



100 YEARS

IWM DUXFORD
PRESS RELEASE

Monday 11 September 2017

Meet renowned history authors at the IWM Duxford Battle of Britain Air Show

Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 September 2017

Tickets for the Duxford Battle of Britain Air Show must be purchased in advance; tickets will not be available to purchase on arrival at the air show.

The Duxford Battle of Britain Air Show takes place during IWM Duxford's centenary year, celebrating Duxford's important history and principle role as a vital Second World War fighter station.

Alongside a spectacular flying display featuring more than 40 exceptional historic aircraft, including a poignant mass flypast of 14 Spitfires and evocative 1940s ground content, visitors will be able to meet renowned authors who are experts in a range of Second World War specialisms and subjects, in the *Meet the Authors* marquee.

Authors attending on Saturday 23 September include:

Joshua Levine, author of *Dunkirk: The History Behind the Major Motion Picture*.

Joshua Levine has written seven best-selling histories including *The Secret History of the Blitz*, *Forgotten Voices of Dunkirk* and *Forgotten Voices of the Blitz and the Battle for Britain*. Most recently, Joshua worked as historical consultant on Christopher Nolan's film *Dunkirk*. Told from the viewpoints of land, sea and air, Joshua Levine's *Dunkirk* is a dramatic account of a defeat that paved the way to ultimate victory.

James Hamilton-Paterson, author of *Blackbird: the Untouchable Spy Plane*

A prolific author, James Hamilton-Paterson has written non-fiction books about the sea, classical music and aviation. His book *Empire of the Clouds*, a history and rumination on the decline of the British aviation industry, has sold over 140,000 copies across all editions, including a deluxe illustrated edition. He has since written *Marked for Death*, a critically acclaimed history of the First World War in the air, and a definitive book on the Blackbird SR-71 Spy Plane.

Jackie Hyams, author of *Spitfire Stories*

Jackie Hyams is a London-based journalist and author of several non-fiction historical titles. These include the best-selling 1950s memoir *Bombsites & Lollipops*; *The Female Few: Spitfire Heroines of the Air Transport Auxiliary* and *Bomb Girls: Britain's Secret Army: The Munitions Women of WWII*. Published in association with Imperial War Museums, *Spitfire Stories* recounts the memories of the people who designed, maintained or flew this iconic aircraft.

Authors attending on Sunday 24 September include:

Clare Mulley, author of *The Women Who Flew for Hitler*

Clare Mulley is an award-winning historical biographer. Her first book, *The Woman Who Saved the Children*, about child rights pioneer Eglantyne Jebb, won the Daily Mail Biographers Club Prize. *The Spy Who Loved* looks at the remarkable life of Krystyna Skarbek, codename Christine Granville, Britain's first female special agent of the Second World War and has been optioned by Universal Studios. Clare's new book, *The Women Who Flew for Hitler*, is a dual biography of Hanna Reitsch and Melitta von Stauffenberg, the only women to serve as test pilots for Nazi Germany.

Peter Caddick-Adams, author of *Monty and Rommel: Parallel Lives*

Peter Caddick-Adams is a leading military historian and has been lecturer in Military and Security Studies at the Defence Academy, Shrivenham, since 1999. *Monty and Rommel: Parallel Lives* portrays the two men who came to personify British and German generalship in the Second World War.

Damien Lewis, author of *Hunting the Nazi Bomb*

Damien Lewis is an author and journalist who has written a dozen non-fiction books and thrillers, including *Zero Six Bravo*, *The Nazi Hunters* and *Churchill's Secret Warriors*, topping bestseller lists worldwide. His new bestseller, *Hunting the Nazi Bomb*, explores the Special Forces' mission to sabotage Hitler's deadliest weapon – a nuclear bomb.

Taylor Downing, author of *Secret Warriors*

Taylor Downing is a television producer and author of several popular books on the First and Second World Wars and on the Cold War, including *Spies in the Sky*, *Churchill's War Lab*, *Cold War* and *Night Raid*.

Author talks and book signings will take place in the Authors' Marquee, which is located next to the control tower at IWM Duxford. They are included in the cost of admission to the air show.

In addition, thrilling activities across the museum site include:

- *DX17*, a major site-specific contemporary art installation by BAFTA award-winning artist Nick Ryan, commemorating 100 years of Duxford's history and stories.
- The Home Front village, with swinging sounds from the Debonaires Jump Jive Swinging Little Big Band, wartime harmonies from The Bluebird Belles and 1940s dance demonstrations from dance troupe Jitterbug Jive.
- An exciting new visual reality experience, where visitors can discover what it's like to fly in a Spitfire in the skies above IWM Duxford.
- Colonel Richard Graham hosting his popular talks about flying the SR-71 Blackbird, next to the aircraft he flew, in the *American Air Museum*.
- Outside the *American Air Museum*, members of the Rangers Re-enactors living history group will be representing Second World War United States Army Air Forces ground crew.
- Members of the Royal Flying Corps living history group, representing First World War pilots, will be meeting visitors and showing a rare replica DH2 aircraft.
- Members of 677 Squadron, 6 Regiment Army Air Corps, will be meeting visitors and introducing them to their Lynx helicopter photobooth.

Ends

For further press information please contact:
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Notes to Editors:

- [Full details of ticket prices](#) for the Duxford Battle of Britain Air Show
- Premium passes are now sold out for the Duxford Battle of Britain Air Show. Standard tickets are still available.
- [Flying participation list](#) for the Duxford Battle of Britain Air Show.
- All flying is subject to weather, serviceability and operational commitments.
- Authors attending are subject to availability.
- All information in this press release is correct at the time of issue.

IWM Duxford

IWM Duxford is Britain's best-preserved Second World War airfield, with a fascinating history that dates back to the First World War. Historic aircraft can regularly be seen taking to the skies from Duxford's wartime airfield. Duxford has been a witness to world-changing events over the past 100 years where ordinary people have had extraordinary experiences. Exploring state of the art exhibition halls and historic buildings, visitors walk in the footsteps of the men and women who served at RAF Duxford. Through the powerful stories of the men and women involved and the rich displays of aircraft we tell the story of the impact of aviation on the nature of war and on people's lives.

Open Daily: Last entry an hour before closing. (Closed 24 – 26 December).

Summer Hours: 10am – 6pm (until 22 October 2017).

Winter Hours: 10am – 4pm. (23 October 2016 to mid-March 2018)

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.

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* 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*).



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

