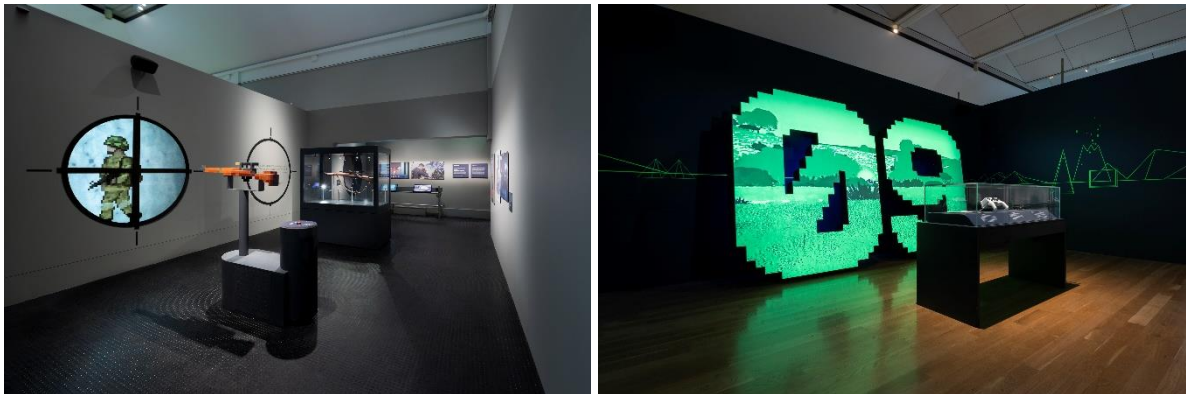




NOW OPEN: War Games at IWM London, the UK's first exhibition to explore what video games tell us about conflict

Full exhibition press release [HERE](#)
Link to installation images [HERE](#)



© IWM Installation shots of *War Games: Real Conflicts | Virtual Worlds | Extreme Entertainment* at IWM London (30 September 2022 – 28 May 2023).

From Friday 30 September 2022, Imperial War Museums (IWM) presents [***War Games: Real Conflicts | Virtual Worlds | Extreme Entertainment***](#), a brand-new season challenging perceptions of how video games interpret stories about war and conflict. Comprising a major exhibition, a playable retro game zone and an accompanying public programme, *War Games* explores the relationship between video games and conflict through a series of titles which, over the last forty years, have reflected events from the First World War to the present.

War Games exhibition

Open at IWM London, *War Games* (30 September 2022 – 28 May 2023) is the UK's first exhibition to delve into one of today's most popular storytelling mediums and ask how the reality of war is represented in the virtual world of a video game. Showcasing immersive installations, never-before-displayed objects and perspectives from industry experts, this free exhibition presents blockbuster games like **Sniper Elite 5** and **Call of Duty: Modern Warfare** alongside indie titles such as **This War of Mine** and **Bury Me, My Love**, raising questions about how different developers have portrayed conflict and highlighting real-life stories which many have drawn inspiration from.

Featuring 12 diverse case studies, *War Games* invites visitors to interrogate the tension that exists between the thrill and tragedy of warfare in a game and its repercussions in the real world. Common gameplay tropes such as explosive barrels and sniper rifles feature next to collection items like facial prosthetics developed in the First World War. The exhibition also explores how video game technology can be used, and is used, to help shape real wars, presenting brand new acquisitions including an Xbox 360 controller once used to operate the camera of an unmanned aerial vehicle in Afghanistan and Iraq.

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

Retro Game Zone

Further expanding on the themes of the exhibition, visitors will have the opportunity to get hands on with *War Games*. From 30 September 2022 – 2 January 2023, the exhibition is accompanied by a retro game zone where visitors can play 13 iconic titles including **Battlezone**, **Medal of Honor** and **Top Gun** on consoles ranging from the **Atari 2600** to the **Sega Dreamcast**. Together, these titles ask players to consider in real time what different games can tell us about war and conflict.

