

The Activity

- Make a gas mask box to take home.
- Pretend to be wartime school children and take part in a 1940s school lesson.
- Write with a dip pen and ink at old fashioned desks.
- Experience an air raid.

Around the Museum**Supermarine Spitfire Mk1 (Battle of Britain Hall)**

The Spitfire is the most famous plane of the Second World War. Less well known is the 'Saucepans for Spitfires' campaign of the 'Home Front'. Civilians were asked to donate aluminium pans to be melted down to make parts for aircraft. So many pans were given that no more were actually needed, but the government kept the campaign going as they believed it helped to keep up morale.

Hawker Hurricane 1 (Battle of Britain Hall)

The Hurricane was the first monoplane fighter used by the RAF. During the Battle of Britain the Hurricane was the principal fighter and shot down more aircraft than all other air and ground defences combined. The children's author Roald Dahl flew Hurricanes for the RAF during the Second World War.



Avro Lancaster (Bomber Command Hall)

Built in 1942, our Lancaster is the oldest surviving example. It flew 137 operations (there are markings on the side to represent this), the average aircraft lasted just 21 operations before being lost.

Our Lancaster was originally called 'Queenie' and served with 83 Squadron, but was later moved to 467 (Australian) Squadron and renamed 'S for Sugar'. You can see the large 'S' painted on the side!

D-Day Markings

Aeroplanes used in the D-Day landings have special markings that make them identifiable as Allied aircraft. The markings consist of parallel white and black stripes painted around the wings and fuselage.

These special stripes can be seen on the Museum's North American Mustang (Milestones of Flight), Bristol Beaufighter (Historic Hangars) and Hawker Typhoon (Historic Hangars).

The D-Day landings took place on the 6th of June 1944.

