Western Front](#) and [Gallipoli](#) during the First World War vividly capture the experiences of those from all ranks who served during these military campaigns, whether on the front line or with one of the many vital support services.

The sound collection also includes material ranging from participation in the [Battle of the Somme](#) and [Ypres](#) to everyday life in the trenches. Significant naval holdings include interviews relating to the [Battle of Jutland](#) in 1916 while many others offer an insight into the ordinary seaman's life on the lower decks and conditions onboard ships of the [Royal Navy](#) during this period. Another series of recordings reflect the experiences of pioneering airmen who served with the [Royal Flying Corps](#) and the Royal Naval Air Service during the First World War.

This large batch of recordings, which chiefly comprises interviews with men and women who experienced warfare in its many guises from the beginning of the Twentieth Century, represents over 14,000 individual digital assets. All the major land campaigns of the Second World War and Post-1945 conflicts are also significantly represented within the newly available sound archive collections.

Anthony Richards, IWM's Head of Documents and Sound said 'One of IWM's main priorities is to engage with audiences across the world. By opening access to our sound archives, we're ensuring that personal stories from conflicts are remembered and that more people have access to our extensive collections beyond museum walls.'

IWM has been able to publish this material as part of a unique online initiative and hopes to make further material available in the coming months and years.

The online sound collection can be searched by visiting www.iwm.org.uk/collections/search The sound archive includes a wealth of material relating to all aspects of conflict since 1914.

– Ends –

Anthony Richards, IWM's Head of Documents and Sound is available for telephone interviews

For interviews and further information contact: Lynsey
Martenstyn, Press Officer, 020 7416 5390, lmartenstyn@iwm.org.uk

Notes to Editors

Please note that these recordings are for personal use only. For commercial use, please contact our Collections Sales and Licensing team on 0207 416 5309, imagesales@iwm.org.uk

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 2 January – 1 July 2013** as we 'Transform IWM London'. The museum will partially re-open with the new major family exhibition *Horrible Histories®: Spies* and fully re-open in summer 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 from 10am – 6pm (except 24 - 26 December, 2 Jan – 1 July 2013)

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

T: 020 7416 5000

iwm.org.uk

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 which attract over 2 million visitors each year are **IWM London**, IWM's flagship branch that is transforming with new First World War Galleries and Atrium space opening in 2014 to mark the Centenary of the First World War; **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



IWM Press Office: Lynsey Martenstyn on lmartenstyn@iwm.org.uk / 020 7 416 5390 or Nina Smetek on nsmetek@iwm.org.uk / 020 7091 5316 or Bryony Phillips on bphillips@iwm.org.uk / 020 7416 5316