



## ***Imperial War Museums to exhibit Falklands collections items for the first time to mark 40-year anniversary of the Conflict***

From 2 April 2022, Imperial War Museums (IWM) will mark the 40th anniversary of the Falklands Conflict. New exhibits at IWM London and IWM North will include items from IWM's rich collection that will go on display for the very first time. The story and legacy of the Falklands Conflict will also be explored through a digital programme, including a new episode of IWM's *Conflict of Interest* podcast featuring actor Katherine Parkinson.

On 2 April 1982, Argentinian forces invaded the British overseas territory of the Falkland Islands, followed by South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. Despite being 8000 miles away, Britain sent a task force of warships and rapidly refitted merchant ships to the South Atlantic. Fierce fighting in the air, at sea and on land culminated in the surrender of Argentinian forces in South Georgia on 26 April and the Falkland Islands on 14 June. 649 Argentinians, 255 British service personnel and three Falkland Islanders were killed. The outcome of the conflict was arguably a turning point for the leadership of Margaret Thatcher and for Argentina's President Leopoldo Galtieri, who resigned under pressure following the defeat. The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary is an opportunity to improve public understanding of this conflict, the impact of which still resonates to this day.

New exhibits at IWM London will highlight eyewitness accounts of the conflict. Drawings by Linda Kitson, who was the first female artist commissioned by IWM to accompany troops into conflict, will be displayed alongside clothing, equipment and testimony of her time following British forces. Images by photographer Paul RG Haley, who covered the conflict for *Soldier Magazine*, will also be on display. His photographs reflect the varied experiences of British and Argentinian forces on the Islands and capture pivotal moments in the campaign, such as the landings at San Carlos and the advance to Port Stanley. Many of Haley's photographs have never been displayed before.

Haley's photographs will also be projected in the galleries at IWM North, as part of a series of large-scale, newly digitised photos and film taken during the conflict. Other new displays at IWM North will focus on the stories of those who served with British forces during the conflict, including objects relating to Bolton resident Corporal Neil Maher, who served as a signals specialist with No. 656 Squadron, Army Air Corps. Maher set up ship-to-shore communications for crewmen of the damaged RFA *Sir Tristram* after the ship was bombed at Fitzroy on 8 June. Displayed for the first time at IWM North will be a two-part artwork by Michael Peel, which relate to a famous remark made by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher following the announcement that British forces had recaptured South Georgia from Argentina.

Through brand-new digital content, the museum will tell an in-depth story of the Falklands Conflict and examine its geopolitical context. Series two of critically acclaimed podcast *Conflict of Interest* will feature an episode on the Falklands Conflict. Actor Katherine Parkinson and IWM's John Beales explore why the conflict happened, how it played out and its impact on the UK and Argentina. IWM will also be releasing a series of five short films on the conflict, explaining the extraordinary land, sea and air operation carried out by British forces to retake the islands. The first video in the series will be released on IWM's YouTube Channel on 23 March.

**Hilary Roberts, Senior Curator, Cold War and Late 20th Century said:** *"Today we have a much better understanding of the pivotal nature of the Falklands Conflict. Its political, military, social and cultural consequences continue to resonate today. This anniversary is an opportunity to consider these consequences while telling the story of the Falklands Conflict through the testimony of the veterans and eyewitnesses who were there."*

**Photographer Paul Haley said:** *"I'm very flattered to have this body of work added to the IWM archives and I hope it will prove useful to many over the years to come. I'm also delighted that some of the works will be displayed at IWM London and IWM North. In 1982, I was privileged to photograph Britain's armed forces throughout their campaign to retake the Falkland Islands. These events changed many lives, including mine, and deserves to be remembered. In particular, I hope my photographs will bear witness to the effort, suffering and sacrifice which I witnessed during those difficult days."*

IWM is delighted to be collaborating with Pannett Art Gallery, Whitby, to display one of the 'Roses for Peace', created by Argentine artist Juan Carlos Pallarols from bullets and ammunition shells used in the Falklands Conflict, in a collective effort with veterans and their families. Through a display and events April-July, we will explore local stories of the Falklands Conflict and Whitby's connection to its twin town, Port Stanley. IWM's War and Conflict Subject Specialist Network will collaborate with members to mark the anniversary, through a digital resource pack and online events beginning with a talk on 5 April about the role of the British Navy.

IWM's activities are part of a wider range of commemorative events taking place around the country to mark the anniversary. Some of the events featured will be part of the BBC's Art That Made Us Festival which celebrates creativity in partnership with museums, galleries, libraries and archives throughout the country.

**Ends**

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**Notes to editors**

**IWM**

[www.iwm.org.uk](http://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**.

### **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; extensive new [Second World War](#) and [The Holocaust Galleries](#); discover stories of bravery in [The Lord Ashcroft Gallery: Extraordinary Heroes](#) or take in our latest major temporary exhibitions.

Open Wednesday to Sunday: 10am – 6pm except during school holidays and half term, when we are open seven days a week. Also open bank holidays. Closed 24 - 26 December. Free admission.

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### **IWM North**

The multi award winning IWM North brings Imperial War Museums' national collection to northern audiences. Designed by world-renowned architect Daniel Libeskind to represent a globe shattered by conflict, the iconic building, innovative and dynamic programming, use of digital media through hourly Big Picture Shows and public events explore how war shapes lives and inspires and encourages debate.

Open Wednesday to Sunday: 10am – 5pm except during school holidays and half term, when we are open seven days a week. Also open bank holidays. Last entry 30 minutes before closing. Closed 24 – 26 December. Free admission.

IWM North, The Quays, Trafford Wharf Road, Manchester M17 1TZ (close to Imperial War Museum North and MediaCityUK Metrolink and Junction 9 of the M60)

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