

Weird War Two

Peter Taylor

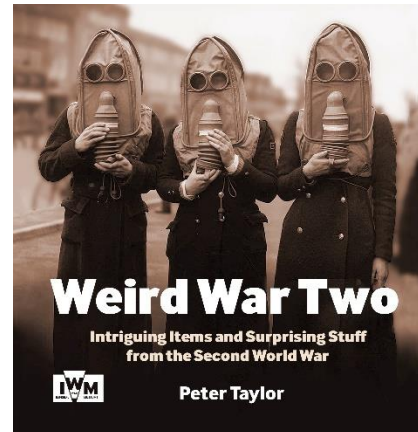
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Did you know that inflatable tanks were used in D-Day? Or that elephants were deployed in Berlin to help clear rubble away? These amazing facts can be discovered in this eccentric encyclopedia, published by IWM on 1 June.

Weird War Two is a new IWM publication revealing bizarre, baffling and quirky facts about the Second World War. Containing more than 250 images, the new book is the result of delving into IWM's rich archives in search of the weird and wonderful.



Stories featured in the book include 'paradogs', who were dropped behind German lines to accompany D-Day troops and sniff out mines, and a cow painted with white stripes to avoid motorist accidents in the event of a blackout. Other highlights include the ingenious prisoner who tried to escape Colditz by posting himself with other parcels, and the story behind why Churchill arranged a delivery of apes to Gibraltar during the Second World War.

In addition to the book itself, IWM is welcoming visitors this summer to discover the weird and wonderful items on display across its five branches: IWM London, IWM North, IWM Duxford, Churchill War Rooms and HMS *Belfast*. From the 'fake feet' used by spies to deceive the enemy, on display in our *Secret War* exhibition at IWM London, to 'Frankenstein' the cat, the sailors' pet on HMS *Belfast*, there are a wealth of stories to be explored during IWM's Centenary year.

Peter Taylor, author of *Weird War Two*, says, 'Not only does this book offer some remarkable and often unbelievable anecdotes, but it highlights the tenacity of the people who lived through some of the darkest days in our history. This book is proof that the truth is often stranger than fiction.'

This publication follows on from the hugely successful *Weird War One*, which was first published in 2015.

Whenever this story appears, it must be accompanied with the following credit line: 'Weird War Two is published by IWM and can be bought here: http://www.iwmshop.org.uk/product/25923/Weird_War_Two'.

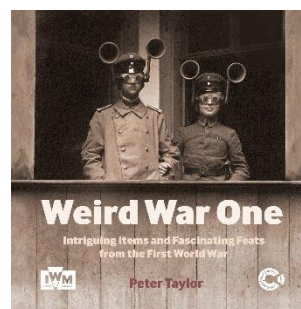
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For further information, to request interviews or a review copy of the book, please contact:
Alicia Powell, Assistant Press Officer on apowell@iwm.org.uk / 020 7416 5436.

Notes to Editors

Weird War Two will be on sale Thursday 1 June; cost £14.99. For further information and to order *Weird War Two* please visit: http://www.iwmshop.org.uk/product/25923/Weird_War_Two

Weird War Two is a follow on from *Weird War One*, which is a collection of the weird, the wonderful and the downright eccentric from deep within the First World War archives at Imperial War Museums. This book tells the often untold stories of the 'war to end all wars' and will leave readers with bizarre and interesting facts to share with friends and family.



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 attract over 2 million visitors each year. [IWM London](#), our flagship branch, marks the Centenary of the First World War with new permanent First World War Galleries and a new Atrium with iconic large object displays. Our other branches are [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*).

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. For more information, visit www.1914.org.

