



PRESS RELEASE



IWM Secures a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant for the New First World War Galleries

We can now announce that IWM has secured the £4.5million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to help finance the creation of new ground-breaking First World War Galleries at IWM London (part of Imperial War Museums) which are set to open in June 2014 to mark the First World War Centenary.

The initial support for this grant, whereby HLF publically endorsed the outline proposals for the project and funding application, was first announced in November 2011.

The new Galleries, almost twice the size of the current ones, will enable the museum to display much more from its world-renowned collections. Original artefacts from soldiers' personal items, letters and diaries through to weapons, tanks and artworks will be exhibited in state-of-the-art, interactive displays exploring the stories of those who lived, fought and died in the Great War.

Alongside the development of the Galleries, IWM have launched a programme of education initiatives such as a *Youth Panel* and *Young Reporters*, in order to reach out to young people across the city inviting them to engage with this landmark anniversary and get involved with IWM's work.

IWM is leading the First World War Centenary Partnership, a network of over 450 national and international members. Together, we will present a four year vibrant global programme of events, activities and digital platforms which will enable millions of people across the world to discover more about life in the First World War.

Diane Lees, Director-General, IWM says: "We're delighted to announce that we have secured this grant from Heritage Lottery Fund. Claiming the lives of over 16 million people and affecting even more, the First World War was a turning point in world history.

"The Centenary is a landmark anniversary for Britain and the world and also marks the opening chapter of IWM's history. IWM was originally established in 1917 to collect and record everybody's experiences of the Great War, which was still being fought. A hundred years through our new galleries at IWM London and wider Centenary programme, IWM will reconnect people with the First World War and keep the history and personal recollections of the war alive for future generations."

Carole Souter, Chief Executive of HLF, says: "These inspiring plans are entirely fitting to mark the planned First World War commemorations and we are proud to be playing a role as a funder. The 'Great War' was an extraordinary turning point in our history and these galleries will help remind us all – young and old - of the sacrifices that were made and the importance of continuing to learn from its lessons."

In addition to HLF's support to date IWM has secured £15.3million of the total £35 million First World War Centenary redevelopment project cost, which includes new First World War galleries a reconfigured Central Hall and improved visitor facilities. The remaining £15.2 million is being sought from a variety of sources including donations from major philanthropists, Trusts and Foundations, corporate partners, IWM Friends and the public. The IWM Foundation, an independent charitable trust set up under the chairmanship of Viscount Rothermere and with the Duke of Cambridge as Patron is also supporting the fundraising for IWM's ambitious plans.



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Notes to editors:

Transforming IWM London

The new First World War galleries are the first in a series of redevelopment projects planned at IWM London. The museum's central atrium space will also be transformed for 2014, redisplaying and interpreting IWM's iconic large objects to make it easier for visitors to gain a deeper understanding of their historical significance and context. Longer term regeneration plans include a new ground-level entrance and landscaping at the front of the building, creating a community space which improves public access and provides a home for the iconic naval guns. This will be combined with new Second World War, art and temporary display galleries, as well as new conferencing and learning facilities.

IWM

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 are **IWM London**, IWM's flagship branch 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 wartime airfield; **Churchill War Rooms**, housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall; and the Second World War cruiser **HMS Belfast**.

First World War Centenary

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

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, we invest in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported over 33,000 projects, allocating £4.9billion across the UK. Website: www.hlf.org.uk