

## Somewhere in England

### American Airmen in the Second World War

Published: March 2016  
£14.99

IWM's new photographic book *Somewhere in England* – published to coincide with the reopening of IWM Duxford's *American Air Museum* \* – reveals stunning portrait photographs, many of which have never been published before, giving a snapshot of life as an American Airman serving in Britain in the Second World War.



Featuring over 70 images, including a rare selection of colour photographs, this book gives readers a candid glimpse into the many and varied roles of the men and women in, and associated with, the United States Air Force.

From photos of film star Clark Gable who served in Northamptonshire, Major Lloyd Mason being introduced to the Royal Family, through to Sergeant Leo Teetman Jr hungrily eating a sandwich after a long mission, this book tells the story of some of the 2 million men and women whose hard work and bravery helped to defend Britain from 'Somewhere in England' during the Second World War.

It includes everyone from fighter pilots and bomber crews, the navigators and gunners, through to the ground crew who ensured the aircraft kept flying and even the 'GI brides' who were swept off their feet by the American airmen.

Each photograph is accompanied by a profile telling the fascinating story of those who are featured. Striking images include Staff Sergeant Jayson Smart who was photographed with a bloodied face immediately after a mission, John Havener who enjoyed reading in bed when off-duty and war artist Frank Beresford who was caught painting a B-17 aircraft closely watched by a donkey!

Known by locals across the country as the 'friendly invasion', the arrival of the American Air Forces had a huge impact on British life – *'I remember the Yanks almost more than I remember the war itself'*, said one Suffolk woman.

The images have been selected from a collection of 15,000 photographs, lovingly assembled by enthusiast Roger Freeman. Growing up on a farm, Freeman lived close to several of the many airfields which became a home to the US Airmen from the Eighth Air Force during the war. His teenage enthusiasm developed into a life-long interest, and he collected and expertly curated an archive, which was recently acquired by Imperial War Museums to be preserved for future generations.

Members of the public can discover more images from his archive and the role of those who served in Britain at IWM's *American Air Museum* website, a digital record of the memories and stories of the men and women of the US Army Air Forces (USAAF).

Did you know of an American who served in Britain during the war? Did your local community have an air base nearby? Was your local pub overrun with GIs over 70 years ago? We are inviting members of the public to record and share their experiences at [www.americanairmuseum.com](http://www.americanairmuseum.com)

**Images from *Somewhere in England*:**



**Captain Clark Gable talks to Sergeant Phil Hulse and Sergeant Kenneth Huls of the 351<sup>st</sup> Bomb Group**  
© IWM (FRE 3517)



**Staff Sergeant Jason Smart of the 350<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, immediately after a mission, August 1943**  
© IWM (FRE 14280)



**War artist Frank Beresford paints a B-17, closely observed by Lady Moe, 96<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group mascot**  
© IWM (FRE 3968)



**King George VI, Queen Elizabeth, Princess Elizabeth and Major General James 'Jimmy' Doolittle are introduced to Major Lloyd Mason of the 379<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group**  
© IWM (FRE 9781)



**Sergeant Leo Teetman Jr celebrates New Year's Eve, 1943, with a post-mission sandwich and coffee**  
© IWM (FRE 4796)



**Margaret Holley, nee Scott, and her bridesmaids Phyllis, Iris and Mary, July 1945**  
© IWM (FRE 6556)

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**For further press information or images please contact:**

- Harriet Thompson, Press Assistant – 0207 416 5436 / [hthompson@iwm.org.uk](mailto:hthompson@iwm.org.uk)

**Notes to Editors:**

### ***Somewhere in England***

**ISBN: 9781904897545**

Advance hard copies of the book will be available from w/c 15 February 2016. The title of the book is derived from the fact that due to censorship during the war, radio broadcasts were often addressed and letters home post-marked as from 'Somewhere in England'

\*Some of the images in this book will feature in the **newly transformed *American Air Museum*** at IWM Duxford which opens to the public on 19 March 2016. If you are interested in coming along to our exclusive **Press Day on 16 March**, please contact: Esther Blaine, [ebtaine@iwm.org.uk](mailto:ebtaine@iwm.org.uk) / 01223 499 320

### **About the *American Air Museum***

One of IWM Duxford's highlights, the *American Air Museum* will reopen to the public after five years of transformation and redevelopment.

The transformed *American Air Museum* will tell the story of Anglo-American co-operation in twentieth and twenty-first century conflict, as seen through the eyes of the people intrinsically linked with the aircraft and objects on display.

From Private to President, the *American Air Museum* will feature the personal stories of many people whose lives have been shaped by their experiences of conflict.

The museum, housed in a stunning Foster + Partners designed building will feature dramatic displays of historic aircraft, innovative interactives and hundreds of objects from letters, uniforms to personal objects – many of which have never been on display before.

### **IWM Publications**

IWM Publishing produces books which draw on the unparalleled expertise and archives of the museum. Our list is distributed all over the world and includes exhibition books, collections-based titles, gift books and guides.

Upcoming titles for 2016 include: *Firing on Fortress Europe: HMS Belfast at D-Day*, telling the exhilarating story of Belfast's role during D-Day through the eyes of the ship's crew; *The Somme: A Visual History*, which reconstructs the infamous battle for the centenary using artefacts, medals, documents, interviews, film, art, and photographs; *Secrets of Churchill's War Rooms* gives exclusive access to the Cabinet War Rooms with up-close photography and first-hand memories of the war leader; and *The English and Their Country* brings back to life a quirky guide for overseas forces, with an account of English characteristics for confused guests.

### **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 recently transformed with new, permanent and free First World War Galleries alongside new displays across

the iconic Atrium 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](#).