

10 August 2019

## ***IWM releases newly digitised footage of 1969 Battle of Britain film ahead of cinematic Duxford air show***

- Footage was filmed by and features a rare royal glimpse of Prince William of Gloucester
- Production crew are seen preparing special effects for historic Michael Caine film
- Duxford Battle of Britain Air Show will celebrate the history of cinema at IWM Duxford, 21-22 September

**Imperial War Museums (IWM) has digitised and released rarely seen footage of the making of the 1969 *Battle of Britain* film, coinciding with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Michael Caine classic and IWM Duxford's annual Battle of Britain Air Show.**

The striking amateur footage was filmed by Prince William of Gloucester, who can also be seen inside the cockpit of a Spitfire on IWM Duxford's airfield. A trained pilot, the prince was tragically killed in an air race in 1972.

The unique behind-the-scenes footage of director Guy Hamilton's 1969 film, which tells the story of the Allied victory over the Luftwaffe in 1940, shows the production crew preparing for the shoot including testing pyrotechnics. While filming part of the *Eagle Day* sequence at RAF Duxford, the crew deliberately exploded and destroyed one of the airfield's First World War Air hangars.

IWM Duxford, Britain's best preserved Second World War airfield, has played a significant role in the history of filmmaking in Britain. This year's [Duxford Battle of Britain Air Show](#), which takes place **21-22 September at IWM Duxford**, will celebrate the site's place in cinema history – and will be screening Prince William of Gloucester's amateur footage along with other classics over the two-day festival.

**Jane Fish, senior film curator at IWM, said:** "The footage has rarely been seen outside of the family of Prince William of Gloucester, and so it's wonderful to have been able to digitise it and make it accessible for people. It's a really evocative glimpse into the making of *Battle of Britain* film, and you can even see the production team preparing special effects, including a small explosion on a bomber aircraft. The fact that it was filmed by Prince William of Gloucester gives the footage even more of a rich historical association."

The air show will include displays from an array of original Second World War aircraft, including P-51 Mustangs and P-47 Thunderbolts, and will culminate in a mass flypast of 19 Spitfires. Four Büchon fighter jets with Luftwaffe markings, which starred in the 1969 *Battle of Britain* film, will also take flight.

The air show will also feature the Bremont Great War display team, who starred in George Clooney's *The Monuments Men* (2014), and aircraft from films including *Memphis Belle* (1990); *Pearl Harbour* (2001), *Dunkirk* (2017) and *Squadron 303* (2018).

On the ground, IWM Duxford will be transformed into a film set once again, giving visitors the opportunity to dance their way into a party scene, or step in as an extra and deliver their lines. History lovers can watch cinematic footage from IWM's archives, while fashionistas can enter a best dressed competition, or try on a costume from the wardrobe department.

You can find out more about the air show below, and see trailers [here](#).

## Ends

### For further press information and interview requests please contact:

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### Duxford Battle of Britain Air Show

**Saturday 21 – Sunday 22 September 2019**

**Tickets from £35; kids go free\***

### Notes to editors

- A full, up-to-date flying list is available to view [here](#).
- Ticketing information is available on the [IWM website](#). Information on premium experiences can be found [here](#). **Tickets for all air shows must be booked in advance; no on the day tickets are available.**
- All flying is subject to weather, serviceability and operational commitments.
- \*Kids under 15 go free when an adult purchases a ticket for the Duxford Battle of Britain Air Show.
- 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)

Winter hours: 10am – 5pm (27 October 2019 – 13 March 2020) – please note, from 4 – 5pm only

AirSpace and the Visitor Centre will be open. All other hangars will close from 4pm.

Summer hours: 10am – 6pm (16 March to 26 October 2019)

Admission: £18.15 Adults; £14.50 Concessions (Senior, Student, Disabled); £9.05 Child (5-16); Free child (under 5); family tickets available; special rates for groups of ten plus. Free for members.

A 10% discount is available for advanced tickets booked online.

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[iwm.org.uk](http://iwm.org.uk) / @I\_W\_M / [www.facebook.com/iwm.duxford](https://www.facebook.com/iwm.duxford)

### 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**.