

Sirens in the Night

Sirens in the night.
Searchlights probe the sky. Unseen,
Bombers drone above



German bombers throb
In the night. Under the table,
Mother tucks us in

Barbed wire on the beach:
Are the Germans coming soon?
Picnic in the dunes



The Germans are coming.
Up on the hill, village men
Keep watch in the night

Vapor trails circling
High up in the August sky.
Mother calls us in



Tap on the window:
Warden spots a crack of light
Through our blackout screen

Bombed-out home: zig-zags
Where the stairs were; broken glass
Crunches underfoot



Smoking Messerschmit,
Engine coughing, spirals down.
Spitfire's victory roll

**Dead German pilot
In the wreckage of his plane:
Children stare in awe**



**Small white parachute
High up in the summer sky.
Is it one of ours?**

**Drowned pilot, floating
In the seaweed. Seagulls cry
In the summer breeze**



**Fleeing Messerschmit,
Spitfire closing in behind;
Colored tracers fly**

American troops
Clattering past on tanks, throw us
Gum and chocolates



Soldier back on leave:
"He fought at Arnhem", mom says.
We all gaze in awe

Crater in the field:
Fleeing German dumped his bombs.
Fossils in the chalk



Doodlebug throbbing
Overhead. It stops. Silence.
Counting the seconds...

Teacher announces:
"We've won the war". Joyful bells
Peal all over town



Teacher says they've found
Germans gassed six million Jews.
Why? What's wrong with Jews?

German POWs
Come to tea, Heinrich and Hans.
Photos of their wives



