

# IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM DUXFORD

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Imperial War Museum Duxford is Europe's premier aviation museum, with many original period buildings such as the Control Tower and hangars still in use. Two hundred aircraft are on display, whilst over 50 historic flying aircraft, based at the airfield, regularly take to the sky.

The aerodrome at Duxford was built during the First World War and was one of the earliest Royal Air Force stations. During 1917 the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) expanded and Duxford was one of a number of new stations established to train RFC aircrew. On 1 April 1918 the Royal Naval Air Service and the Royal Flying Corps were merged to become the Royal Air Force, the world's first fully independent air force. In September 1918 Duxford opened as a flying school - No. 35 Training Depot Station - and after the war ended in November 1918 the airfield was used as a base for the disbandment of squadrons from the Continent.

RAF Duxford became No.2 Flying Training School in 1920, equipped with the Avro 504, the DH9A, and the Bristol Fighter. 1923 brought limited expansion of the RAF and a training flight of Sopwith Snipes was added to the School. From the pilots and aircraft at Duxford the nuclei of three fighter squadrons were formed - Nos. 19, 29 and III - and in 1924, under reorganised Home Defence arrangements, Duxford became a fighter station, a role it was to carry out with distinction for 37 years.

Opening hours; Open daily except 24, 25, and 26 December. Summer (mid March to mid October) - 10.00am - 6.00pm. Winter (mid October to mid March) - 10.00am - 4.00pm. Entry fee: Duxford museum has a wide range of admission charges so please go to the Museum website for more information. Different prices apply at air shows, premium events and for standard day to day visit.

IWM Duxford has a wide range of Special Interest and Lecture Days

- extended the number and variety of our exclusive tours
- partnered the University of Cambridge with a series of day schools
- organised a series of Special Interest Days related to jet aircraft, tanks and armoured fighting vehicles, Duxford and the Battle of Britain, and the First World War
- organised two more of the very successful War Game Days with Dr Paddy Griffith (Operation Weserubung – Invasion of Denmark and Norway and Operation Herkules – Invasion of Malta)

Please visit the website for a list of what's on and further details on each event, the museum can also provide a number of interesting speakers (see new CALH speakers list) and a range of guides and guided walks and tours.

## **Programme:**

Oct 10 **Autumn Air Show** - Celebrating Sally B's 65th Birthday

Oct 16      **Operation Herkules - Invasion of Malta** with **Dr Paddy Griffith** who is an ex-Sandhurst lecturer, military historian and war games expert (war game day)

Nov 20      **Surviving the Great War** - How Tommy coped in the trenches (special interest day)

Further information about the Programme is available from the Museum.

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