



100 YEARS



PRESS RELEASE

Imperial War Museums to explore the working lives of women during the First World War through *WomensWork100* in 2018

Since 2014, events and activities around the globe have connected people with the impact of 1914-1918 on the world, nations, communities and individuals. The role of women is a story that is yet to be fully told. In 2018 the First World War Centenary Partnership (FWWCP), led by Imperial War Museums (IWM), will present *WomensWork100*.

This international programme of exhibitions, events, activities, creative responses, personal stories and digital resources will recognise and celebrate the working lives of women during the First World War and beyond. Uncover new stories of women who joined the workforce in diverse roles during the First World War, against the backdrop of the campaign for female suffrage, and explore the important IWM Women's Work Collection, all online at www.1914.org

Coinciding with the centenary of the Representation of the People Act on 6 February 2018, *WomensWork100* will explore the breadth of women's roles – from factories and hospitals to homes and churches, representing their political activism, front-line service and home front experiences, against the backdrop of the suffrage movement and greater prominence of women in public life.

Activities will be taking place across the country and will commence on 6 February 2018. These activities will include a series of engaging partnership and public events, film screenings, and creative responses, as well as exclusive resources for members and a vibrant public-facing digital programme in collaboration with Lives of the First World War and the War Memorials Project.

The creation of the Women's Work Collection is closely linked with the establishment of IWM itself in 1917. Almost immediately after IWM's creation, plans were put in place to ensure that the role of women would be recognised and recorded. Against the backdrop of a political campaign for female suffrage, IWM formed a committee tasked with collecting material that recorded women working in new roles.

In 2018, IWM will also be sharing stories from its Women's Work Collection, which spans art, correspondence and reports, uniforms, models and memorabilia of every variety.

Organisations who wish to take part in the First World War Centenary Partnership's *WomensWork100* in 2018 can visit www.1914.org for further details.

@I_W_M #IWM100YEARS #WomensWork100 #IWMSTORIES
<https://www.facebook.com/iwm.london/>

@IWM_Centenary #WomensWork100

For further press information and interview requests please contact:

Rhodri Cole, Corporate Communications Officer, rcole@iwm.org.uk, 0207 416 5420

Ends

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

