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**News Release**  
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**Contact:** Karis Erwin, National WWI Museum and Memorial, 816.888.8122, [kerwin@theworldwar.org](mailto:kerwin@theworldwar.org)

## **National WWI Museum and Memorial Opens ‘Encounters,’ Final Phase of Main Gallery Upgrades**

*Using cutting-edge visual storytelling, ‘Encounters’ tells the stories of 16 individuals using first-person accounts from diaries, letters and photos.*

**KANSAS CITY, MO.** – The National WWI Museum and Memorial announced the new exhibit *Encounters*, which opens to the public on Friday, May 23. Through cutting-edge visual storytelling, visitors to *Encounters* will meet 16 individuals and hear their intimate first-person accounts crafted from diaries, letters and photos, including:

- Allied and Central Power combat soldiers living through the hell of the Western Front and patrolling the seas in submarines;
- British colonial Indian soldiers contemplating death and rebelling against the futility of war;
- women working in munitions factories to support the war effort;
- and dissenters arrested and tried for protesting involvement in the war.

“The incredible stories showcased in *Encounters* bring to life those who lived during the Great War in a way that’s never been experienced before,” said Dr. Matthew Naylor, President and CEO of the National WWI Museum and Memorial. “*Encounters* invites our guests to hear and see real, first-hand narratives of not just the soldier, but the nurse, child, and others who were impacted by global conflict. We hope these intimate encounters with 16 individuals are both moving and thought-provoking for visitors.”

The completion of *Encounters* culminates a three-year journey reinvigorating the Museum and Memorial, including the new Lower Level and Open Storage Center and updates to the Main Gallery, including 14 new interactive screens, three new films, new lighting and special effects, updated trenches, an authentic replica field hospital and much more. Additionally, the exterior grounds and buildings have undergone extensive cleaning and preservation work to maintain this national museum and memorial for generations to come.

[Electrosonic](#), created the immersive technical environment used in *Encounters*, which features [Holoplot](#), the audio behind the Sphere in Las Vegas, and 1.25 mm LED technology from [Nanolumens](#). That technology makes *Encounters* unlike any other museum installation in the world. The exhibit is designed

by [Ralph Appelbaum Associates](#) with media design and production by [Dot Crew](#). Lighting design is by [Technical Artistry](#), electrical installation by [Pro Electric](#) and fabrication by [JE Dunn Construction](#).

*Encounters* is located in the Main Gallery, adjacent to [the Epilogue](#). It is included in a General Admission ticket. For more information, visit [theworldwar.org](http://theworldwar.org).

Media interested in a preview should reach out to Karis Erwin, Vice President of Marketing and Guest Services, at [kerwin@theworldwar.org](mailto:kerwin@theworldwar.org) or 816.888.8122.

### **About the National WWI Museum and Memorial**

The National WWI Museum and Memorial is America's leading institution dedicated to remembering, interpreting and understanding the Great War and its enduring impact on the global community. The Museum and Memorial holds the most comprehensive collection of World War I objects and documents in the world and is the second-oldest public museum dedicated to preserving the objects, history and experiences of the war. The Museum and Memorial takes visitors of all ages on an epic journey through a transformative period and shares deeply personal stories of courage, honor, patriotism and sacrifice. Designated by Congress as America's official World War I Museum and Memorial and located in downtown Kansas City, Mo., the National WWI Museum and Memorial inspires thought, dialogue and learning to make the experiences of the Great War era meaningful and relevant for present and future generations. To learn more, visit [theworldwar.org](http://theworldwar.org).

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