

The Messerschmitt ME-110 that killed a cow¹

*A story retold
by Henny Shotter*



Several German planes came down in the Lenham area during WWII. This ME-110 came down near Old Shelve Farm (on the A20 direction of Ashford) in 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. The report doesn't mention whether the pilot got out or was killed.

However there was one fatality.....a cow. Thomas Golding (born 1857) lived near-by on Cobham Farm and

during the war years he walked to Old Shelve every day to get milk.

His parents had leased some fruit orchards from Old Shelve and on the day when the Messerschmitt came down, they were picking plums.

They had descended from their ladders to watch the plane crash landing. However after the crash the plane's guns were pointing directly at them and not knowing what has happened to the pilot the couple went back up the ladders to be out of harms way. Only the cow was seemingly too slow!

¹ This article is based byon an item by Ally Dowd first 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/>