



**Immediate Release**

## **IWM London to temporarily close while transformation works continue**

**From 6 January – July 2014**

IWM London is transforming. Brand new, ground-breaking First World War Galleries are being built alongside a new central atrium space with large object displays and new shops and cafes. The museum will temporarily close from 6 January – July 2014, when a transformed IWM London will open to the public, ready for the First World War centenary commemorations.

The project to transform IWM London began in September 2012 when the museum's iconic large objects were removed for conservation while building works took place. There was an initial period of closure from January-July 2013, while the demolition works were completed. The museum partially reopened in July this year and building works have continued behind the scenes.

Throughout this major redevelopment project, there has been a high level of discovery on site which has widened the scope of the building works, and a number of substantial infrastructures have been upgraded. It has been important for IWM to deal with these issues now to further improve the building for future generations.

The next phase of works from January 2014 includes finishing the construction as well as building the set works for the new displays and installing all of the large iconic objects in both the new large object displays and the First World War Galleries.

After assessing the impact of the discoveries, and the scope of the remaining works on visitors and their experiences of the museum, a decision has been made to temporarily close IWM London from 6 January until the transformed museum opens in July 2014. The closure period will mean that IWM can concentrate on construction works in areas that are currently accessible to visitors.

IWM's Board of Trustees and the Department of Culture, Media and Sport have endorsed this decision.

During the temporary closure IWM London's Research Room will remain open.

For more information, please visit [www.iwm.org.uk](http://www.iwm.org.uk)

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**For further press information please contact:**

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**Notes to Editors**

**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 will temporarily close from 6 January 2013 until we 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 2013, 6 Jan – July 2014)

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

T: 020 7416 5000

[iwm.org.uk](http://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](http://www.1914.org)

