



Christmas at Imperial War Museums

This Christmas at IWM London and IWM North, visitors can discover stories from the First and Second World Wars and learn about Christmas on the Home Front.

Families can help decorate a Christmas Wreath and make a special lucky charm, inspired by gifts that were given during the First World War at IWM London, or join us at IWM North for our *Christmas Craft on a Ration* workshop where you can make a Christmas Decoration filled with a 'rationed' sweet.

To mark the 75th anniversary of the Christmas Blitz (22 – 24 December), IWM North will be offering special Closer Look tours, where visitors can step into a festively decorated 1940s house and learn about the impact of air raids on local citizens.

All activities and admission to IWM London and IWM North is free.

Family Activities – Craft Workshops and Tours

[Christmas Craft on a Ration](#)

IWM North

Daily, 19–31 December (excluding 24, 25 and 26), 11:30am – 12pm

A drop-in creative session in the [Horrible Histories: Blitzed Brits](#) exhibition. Christmas craft activities will be held in a festively decorated 1940s house, where families can make their own Christmas decoration and fill it with a week's sweet ration.

[A Closer Look Tour: Horrible Histories: Blitzed Brits](#)

IWM North

Weekends, 5–20 December, 1.30pm

Visitors can learn about Christmas on the Home Front, as they hear the first-hand accounts of evacuated children separated from their parents for the first time and stories of ordinary people who stayed in the cities under the constant threat. Discover the resilience and inventiveness of the Blitz spirit in this tour of the exhibition *Horrible Histories: Blitzed Brits*.

[Art Workshop: A Wartime Christmas](#)

IWM London

20 – 23 and 27 – 31 December, 11am – 12.30pm; 2 – 4pm

Visitors can help to decorate the Christmas Wreath at IWM London and learn about how people celebrated Christmas on the Home Front. Everyone can have a go making their own charm for the wreath, inspired by the lucky numbers, coins and love hearts that featured in lucky charms and tokens given as presents during the First World War.

75th Anniversary of the Christmas Blitz

During heavy bombings over Manchester from 22 – 24 December 1940, over 650 people were killed and 50,000 damaged. For the rest of the Second World War, Manchester United had to play at Manchester City's ground because Old Trafford was damaged by bombs.

[A Closer Look Tour: Christmas Blitz](#)

IWM North

Daily throughout December (excluding 24, 25 and 26); 3.30pm (ideal for age 14+)

To mark the anniversary of the devastating Manchester Blitz, IWM North are offering a 20-minute walk and talk exploring the impact of the Second World War Blitz on Britain in *Horrible Histories: Blitzed Brits*.

Christmas Shopping

At the IWM Shop, the theme this festive season is based upon the traditions and ideals of a 1940s Christmas. The decorations and gifts embrace the fun and homely feel of a vintage Christmas where family tradition was important. Visit at IWM London or IWM North or shop online at www.iwmshop.org.uk



1940's Post Early Christmas Cards - £6.00

- Ends -

For more information or images please contact:

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IWM Shop: Hilary Frohlich, Neat PR - hilary@neatpr.co.uk / 0208 866 2245

Notes to Editors:

IWM London

Open daily: 10am – 6pm. Last Admission 5.45pm

Free Admission

IWM London, Lambeth Road, London, SE1 6HZ

IWM North

Open daily: 10am - 5pm.

Free Admission

The Quays, Trafford Wharf Road, Manchester, M17 1TZ
(close to MediaCityUK Metrolink and Junction 9 of the M60)

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](#).

About the 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. Next year is the centenary of the Battle of the Somme.

IWM will be announcing its programme to mark the anniversary later this year. For more information visit www.1914.org.

