



Renewal: Life after the First World War in Photographs

IWM London

21 September 2018 – 31 March 2019

Press View: 19 September 2018

Free exhibition

#MakingANewWorld

New exhibition of black and white photography reveals the optimism and ingenuity of a post-war world

In the years following the First World War, countries, cities, societies and individuals had to regenerate and rebuild themselves on an unprecedented scale – but from devastation and loss, a new world emerged.

Exploring the theme of renewal in relation to individual, societal and global recovery, *Renewal: Life after the First World War in Photographs* (21 September 2018 – 31 March 2019) highlights the ways in which lives, landscapes and national identities recovered, evolved and even flourished in the aftermath of war. Examining the complex processes of reconstruction, this major exhibition at IWM London includes over 130 black and white photographs, documents and objects from the museum's extensive collection.

The exhibition charts the initial optimism that followed the end of the First World War, as well as the realities of displacement, demobilisation, social change and the fall of empires. Many individuals found themselves in new nations as borders were re-drawn and empires disbanded, but while the devastating effects of war were felt on both sides, developments in materials and new technologies also led to innovations. Military equipment was repurposed for civilian use and advances in medicine and plastic surgery enabled the reconstruction of the human body.

From images of refugees returning to ruined homes, through the reconstruction of Ypres, to battlefields depicting the villages that 'died for France' and were never rebuilt, these rarely seen photographs from this little-explored time period reveal the extent of destruction and change in war-torn Europe and beyond.

Alan Wakefield, Head of First World War and Early 20th Century Conflict at IWM, said: "*Drawing primarily on IWM's rich and varied photography archive, this new exhibition presents images from both official and personal collections, giving insight into the innovation, opportunism and resourcefulness that shaped the rebuilding and regeneration of the post-war world. Both surprising and inspiring, the exhibition highlights the resilience and ingenuity of the human spirit in a time of unprecedented social and political change.*"

Renewal: Life after the First World War in Photographs is part of *Making a New World*, a season of innovative exhibitions, installations and immersive experiences taking place across IWM London and IWM North between 27 July 2018 and 31 March 2019. The free season will explore themes of remembrance and how the First World War has shaped the society we live in today.

Ends

For further press information and interview requests please contact:

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Notes to editors

Making a New World

Making a New World is a free season of exhibitions, installations and immersive experiences taking place at IWM London and IWM North in 2018. Through art, photography, film, live music, dance and conversations, the season will explore themes of remembrance and how the First World War has shaped today's society, bringing together five major exhibitions – *Lest We Forget?*, *Renewal: Life after the First World War in Photographs, I was there: Room of Voices*, *African Soldier* and *Moments of Silence*.

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; find out what life was like at home during the Second World War in [A Family in Wartime](#); delve into the world of espionage in [Secret War](#); 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.

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iwm.org.uk / @I_W_M / www.facebook.com/iwm.london

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

