

**Written by Norman Sampson**

## **V1 DOODLEBUG**

My parents were getting ready for another night in the wet cold air raid shelter, they were putting together things that we would need to get through another night of despair, hot water bottle, flask of tea, dry blankets that would be very wet by the time we came out of the shelter in the morning, we always went into the shelter with my parents good friends and neighbours Mr and Mrs Thompson who we had lived next to since we moved into the block.

Whilst my parents were preparing to leave our flat and tell our neighbours that we were ready to go, I was waiting impatiently for them outside on the balcony, hearing a noise I looked up into the night sky and saw what I thought was a plane on fire, "Dad, Dad" I shouted look at this plane it's on fire, my father came running out of the flat. "where the plane" he shouted, "look it's there pointing my finger up in the direction of this flying object, as soon as my father saw what I was pointing at the fire at the back of it went out, and the engine cut out, my father pushed me to the ground and laid on top of me, I didn't realise at the time what was happening, but my father realising that we were watching a V1 doodle bug just as it was about to explode, laid on top of me to protect me from the blast/explosion, shortly after this a matter of seconds we heard the explosion of the V1 as it hit houses not far away from where we were.

And that was just the start to another night in east London, we then proceeded to the air raid shelter, where my mum always put me in one of the bunk beds provided, in the morning when we were getting ready to go home for our tea and toast after the all clear had just sounded, my mother would take the blanket off me, it was always soaked with condensation to find at least half-a-dozen earwigs under the covers with me as they liked the damp.

On returning home it was a good wash, breakfast of tea and toast and off to school, I am sure looking around me to-day that the people who live in London to-day could never have coped with the conditions that we survived in.