

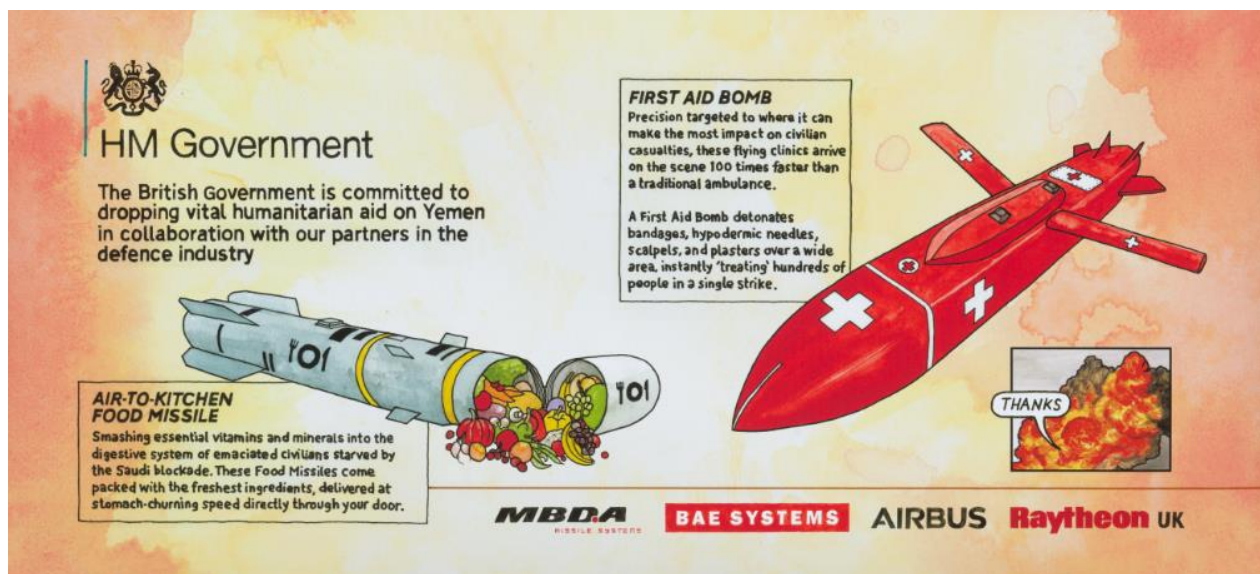


## ***New acquisition demonstrates Imperial War Museums' commitment to documenting live conflict in Yemen***

A new artwork by artist and political cartoonist Darren Cullen has been acquired by Imperial War Museums (IWM) in a collecting effort inspired by the exhibition *Yemen: Inside a Crisis*, currently on display at IWM North until 26 January 2020. The satirical work, a poster placed on London tube trains in February 2019 by the 'anti-capitalist collective' Special Patrol Group, vividly illustrates the public debate surrounding Britain's paradoxical role in Yemen as both a supplier of arms and humanitarian aid.

With the current war in Yemen identified as a new collecting area for the museum, this acquisition develops IWM's commitment to being at the forefront of documenting live conflict. By presenting unique and balanced perspectives through its programming and collections, IWM aims to build a rich record of stories that will be as relevant in 100 years' time as they are today.

Britain's complex relationship with Yemen, parodied in Darren Cullen's artwork, is also explored in the exhibition *Yemen: Inside a Crisis* currently open at IWM North.



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Described by the UN as the "world's worst" humanitarian crisis, the on-going conflict in Yemen has left an estimated 80% of the country's men, women and children in desperate need of assistance. The British government plays a leading role in the humanitarian aid response and is one of the world's largest donors to the United Nation's Humanitarian Appeal for Yemen. However, lucrative arms sales to Saudi Arabia are also contributing to the Saudi/UAE-led coalition's military operations in Yemen, escalating the conflict.

Darren Cullen's satirical poster was inspired by this paradox. Parodying a government infographic, the poster depicts two annotated 'aid bombs'.

Louise Skidmore, Head of Contemporary Conflict at IWM, says: "Britain's relationship with Yemen and its role in the current crisis is incredibly complex. After four years of persistent fighting, the conflict is ever bloodier and attempts to reach a political settlement are increasingly difficult. Through its programming and collections, IWM is committed to presenting a balanced view of conflict and the recent acquisition of Cullen's artwork is a perfect example of how this can be achieved."

Darren Cullen, artist and political cartoonist, says: "I'm very happy Imperial War Museums have acquired this poster as an example of the growing protest movement against the British arms trade. It's important to recognise the horror that these weapons continue to unleash into civilian lives in Yemen, and around the world."

## Ends

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### Notes to editors

#### ***Yemen: Inside a Crisis***

*Yemen: Inside a Crisis* at IWM North is the UK's first exhibition to address Yemen's on-going conflict and humanitarian crisis. Showcasing around 50 objects and photographs, many of which have been exclusively sourced from Yemen for this exhibition, *Yemen: Inside a Crisis* is free and is open to the public until 26 January 2020.

#### **IWM North**

The multi award winning IWM North brings Imperial War Museums' national collection to northern audiences. Designed by world-renowned architect Daniel Libeskind to represent a globe shattered by conflict, the iconic building, innovative and dynamic exhibitions, use of digital media through hourly Big Picture Shows and public events explore how war shapes lives and inspires and encourages debate.

Open Daily: 10am – 5pm. Last entry 30 minutes before closing. (Closed 24 – 26 December). Free Admission.

IWM North, The Quays, Trafford Wharf Road, Manchester M17 1TZ (close to MediaCityUK Metrolink and Junction 9 of the M60)

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[iwm.org.uk](http://iwm.org.uk) / @IWMNorth / [www.facebook.com/iwm.north](https://www.facebook.com/iwm.north)

#### **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 2.5 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**.

**Conflict Now**

*Conflict Now* is a strand of programming that was launched in 2017 to coincide with the museums' centenary. IWM will explore evolving issues across the world as a result of conflict. *Conflict Now* features opinions of individuals who have seen, experienced and worked in areas of conflict – including artists, photographers, refugees, citizen journalists and war correspondents along with exhibitions and events developed by IWM and partner organisations.