



27 July

Sir Francis Richards Appointed New Chairman of Imperial War Museum

The Imperial War Museum is pleased to announce that the Board of Trustees has appointed Sir Francis Richards KCMG CVO to succeed Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Squire as its Chairman with effect from 19 December 2011.

Sir Francis has been a Trustee of the Museum since April 2007 and Deputy Chair since December 2009. For the past five years he has been chairman of the trustees of Bletchley Park.

Sir Francis retired in 2006 from the post of Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Gibraltar. Prior to this, he was Director of GCHQ and Deputy Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. During his diplomatic career he served in British missions in New Delhi, Moscow and Windhoek, where he was British High Commissioner. As a Trustee, he has served on the IWM Development Trust since 2008 and currently chairs the Audit Committee.

– Ends –

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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 1914.

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 are **IWM London**, with six floors of exhibitions and displays; **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 war-time airfield; **Churchill War Rooms**, housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall and the Second World War cruiser **HMS Belfast**.

2014 - 2018 marks the centenary of the First World War, a landmark anniversary for Britain and the world. IWM will mark the centenary by leading a vibrant, four year programme of cultural activities across the country, including the opening of brand new First World War galleries at IWM London in 2014. For more information visit www.1914.org