



Ohka kamikaze aircraft goes on display at IWM London for the very first time in first major object change to iconic atrium since 2014



Left: the Yokosuka MXY7 Ohka Model 11. Right: the Ohka during restoration

A Yokosuka MXY7 Ohka Model 11, a Japanese single seat suicide attack (Kamikaze) aircraft, is to go on display at IWM London for the very first time. On view to the public from today, the Ohka is now suspended above IWM London's Atrium, alongside iconic objects such as the Harrier, Spitfire and V2 rocket. This is the first major change to IWM London's Atrium since its opening in 2014.

The Ohka was employed by Japan against Allied ships towards the end of the Second World War. The aircraft was powered by three solid-fueled rocket motors and had a 1,200 kg Ammonal warhead installed in the nose. It was designed to be air-launched by a Mitsubishi G4M2e "Betty" Model 24J bomber. The wings and tail are made entirely of wood and flying surfaces made from plywood, which is fabric covered. The fuselage is constructed from aluminium. Approximately 755 of the Model 11 Ohka were built.

This aircraft was built at the Naval Air Arsenal at Yokosuka in late 1944 or early 1945 and was one of several brought to the UK from the Far East shortly after the end of the Second World War for evaluation at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough. Since its acquisition by IWM, the Ohka has undergone extensive restoration work and has been restored back to the condition it was in when it was first captured in the Far East. The restoration involved some major structural work with the fuselage being completely disassembled, de-corroded, cleaned and then riveted back together. The wings and tail plane were also repaired and then covered in new fabric. Some of the aircraft's missing components have been replicated by IWM's conservation team, including the rocket motor exhausts and bomb nose.

The construction number was unknown, however, during the restoration process the identity of the aircraft was discovered and found to be '1100.' All Ohka construction numbers were prefixed '1,' which makes this Ohka the hundredth to be completed. The number was discovered on several components alongside a handwritten message found under the paint of the rear fuselage. The text reads: '100 Takano Team No.1, 2.' It is believed that various production line teams were in friendly competition with each other and this message would seem to be from the Takano Teams to make their colleagues aware of their achievement.

The Ohka replaces the V1 flying bomb, which is moving location to IWM London's new Second World War and The Holocaust Galleries, opening next year. These new galleries will tell the story of the Second World War and

the Holocaust for a 21st century audience, highlighting how the Second World War remains the most devastating conflict in human history.

Ends

For further press information and interview requests please contact:

Rhodri Cole, Communications Officer (Corporate) rcole@iwm.org.uk / 020 7416 5420

Anna Wigley, Communications Manager (Corporate) awigely@iwm.org.uk / 020 7091 3074

Notes to editors

IWM London

IWM London tells the stories of those whose lives have been shaped by war through the depth, breadth and impact of our Galleries, displays and events. Explore the [First World War Galleries](#) and iconic Atrium; visit our [Holocaust Exhibition](#); discover stories of bravery in [The Lord Ashcroft Gallery: Extraordinary Heroes](#) or take in our latest major temporary exhibitions.

Open Daily: 10am – 6pm. Last entry 30 minutes before closing. (Closed 24 - 26 December). Free Admission

IWM London, Lambeth Road, London, SE1 6HZ

T: 020 7416 5000

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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**.