

Chat with Kathleen James (nee Clifford)

Recorded by

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Kathleen was born on 18th December 1927. Her dad had served in India in the First World War.

She lived in Cobham farmhouse Lenham, a very old building which was up a track from the A 20, where there is now a group of new houses. The farmhouse has since been knocked down, and a bungalow was built there.

She went to Lenham School and remembers the gas masks they had to wear. It was always very dark, especially in the winter because of the blackout. One day she had a lift home with a neighbour, and when she got out of the old car she couldn't see anything and stepped straight into the duck pond.

She remembered standing outside and watching as a German plane flew over the house. It



was very low. They could see the pilot's face looking ahead, "He could have shot us" she said. The plane flew towards Charing but she doesn't know what happened to it.

People listened to the sound of the Doodlebug.ⁱ When this stopped the bomb fell.

'Where ? ', was the frightening question.

There were many Doodlebugs which flew over on their way to London. It was very frightening, but exciting as well.

She had an Aunt Mary who lived up the hill, and one day, a short while after she left her house to come down to Lenham to shop, a bomb dropped beside her house and left a big hole.

ⁱ Image courtesy of Wikipedia <http://www.ww2.pl/apps/?command=fotografie/szczegoly&id=156&did=26>, Fair use, <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1953014>