Presenter John Delaney is Head of Second World War and mid-20th century conflict at IWM. This film was made at IWM Duxford which has been a working airfield since 1918 and was the first RAF base to receive the Spitfire in 1938. RAF Duxford served as a crucial base for Britain’s Royal Air Force and defensive operations during the Second World War. It was actually the first RAF base that Spitfires operated from, so John is in the best place to introduce this incredible aircraft to you!

In 1976 the airfield became a permanent part of Imperial War Museums.

In this film John talks about IWM’s own Mk1A Spitfire N3200 (which is currently on display), this aircraft was shot down on 26th May 1940 supporting Operation Dynamo - the evacuation of Dunkirk, and spent the next 50 years buried in the sands of a French beach. N3200 was restored to flying condition by Historic Flying Limited, who are based at IWM Duxford and its first post-restoration flight took place on 26 March 2014 from the airfield. The aircraft was donated to the Imperial War Museums on 9 July 2015 by American billionaire and conservationist Thomas Kaplan.

Once the students have watched the film there is a challenge set by celebrated Spitfire stunt pilot Anna Walker. Anna asks the students to imagine they are part of the ground crew of a Spitfire display team and asks them to make important calculations based around flying times and fuel usage.

**Glossary of Terms:**

- **Radio Call Sign** – a name that identifies an individual or a unit
- **Service Ceiling** - the maximum height at which a pilot flies the aircraft before its performance becomes too affected
- **Squadron** – a group of aircraft and their crew
- **Squadron Leader** – a senior rank in the RAF which oversees the squadron
- **Lift** – the force that due to an aircraft’s wings enables it to fly
- **Thrust** – a powerful aerodynamic force with a pushing or pulling effect
- **Drag** – an aerodynamic force which opposes the direction of an aircraft
- **QV Squadron Codes** – a two letter name which identifies the squadron
- **Serial number** – a unique number which identifies it to the manufacturer

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.