Phoebe Stone’s
The Romeo and Juliet Code

A Photo Essay
Created by Dee Wotring
In 1941, Felicity Budwig Bathburn is an eleven year old girl from London, England. Due to the Nazi bombing of England, Felicity’s parents accompany her on a voyage to America. In Bottlebay, Maine, she is left to stay with an aunt, an uncle, and a grandmother she has never met before while her parents return to England. Flissy, as she is called by her American family, becomes friends with Derek, a boy a little older than she who was adopted by her grandmother when he was only a year old. Felicity and Derek try to unravel the mystery of coded messages Felicity’s father sends to her uncle. Soon, Felicity discovers her parents are secret agents working to aid in the war against Germany.
Romeo and Juliet

Romeo and Juliet is a play written by William Shakespeare in the 1500’s. The most famous balcony scene is Flissy’s Aunt Miami’s favorite.

“Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?”
May 25, 1941

In chapter four, Flissy reads the front page of the newspaper, dated May 25, 1941, about the HMS Hood being blown up by the German Battleship, the Bismarck. Here is a report of what actually took place that day in history.

World War II Day-By-Day

WORLD WAR II started 70 years ago, on September 1, 1939.
We will follow the events of 70 years ago, with a daily update.

Tuesday, May 24, 2011
Battle of Denmark Strait. At 5:52 AM, British battlecruiser HMS Hood and battleship HMS Prince of Wales open fire on German battleship Bismarck and cruiser Prinz Eugen from 24 km. Although they outgun the Germans, both British ships have flaws. At 6:00 AM, a 15 in. shell from Bismarck penetrates HMS Hood’s thin deck armour, exploding a magazine. Hood is blown in 2 and sinks quickly (1,415 killed, 3 survivors). HMS Prince of Wales (completed only 2 months earlier) is hit 7 times (13 killed) and retires at 6:04 AM with her new guns jammed. Bismarck is hit 3 times (no casualties) but flooding in her bows and a boiler room reduces speed to 28 knots. British cruisers HMS Suffolk and HMS Norfolk continue following Bismarck and Prinz Eugen but at 6:00 PM Prinz Eugen escapes South in a squall. At 11:50 PM, 8 Swordfish torpedo bombers from British aircraft carrier HMS Victorious attack Bismarck (1 torpedo hits with little damage, 1 killed).
The HMS *Hood*

The *Bismarck*
German U-boats

German U-boats were submarines. Flissy talked about the waters being full of German U-boats during the trip to the United States while on the Queen Anne (pg. 32). While there were ships similar to the Queen Anne that took people secretly to America, the Queen Anne itself did not exist. However, the German U-boats were real and here are some images of them.
The Long Man of Wilmington

The Long Man of Wilmington that Flissy describes on page 38 is a “great white chalk outline of a man carved on the side of the hill.” It is actually 235 ft. high and located on the Downs north of Eastbourne, England, in Wilmington, East Sussex.
Magazines That Flissy Mentions

*The Saturday Evening Post* and *Life* Magazine
Parcheesi

Parcheesi is a game that Flissy often played with her family. It is a board game played with two to four players. The object of the game is to be the first player to move all four of his or her pieces around the board to the home base.
Evacuation of England

Due to the continuous air bombing of England by the Nazis, many people evacuated England. Flissy mentions seeing photos of the refugees in the newspaper (pg. 83).
Shoes

When Flissy’s grandmother took her shoe shopping before starting school, she had to give up her “ever so comfortable black English plimsolls with a nice hole in the bottom of one of them” (pg. 159).

Flissy got brown oxfords to wear to school.
Macintosh and Wellies

Derek “came running through the rain in his macintosh and wellies” (pg. 186). His macintosh is his raincoat and his wellies are his rainboots. This is what the English call them.
Nazi Panzers

Nazi tanks were called Panzers. Flissy read in the newspaper that Nazi panzers had gone all the way to Moscow, Russia.
Derek made a costume of Sir Gawain for Halloween. Sir Gawain is an Arthurian legend in which Gawain is King Arthur’s nephew.
Glenn Miller Big Band

• “There was a Glenn Miller big band song playing on the radio downstairs. