

About WWII Christmas

During WWII most Christmas decorations were handmade – people would reuse and recycle bits of newspaper, old cards and material to make things such as paper chains or other ornaments for the tree. It was very difficult to buy baubles and ornaments and many families simply didn't have the money. Trees were typically real, and wouldn't be as big as you would find nowadays.

Familiar Christmas favourites such as Christmas crackers were not being produced during the War, to try and save resources. There are also stories that the sounds of crackers “snapping” could scare children and make them think that there was an air raid inbound!

Today, if you go to a city during the festive season, you will probably see all of the streets lit up with lots of lights, and there will be decorations everywhere. This obviously was not the case during the war due to the Blackout, where lights were hidden to prevent German bombers from seeing at night. Therefore, most people didn't put lights on their trees and cities definitely didn't put up lights in the streets.

Everyone was so used to air raids in 1940, they actually called Christmas “Blitzmas”. However, if there was a chance you could spend Christmas Day in your air raid shelter, you would want to decorate it all nice so you still felt Christmassy!

Now have a go at making your own Christmas bauble like they did during World War Two.



WWII Bauble Activity

Try making your own festive bauble!

Step 1: Colour in and decorate within the bauble outlines.

Step 2: Fold the sheet of paper in half lengthways and glue it.

Step 3: Cut out the bauble shapes and cut along the solid lines to create slits.

Step 4: Slot your 3D bauble together and add a piece of string to the top to hang it from.



RAF Museum Learning



Learning-Midlands@rafmuseum.org



@rafmlearning

Share your festive bauble with us for the chance to win a Christmas present from the RAF Museum Midlands giftshop! Deadline for entries is midnight on Thursday December 18th. Tag us on Instagram or Facebook to enter and we will share some of our favourite designs. Entries by email also accepted!

