



100 YEARS

CHURCHILL WAR ROOMS
PRESS RELEASE

Churchill War Rooms features in Universal Pictures motion picture DARKEST HOUR

IWM welcomes visitors to step back in time at Churchill War Rooms to uncover the historic events and location that inspired the film

At this must-see [historic site](#), visitors can walk in the footsteps of Winston Churchill and spot the locations featured in Universal Pictures motion picture DARKEST HOUR (UK release date: 12 January 2018), including the historic Map Room, the Cabinet Room, Churchill's bedroom and the Transatlantic Telephone Room.

These historic rooms were recreated by the film's set designers, who spent months painstakingly researching in the real Churchill War Rooms, before building a replica set at Ealing Studios. Churchill War Rooms was also visited by Gary Oldman, Lily James and the film's director Joe Wright as part of the research for the film.

For visitors who want to find out more about the real Winston Churchill, the award-winning [Churchill Museum](#) tells the story of Winston Churchill's remarkable 90-year life. In the Churchill Museum visitors can hear extracts from Churchill's rousing wartime speeches, read some of the hundreds of devoted letters Churchill exchanged with his wife Clementine and see personal objects relating to all periods of Churchill's life, including one of his favourite cigars and the door of No. 10 Downing Street.

As well as discovering more about Churchill himself, a trip to Churchill War Rooms offers the chance for visitors to hear personal testimonies from the ordinary men and women who worked beneath the London streets during the Second World War. For visitors interested in Lily James' character in DARKEST HOUR (Elizabeth Nel, Winston Churchill's personal secretary) [Undercover: Life in Churchill's Bunker](#) offers the chance to find out what life was really like for typists, who often spent many days and nights underground at Churchill War Rooms.

James Taylor, curator of the Churchill Museum at Churchill War Rooms, says

"We are pleased to welcome to the Churchill War Rooms visitors who have been inspired by DARKEST HOUR to discover more about the historic events and location behind this film. Visitors can stand where history happened, spot the locations and objects featured in the film, and uncover the fascinating personal stories that lie hidden beneath the streets of Westminster."

In addition to the historic site itself, visitors who want to find out more about Winston Churchill and the historic Churchill War Rooms can purchase IWM's publications [Churchill's War in Words: His Finest Quotes 1939 – 1945](#) and [Secrets of Churchill's War Rooms](#) via IWM's shop.

Furthermore, in 2020 IWM will open its spectacular new Second World War and Holocaust Galleries at Imperial War Museum London, for those who want to discover more about the history of the Second World War.

Ends

IWM has a number of spokespeople, images and other assets available connected to the film.

For further press information, assets and interview requests please contact:

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Notes to editors

IWM is a lead promotional partner for DARKEST HOUR in the UK. The following credit line should be used in relation to content referencing both the film and Churchill War Rooms: [Churchill War Rooms in London, as featured in DARKEST HOUR is open daily](#)

Churchill War Rooms

Churchill War Rooms was the secret underground headquarters where Winston Churchill and his team directed the course of the Second World War. We show visitors where the staff lived and worked, explain how the decisions made here changed the course of history and reveal Churchill himself and his role in British history.

Open Daily: 9.30am – 6pm. Last admission 5pm. (Closed 24 – 26 December).

Admission: £21 Adults; £16.50 Concessions (Senior, Student, Disabled); £10.50 Child (5-16); Free Child (under 5); Family tickets available; Special rates for groups of ten plus. Free for members.

From January 2018, a 10% discount will be offered for advanced tickets booked online.

Churchill War Rooms, Clive Steps, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AQ

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DARKEST HOUR

Genre: WWII Drama

Cast: Gary Oldman, Kristin Scott Thomas, Lily James, Stephen Dillane, Ronald Pickup, and Ben Mendelsohn

Directed by: Joe Wright (Atonement, Hanna, Pride & Prejudice, Anna Karenina)

Written by: Anthony McCarten (The Theory of Everything)

Producers: Tim Bevan, Eric Fellner, Anthony McCarten, Lisa Bruce, Douglas Urbanski

DARKEST HOUR, a Focus Features presentation of a Working Title Films Production.

During the early days of World War II, with the fall of France imminent, Britain faces its darkest hour as the threat of invasion looms. As the seemingly unstoppable Nazi forces advance, and with the Allied army cornered on the beaches of Dunkirk, the fate of Western Europe hangs on the leadership of the newly-appointed British Prime Minister Winston Churchill (Academy Award nominee Gary Oldman). While maneuvering his political rivals, he must confront the ultimate choice: negotiate with Hitler and save the British people at a terrible cost or rally the nation and fight on against incredible odds. Directed by Joe Wright, DARKEST HOUR is the dramatic and inspiring story of four weeks in 1940 during which Churchill's courage to lead changed the course of world history.

Secrets of Churchill's War Rooms

£30.00

ISBN 978-1-904897-49-1

Secrets of Churchill's War Rooms offers readers a behind-the-scenes look at Churchill's wartime headquarters, revealing the fascinating story of the work carried out there during the war. Containing more than 150 photographs and details from once top secret documents, the book takes readers beyond the glass partitions that separate visitors from the historic rooms, offering a close-up look at items – some of which only a few people in the world have ever seen before. Objects photographed for the book include Churchill's chair in the Cabinet Room, gouged with scratch marks by its anxious occupant; the map that loomed over his bed as he took his famous afternoon naps; and seventy-year-old maps from drawers which were abandoned when the lights to the war rooms were switched off on 16 August 1945.

http://www.iwmshop.org.uk/product/25830/Secrets_of_Churchills_War_Rooms

Churchill's War in Words: His Finest Quotes 1939-1945

£9.99

ISBN 978-1-904897-36-1

Churchill's War in Words transports the reader back to the Second World War through a selection of some of the most poignant and powerful words delivered during the years 1939–1945. Featuring Winston Churchill's most famous quotes – many that still have resonance today – the book also includes previously unpublished perspectives on the wartime leader which have been discovered in IWM's archives.

http://www.iwmshop.org.uk/product/26269/Churchills_War_in_Words_His_Finest_Quotes_19391945

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 which attract over 2 million visitors each year are **IWM London**, IWM's flagship branch that recently transformed with new, permanent and free First World War Galleries alongside new displays across the iconic Atrium to mark the Centenary of the First World War; **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 Centenary

2017 marks Imperial War Museums (IWM) centenary. IWM was established while the First World War was still being fought. Since its establishment people have entrusted IWM with their stories of war from 1917 to the present day, in the knowledge it will continue to share these stories with future generations. IWM will commemorate its 100 years through a centenary of stories from its rich collections across its five branches (IWM London, IWM North, IWM Duxford, Churchill War Rooms and HMS *Belfast*).



100 YEARS

First World War Centenary

2014 - 2018 marks the centenary of the First World War, a landmark anniversary for Britain and the world. IWM is marking the centenary by leading a vibrant, four year programme of cultural activities across the world. For more information visit www.1914.org

