



23 October 2018

Imperial War Museums welcomes support from Roman Abramovich and Chelsea Football Club for new Holocaust Galleries

We are delighted to announce that we have received a donation from Roman Abramovich towards IWM London's new Holocaust Galleries, opening in 2021. In addition, Chelsea Football Club will be hosting a fundraiser at Stamford Bridge later this year to raise additional funds for the Galleries.

The support from Chelsea Football Club was agreed earlier this year and is part of the club's educational campaign against anti-Semitism launched in 2018, which forms part of the on-going inclusion work through the Chelsea Foundation's Building Bridges campaign.

This generous contribution will help enable IWM London to realise its next phase of transformation, a £30.5 million project which will see the creation of new Second World War Galleries, Holocaust Galleries and a digitally-enabled Learning Suite.

The new galleries will enable IWM to transform the way it presents the Second World War and the Holocaust, helping visitors to understand the complex narrative of the Holocaust within the context of the conflict, something that no other museum currently does.

Imperial War Museums has a vital role to play in addressing misconceptions about the Second World War and the Holocaust and the relationship between them. The galleries will draw heavily upon the individual personal stories from IWM's collections to present a vivid narrative that reflects the realities of the Second World War, the Holocaust and the way in which they shaped the world.

Diane Lees, Director General, IWM says: "We're delighted to announce this generous donation from Roman Abramovich towards our new Holocaust Galleries at IWM London. This donation will enable IWM to reinterpret these galleries, which will present critical insights into the Holocaust as well as integrate the devastating events of the Holocaust into the broader history of the Second World War, revealing why this often overlooked dimension is so important"

Bruce Buck, Chairman Chelsea FC, says: "Mr. Abramovich and the club are very pleased to contribute to IWM's new Holocaust galleries which we believe will help improve education and awareness about the Holocaust. Earlier this year, our club launched a campaign to raise awareness of and tackle anti-Semitism in all its forms. Education and understanding of history plays an important role in changing attitudes, and we are proud to be able to contribute to these new landmark galleries that will benefit millions of visitors from around the world."

For further press information please contact:

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Notes to Editors

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**.

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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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

