



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

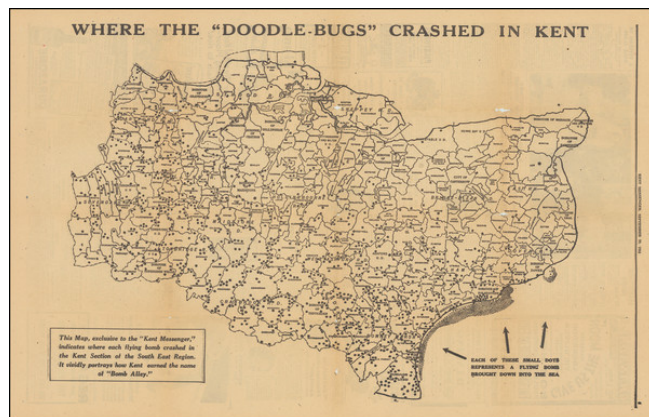
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(Second World War - V-1 Campaign) Where The "Doodle-Bugs" Crashed In Kent

Stock#: 67270
Map Maker: Kent Messenger
Date: 1944
Place: Kent
Color: Uncolored
Condition: Good
Size: 25 x 15 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

This is a map published by the Kent Messenger documenting the location where V-1 rockets, nicknamed "Doodle-bugs," landed throughout the county. As Kent lay directly between the line of fire of most continental launch stations and London and V-1s tended to fall short, this county saw a disproportionate number of bombs.

The bombing started in June 1944 and would have been in its third month by the time this map was published. V-1s were the first of the series of "vengeance weapons" used after allies landed in France, and were the first effective cruise missiles. With the Battle for Britain having been won four years earlier, this development represented a renewal of attacks on British shores. V-1 rockets were particularly feared due to their indiscriminate nature and random targeting.

Kent is shown with hundreds of V-1 bombing sites marked, mostly in the southeastern part of the county. Fortunately, most of this area, especially the Kent Downs, is sparsely populated with respect to most of the UK. However, larger cities and towns such as Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks, and Maidstone are also shown to have been hit hard. Hundreds of V-1s were brought down in the Channel through the efforts of the RAF and are shown in the map.

Maps like these may have helped the Germans increase the accuracy of the V-1s. Notorious for undershooting London, British intelligence tried to convince Germany that V-1 rockets were in fact overshooting the city. As all German agents in Britain had been turned by this point, the news media diffused through neutral countries was the only way for the German army to correct their trajectories. However, this was likely a moot point as the bombing of London would stop in October as launch stations in range of the city were overran. The bombing of Antwerp would continue in force.



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This map portrays a particularly difficult time for civilians in the UK. Hundreds of bombs crashed through the southern part of the country daily. This is recorded in the local area as craters which scatter the woodlands of Kent, as well as in the cultural memory of Britons and Americans stationed in Britain, as depicted in the novel *Gravity's Rainbow*.

Provenance

This map was apparently one of those gathered by a policeman in Kent during the War. As the story goes, he was required to destroy all the maps "to keep people from getting scared" and this was the one example he kept.

Detailed Condition:

Small losses along some folding lines. Newspaper map.