

The Messerschmitt ME-110 that killed a cow

*A story retold
by Henny Shotter*



One ME-110 came down near Old Shelve Farm (on the A20 direction of Ashford) at 5pm on 11 September 1940.

According to eyewitness reports the plane made a perfect 'pancake landing' and was 'virtually intact' after the crash. The RAF dismantled it later and took it away. Vera Congden who lives in Lenham and grew up on Old Shelve Farm remembers her father telling her that the pilot came out of his plane hands up. He, Fw Brinkman and his Uffz Kruesphow were taken prisoners

of war.¹ However there was one fatality.....a cow.

The story was told by Thomas Golding² (born 1857) who lived near-by on Cobham Farm and also by Stan Froud³ who also lived in Cobham Farm. During the war years Stan walked to Old Shelve every day to get milk. His parents had leased some fruit orchards from Old Shelve. He recalled:

' My mother and father were picking plums when the ME110 crash landed in the next field. They had descended their ladders to watch the plane crash, and when it came to a halt half a block from the edge of the plum orchard, its guns were pointing in my parents direction My mother related how they skedaddled buck up their ladders to get above the range of gun fire.'

Stan Froud also remembered that the field where the plane crashed was actually on land belonging to New Shelve which was farmed by the Boyd family. Old Shelve was farmed at the time by Arthur Bucknell. The milk man on Old Shelve was George Gurr and the other farm hand whose name Stan could not remember was possibly Thomas Golding. Stan Froud attended Lenham School between 1935 through to 1944 and emigrated to Toronto in 1956 and a year later to New York.

¹ see: <http://ww2talk.com/index.php?threads/me-110-crash-near-lenham-kent-uk.34316/#post-467643>
²

Published on the Golding family history site: <https://goldengenealogy.com/thomas-golding-b1857-of-old-shelve-cottages-lenham-kent-england-and-the-german-me-110-that-killed-a-cow/>

³ see: <http://ww2talk.com/index.php?threads/me-110-crash-near-lenham-kent-uk.34316/#post-467643>
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