



**Monday 21 August 2017**

## **Over 40 historic aircraft take to the skies at IWM Duxford's 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.*

This year's Duxford Battle of Britain Air Show will take place during IWM Duxford's centenary year and will bring to life Duxford's finest hour as an important Second World War fighter station which defended Great Britain from aerial attack in 1940.

Duxford's airfield was built in 1917 during the First World War and it became pivotal to the air defence of Great Britain during the Battle of Britain and D-Day operations in the Second World War. Duxford's important history and principle role as a vital Second World War fighter station will be celebrated at the Battle of Britain Air Show by more than 40 exceptional historic aircraft taking to the skies including a poignant mass flypast of 12 Spitfires.

The air show will also feature some of the aerial stars of the 2017 blockbuster film *Dunkirk*, including Historic Flying's Hispano Aviacion HA-1112 Buchon and Aircraft Restoration Company's Bristol Blenheim Mk.IF.

On the ground at IWM Duxford, personal memories of Duxford's Battle of Britain can be experienced in *DX17*, a major site-specific contemporary art installation by BAFTA award-winning artist Nick Ryan commemorating 100 years of Duxford's history and stories. *DX17* is a dramatic, large-scale immersive sound sculpture, roughly the same size as a Spitfire. Presented in a dramatic darkened space, it takes visitors on a spectacular and tactile journey as they transfer light into sound to hear more than 100 voices and memories from Duxford's past and present.

Flying displays include:

- The RAF Falcons, the UK's premiere military parachute team, opening the flying display with a precision demonstration of freefall and canopy skills.
- The unsung Hawker Hurricane fighter aircraft takes a leading role in the opening Battle of Britain scenario with up to six Hawker Hurricanes in formation.
- A magnificent collection of interwar Hawker biplane fighters, including a Mark I Hawker Fury, Hawker Nimrod I and Hawker Nimrod II showing the development of Hawker fighter aircraft in the 1930s and up to the creation of the Hawker Hurricane.

- Immense Second World War heavy bomber Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress *Sally B*, and transport aircraft Douglas C-47 Skytrain will fly in tandem, accompanied by a P-51 Mustang fighter escort.
- Second World War seaplane Consolidated Catalina PBY-5A escorted by naval fighter aircraft.
- Representing the Russian front of the Second World War, a Hispano Aviacion HA-112 Buchon will fly in to 'attack' the airfield, accompanied by strafing effects, and will be chased off by a Yakovlev Yak-3 Soviet fighter aircraft.
- The spectacle of the Great War Display Team will present First World War combat tactics with nine replica First World War aircraft including a Royal Aircraft Factory BE2c; three Royal Aircraft Factory SE5a aircraft; two Fokker DR1 triplanes and two Junkers CL1 aircraft, accompanied by flak, bombing and strafing effects.
- Changing pace to the jet fighter era, a Russian jet fighter aircraft will be intercepted by two British jet fighters as a Mikoyan Gurevich Mig-15UTI flies alongside two de Havilland DH100 Vampires.
- 12 Spitfires will take to the skies in a poignant mass flypast and stunning tailchase.
- The Tiger Nine formation team will showcase the aircraft that many Battle of Britain pilots flew when they started training.
- A thrilling finale flypast will be led by a Bristol Blenheim with a Gloster Gladiator on each wing - the lesser-known aircraft that contributed to the Battle of Britain. This will be followed by two formations of Hawker Hurricanes and a formation of Mark I Supermarine Spitfires.

Elsewhere across the museum, as part of the Battle of Britain Air Show, engaging activities will bring Duxford's Battle of Britain history vividly to life including:

- A Home Front Village will transport visitors back in time to the Second World War with nostalgic music and authentic living history groups.
- Jitterbug Jive will be teaching visitors to cut a rug with classic 1940s swing dancing.
- Vintage vocal harmony trio The Bluebird Belles will be performing instantly recognisable wartime hits in true Andrews Sisters-style.
- The Home Front Bus is a unique living history experience contained within a classic double decker bus. Detailed reconstructions of a 1940s living room, shop, bombed out street and air raid shelter replicate the sights and sounds of the Home Front.
- Living history groups will represent the Royal Flying Corps of the First World War and the Royal Air Force Observer Corps and the 'friendly invasion' of American troops during the Second World War.

– 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.
- All information in this press release is correct at the time of issue.

## 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*).



2017 also marks the centenary of IWM Duxford. Work began to build the airfield in 1917 during the First World War. 100 years later, Duxford's vibrant, living airfield remains at the heart of its story and it is now a heritage site of international importance. As part of the commemoration of IWM's centenary of stories, Duxford shares extraordinary moments and personal memories from its own remarkable 100-year history.

## 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).

Winter Hours: 10am – 4pm. (23 October 2016 to mid-March 2017)

Summer Hours: 10am – 6pm (Mid-March 2017 to mid-October 2017).

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*.

### 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](http://www.1914.org)

