



2022 at Imperial War Museums: Major video games exhibition, Cold War anniversaries and Platinum Jubilee celebrations

Today, Imperial War Museums (IWM) shares news of its upcoming programme for 2022, which will see incredible stories from our history told through major exhibitions and brand-new experiential events.

At IWM London, two important new exhibitions will be presented to visitors. *War Games: Real Conflicts | Virtual Worlds | Extreme Entertainment* (September 2022) – supported by Rebellion – will explore the relationship between video games and conflict, challenging perceptions of how stories about war are interpreted. During the summer months, IWM London will also display a new photography exhibition, staged to coincide with Her Majesty The Queen's upcoming Platinum Jubilee, highlighting the Queen's experiences of war and longstanding ties with the armed forces.

In addition to this, IWM will commemorate the important *Falklands 40* anniversary through special displays at IWM London and IWM North. IWM will also mark significant Cold War anniversaries, *Cuban Missile Crisis 60* and *Operation Hurricane 70*, with IWM Duxford at the centre of activity. Building on this Cold War focus, 2022 will also see the launch of a second series of *Conflict of Interest*, the critically acclaimed podcast from the IWM Institute.



L to R: © IWM (FKD 298), Captured Argentine rifles, Port Stanley, June 1982, Paul Haley for Soldier Magazine; © IWM (TR 2835), Princess Elizabeth, a 2nd Subaltern in the Auxiliary Territorial Service; © Rebellion. Still from *Sniper Elite 4*.

Spring 2022

Conflict of Interest Series 2 Digital, Spring 2022

Following the success of the IWM Institute's debut podcast series – *Conflict of Interest* – 2022 will see the launch of series two. While series one explored the world's most complicated contemporary conflicts, these new episodes of *Conflict of Interest* will look further back to the Cold War and beyond, asking the questions you always wanted to know about this historical period. Episodes will pair IWM curators and witnesses to war with celebrity guests to address why the USA fought in Vietnam; how the world was brought to the brink of nuclear war by the Cuban Missile Crisis; Communism in North Korea; and the Japanese experience of the Second World War.

Falklands 40 IWM London and IWM North, April – June 2022

April to June 2022 marks the 40th anniversary of the Falklands Conflict, when Britain and Argentina fought over the sovereignty of British dependent territories in the South Atlantic. It will be marked by highlighting and enhancing stories and displays, both online and at IWM London

and IWM North. Visitors will be able to explore the experiences of those who witnessed or participated in the fighting, and those who dealt with the conflict's aftermath.

Flying Programme

IWM Duxford, April – October 2022

IWM Duxford's 2022 Flying Programme will be back and bigger than ever next year with a series of uniquely themed **Flying Days** on various dates throughout April to October and our two annual Air Shows, the **Duxford Summer Air Show** and **Battle of Britain Air Show**. Taking place on 18 - 19 June and 10 - 11 September respectively, these weekend events will feature an array of entertaining ground content and, of course, our signature aerial displays.

Summer 2022

IWM Live

IWM Duxford, June 2022

This year sees the launch of IWM Live, a new live history event, taking place at IWM Duxford. IWM Live will present a unique opportunity to listen to and meet a fascinating selection of authors and experts, as well as learn from IWM's curators and conservators; hear amazing stories from veterans; and see rarely seen objects up close and in person. More information about the programme of talks, tours, workshops, demonstrations, and activities with experts from IWM and the wider field will be announced in 2022.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

IWM London, IWM North and IWM Duxford, Summer 2022

During her 70-year reign, and indeed throughout her lifetime, Her Majesty The Queen has lived through times of conflict and has had an enduring relationship with the armed forces. This relationship can be traced and explored through IWM's collections in enlightening and powerful ways, bringing human stories to the foreground and revealing a strong shared history.

At IWM London, the remarkable 70-year reign of Her Majesty The Queen – the first British monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee – will be celebrated in a new exhibition of iconic and poignant photographs. This exhibition will showcase how the Queen's life has been touched by war and conflict, from meeting troops before D-Day, to serving in the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1945 and standing on the balcony of Buckingham Palace on VE Day. Visitors will also be able to explore further at IWM London, IWM Duxford and IWM North, discovering collections and displays with a special connection to the Queen's experience of war.

Redeveloping displays at Churchill War Rooms

Churchill War Rooms, August 2022

August 2022 will see the redesign of five displays at Churchill War Rooms, using engaging storytelling techniques to bring the secrets of the site and its people to life.

New displays in the historic rooms will bring to life some of the site's most significant events and the hidden experiences of those that worked there, creating a broader understanding of the importance of the site beyond its role as refuge for the Prime Minister and War Cabinet. Visitors will hear the challenges faced by the Chiefs of Staff when determining how to respond to the deadly V1 attacks during summer 1944, learn why the Map Room was the 'beating heart of the global war', and see how staff were protected underground.

IWM has also commissioned a new animation for the Churchill Museum, which will introduce both the public and private life of Winston Churchill to visitors, giving a broad introduction to the museum's fascinating exhibits.

Autumn 2022

War Games: Real Conflicts | Virtual Worlds | Extreme Entertainment

IWM London, September 2022

Video games dominate the entertainment industry today, a sector which has storytelling at its

heart. Games often draw their inspiration from real conflicts and events, but can the truth and reality of war be experienced in the virtual world of a video game?

Opening at IWM London in September 2022, *War Games: Real Conflicts | Virtual Worlds | Extreme Entertainment* will allow visitors to explore the relationship between video games and conflict, the virtual and the real. The exhibition will challenge perceptions of how video games interpret stories about war and conflict through immersive installations and unique perspectives from key voices in the industry. Showcasing a broad range of video games, from Second World War shooters to strategic survival games set against the backdrop of conflicts, *War Games* will be presented alongside historic objects from IWM's collection. Alongside a museum wide programme of events and gaming, the exhibition will consider how video games can shape our understanding of conflict and reflect the truths of war.

War Games: Real Conflicts | Virtual Worlds | Extreme Entertainment is supported by lead sponsor Rebellion.

Nuclear Legacies: Cuban Missile Crisis 60 and Operation Hurricane 70 IWM Duxford, October 2022

2022 marks two crucial anniversaries in British and global Cold War history: the 70th anniversary of Operation Hurricane, when Britain detonated its first nuclear weapon, and the 60th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis, a confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union that threatened to draw the world into nuclear war. These important events will be marked and examined at IWM Duxford, still an active RAF airfield during the early years of the Cold War and now home to a wide range of aircraft from this defining period in our history.

ENDS

For further press information and interview requests please contact:

Hannah Boulton, Communications Officer (Exhibitions and Programming), HBoulton@iwm.org.uk, 07966 626 241

Notes to editors

IWM

www.iwm.org.uk

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 has recently transformed with new, permanent and free Second World War and The Holocaust Galleries; 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*.