War Games Live

On Saturday 26 November 2022, IWM will present [War Games Live](#), a half day festival bringing together leading designers, podcasters, musicians and gaming enthusiasts for a series of talks, panels and music – all exploring the phenomenon of conflict-based video games. Featuring key industry names including award-winning game designers **Brenda and John Romero** and The Gadget Show's **Jordan Erica Webber**, this unique ticketed event will also grant guests after-hours access to the *War Games* exhibition and retro game zone.

From behind-the-scenes talks with games creators at **Rebellion** and **World of Tanks** to music from a renowned games composer, *War Games Live* will also invite participation from gamers and up-and-coming developers. The festival will culminate in the announcement of a Games Jam in association with the Historical Games Network and the University of Glasgow's Games and Gaming Lab, challenging entrants to create the ultimate war video game based on underexplored stories from Britain's conflict history since 1914 and inspired by IWM objects.

War Games Live is an [IWM Institute](#) event sponsored by World of Tanks and in association with the Historical Games Network.

War Games Retail Range

Accompanying the *War Games* season, IWM is releasing a brand-new retail range inspired by gaming and a selection of the titles featured in the exhibition. Highlights of the *War Games* exhibition shop include a Sniper Elite capsule range based on the iconic video game, as well as an assortment of quirky gifts and retro board games. For visitors hoping to expand their understanding of gaming, a new book range also explores subjects from the medium's history to art and topography. Available in the exhibition shop on Level 3 and online at shop.iwm.org.uk.

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Notes to editors

The 12 titles – 11 video games and one military training simulator – featured in the exhibition include:

Call of Duty: Modern Warfare
Arma 3
Sniper Elite 5
Wolfenstein 3D
Six Days in Fallujah
Through the Darkest of Times
Bury Me, My Love
This War of Mine
11-11: Memories Retold
Worms

Battlezone
Virtual Battlespace 4

The 13 playable games in the retro game zone include:

Goldeneye
Medal of Honor
Battlezone
Army Men: Lock 'n' Load
Top Gun
After Burner
Cannon Fodder
Desert Strike
Hogs of War
Command & Conquer: Red Alert
Rush 'n' Attack
Tetris
Worms Armageddon

Listings information:

War Games: Real Conflicts | Virtual Worlds | Extreme Entertainment

30 September 2022 – 28 May 2023

Free exhibition

Retro Game Zone: 30 September 2022 – 2 January 2023

iwm.org.uk/events/war-games

War Games Live

Saturday 26 November 2022, 2-8pm

£40 Standard Ticket, £25 Student Ticket

iwm.org.uk/events/war-games-live

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**.

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 daily: 10am – 6pm. Closed 24 - 26 December. Free admission.

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About Rebellion

Founded in 1992, Rebellion is one of world's most successful independent studios. Its flagship Sniper Elite series is renowned for its authentic stealth and sniping gameplay with more than 20 million players worldwide. The latest game in the franchise, Sniper Elite 5, will be released in 2022. 2000 AD is synonymous with the absolute finest in British comic book art. With the acquisition of a \$100m film studio and the world's largest archive of English language comics, Rebellion continues to grow from strength to strength.

Rebellion now operates across books, comics, TV and film, but at its core it's still a leading developer and publisher of games. Whether it's the breath-taking intensity of the Sniper Elite, the face-hugging terror of Aliens vs. Predator or the grindhouse frenzy of the Zombie Army series, the Oxford-based studio is revered for creating stand-out games designed to thrill.

About World of Tanks

World of Tanks is the first team-based, massively multiplayer online action game dedicated to tank warfare. Throw yourself into the epic tank battles of World War II with gamers all over the world. Your arsenal includes over 600 armored vehicles from 11 nations, carefully detailed with historical accuracy.

Official website: worldoftanks.com

About Wargaming

Wargaming is an award-winning online game developer and publisher headquartered in Nicosia, Cyprus. Operating since 1998, Wargaming has grown to become one of the leaders in the gaming industry with 16 offices around the world, including studios in Chicago, Prague, Shanghai, Tokyo, Vilnius and Belgrade. Millions of players enjoy Wargaming's titles across all major gaming platforms. Our flagship products include the free-to-play hits World of Tanks, World of Warships and World of Tanks Blitz.

Official website: wargaming.com