



100 YEARS

12 April 2017
Immediate Release

Visit IWM in its Centenary Year

Throughout 2017, IWM's centenary year, IWM is welcoming visitors to its five branches (IWM London, IWM Duxford, IWM North, Churchill War Rooms and HMS Belfast), to explore 100 years of personal stories relating to war and conflict through objects across its collections. There are a number of exhibits and stories across IWM's five branches that are a must-see for family visitors this Easter weekend.

Come onboard HMS Belfast, the largest item in IWM's collection, to uncover the ship's fascinating history – extending to the Arctic convoys, D-Day, the Cold War, and beyond. Journeying through the ship's nine decks, visitors can duck through hatches and climb up and down ladders to discover what life was like for the 950-strong crew who served on HMS Belfast. Visitors can hunt for the ribbon that was attached to the champagne bottle that launched HMS Belfast, and admire the bell gifted to the ship from the people of Belfast.

At IWM Duxford, visitors can immerse themselves in the world of aviation and discover what life was really like for the men and women who served in war and conflict. Visitors can discover the history of a Spitfire that remained undiscovered for nearly 50 years and witness Duxford as it was in the 1930s through the lens of a captivating home movie.

Must-see exhibits for families at IWM London include a pig head that was the pride of the navy; at IWM North, the ukulele that lifted spirits at a prisoner of war camp; and at Churchill War Rooms, keep an eye out for the rationed sugar cubes that are more than seventy years old.



Exploring HMS Belfast (C) IWM



American Air Museum at IWM Duxford (C) IWM



Interactive timeline at Churchill War Rooms (C) IWM

Ends

Notes to Editors

For more information or images please contact:

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Opening Times and Admissions:

- **IWM London:** Open Daily: 10am – 6pm. Last entry 30 minutes before closing. Free Admission
- **IWM North** Open Daily: 10am – 5pm. Last entry 30 minutes before closing. Free Admission.
- **IWM Duxford** Open Daily: 10am – 6pm (until mid-October 2017). Last entry an hour before closing. Admission*: £18.00 Adults; £14.40 Concessions (Senior, Student, Disabled Adult); £9 Child (5- 16); Free Child (under 5); Family tickets available; Special rates for groups of ten plus.
- **Churchill War Rooms** Open Daily: 9.30am – 6pm. Last admission 5pm. Admission*: £19 Adults; £15.20 Concessions (Senior, Student, Disabled); £9.50 Child (5- 16); Free Child (under 5); Family tickets available; Special rates for groups of ten plus.
- **HMS Belfast** Open Daily: 10am – 6pm (until 31 October 2017). Last entry an hour before closing. Admission*: £16 Adults; £12.80 Concessions (Senior, Student, Disabled); £8 Child (5- 16); Free Child (under 5); Family tickets available; Special rates for groups of ten plus.

* Please note entry prices include a voluntary donation, making a valuable contribution to the care and conservation of this historic site

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**.

IWM Centenary

2017 marks Imperial War Museums (IWM) centenary. IWM was established while the First World War was still being fought. Since its establishment people have entrusted IWM with their stories of war from 1917 to the present day, in the knowledge it will continue to share these stories with future generations. IWM will commemorate its 100 years through a centenary of stories from its rich collections across its five branches (IWM London, IWM North, IWM Duxford, Churchill War Rooms and HMS Belfast).



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First World War Centenary

2014 - 2018 marks the centenary of the First World War, a landmark anniversary for Britain and the world. IWM is marking the centenary by leading a vibrant, four year programme of cultural activities across the world. For more information visit www.1914.org

