

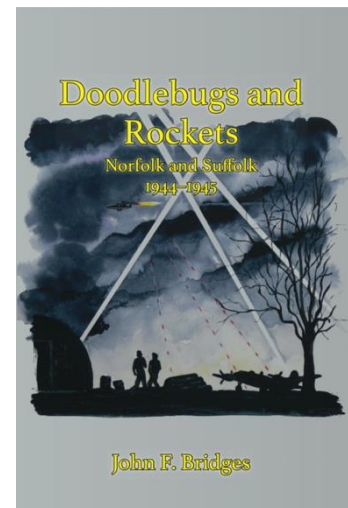
Doodlebugs and Rockets

Norfolk and Suffolk

1944 to 1945

Poppyland Publishing is pleased to announce a new book from East Anglian author **John Bridges**. Most people of a certain age will be familiar with the name Doodlebug or V1, either through family stories or maybe even personal experience. Hitler's Vengeance weapons (the V1 and the V2 rocket) were primarily targeted on London, but for various reasons, many ended up in Norfolk and Suffolk.

This new book tells the largely untold story of how these counties were caught up in this totally new form of warfare. The V1s were initially ramp launched, but following the D-Day invasion of France, these sites were overrun, and from September 1944 until early 1945, they were all launched from aircraft over the North Sea, with great numbers passing over Norfolk and Suffolk. To counter this new direction of approach, the AA (Anti-Aircraft) guns were all moved to locations along our coast where they put up a most effective barrage against them. The downside was that many were damaged and exploded in the vicinity.



Countless missions were flown from our airfields to attack the launch sites, while the American Aphrodite/Anvil project to destroy the large sites with pilotless aircraft packed with explosives was unsuccessfully progressed at great risk to the local population, particularly Ipswich.

The V2 rocket reached 3,600 mph on its flight to England, and there was no means of stopping it. When these launch sites were overrun, they moved further away and found the only targets now in range were Ipswich and Norwich. Fortunately, their accuracy was poor and most fell a long way off.

The Royal Observer Corps and Radar played a most important part in detecting the V1s, and their role is explored. In 1944, when people were hoping

to rebuild their lives, the new V1 threat triggered a further wave of evacuations with great numbers coming to Norfolk and Suffolk. Their stories are told along with reminiscences of many local people on how particular incidents impacted their lives.

Many appendices are included that list all V-weapon incidents in Norfolk and Suffolk plus details of the AA guns along with maps showing all these locations. For those interested in wartime activities in our region, this book is essential reading.