

Gift Giving During

by Sarah Sundin

WWII

Christmas gifts looked a little different during 1941-1945.

Before WWII, most toys were made from metal, rubber, or wood. But the war changed things...

Rubber was needed for tires for airplanes and jeeps, for life rafts and medical equipment. This meant no tires for bicycles, toy wagons, or doll carriages, and no rubber balls.

No Rubber

Metal was needed for ships, planes, guns, helmets, and even ration tins. Very few metal toys were made, including doll carriages.

No Metal

More Wood & Paper

More toys made out of wood. Building sets with cardboard pieces were made. You could build a train, an Army base, or a village out of cardboard! This meant more puzzles, books, and drawing sets for gifts.

New Plastics

During the war, some plastic toys were made. By the late 1940s, Fisher Price was the first company to make its entire product range in plastic.

War Bonds were popular gifts.

You bought them at 75% of face value (\$18.75 bought a \$25 bond). The money went toward the war effort. In ten years, you cashed them in for face value (\$25).

Which toys do you currently own that could've been around during WWII?

