

From the Air Emerges a Drone

Paul Burnell

For narrator *with optional drone sounds ad lib.*

Narrator may be amplified and treated with a vocoder effect or similar.

Style of narration is mechanical with the lines widely spaced.

Narrator:

From the air
Emerges a drone
A constant sound
A monotone

Above the ground
Echoing contours
Lines are traced
Creating scores

Through the static
By those below
The tone is heard
A dread crescendo

After the silent gap
In seconds split
Sparks
Mass
Disorder
In those around

Marks are etched
From there and then
To futures new
Circles on a map

From the air

Drone sounds:

Electronic static/white noise.

Add medium pitch drones (A/Bb).

Add air sound drone.

Drones crescendo poco a poco.

*Crescendo more vigorous then
static and pitch drones cut out
but air sound remains.*

Add low pitch drone (G).

Add medium pitch drones (A/Bb).

Drones crescendo poco a poco.

Crescendo continues.

*Electronic static sound added
with sudden violent crescendo
then all drones cut out.*

Programme note:

The V1 or Doodlebug or Buzz Bomb attacks on London began in June 1944 and lasted until March 1945. In all the London Boroughs Wandsworth took the most hits by V1s followed by Croydon. Lewisham was 3rd with 114 V1 rockets killing 126.

In Lewisham a V-1 rocket exploded in front of the clock tower in Lewisham High Street at 9:41am on Friday 28th July 1944 in the middle of a bustling market. The market stalls lined up outside Mark's and Spencer's, Woolworth's and Sainsbury's caught the full force of the blast, which came without warning.

In the Russian war on Ukraine in 2022 'Kamikaze' attack drones were used against the people of Kyiv.