Wartime Memories of Northwood Hills

During the war, I lived in the house where I was born, 98 Pinner Road.

With Coastal Command nearby, we saw a lot of enemy aircraft, and doodlebugs which were a nightmare.

At school, I had arranged to play football with Tommy Brocket. I was on my way to his house when I paused at Mickey Russell's gate when I was picked up and thrown into his dad's rosebed by a doodlebug that landed on Tommy Brocket's house. Tommy was only saved because he was under the stairs getting his football boots on. He lost an eye and an arm.

Mrs Cox (a neighbour) had three sons, Dennis. Eric and Cyril. I believe Dennis was blinded in the war, but the youngest one went on to play football for Northwood.

My final memory was being woken up at 2 am to witness German bombers attempting to destroy major rail bridges at Northwood Hills, Northwood and Harrow-on-the-Hill.
The windows were blown out of the Co-op, and despite the falling shrapnel, people were on their hand and knees looting tins of baked beans .
Boxalls the cycle shop wasn't robbed.

S Rolph
Now living in Rugby, aged 81 years old

V1 flying bombs were also known as the '**doodlebugs**' or **'buzz bombs**'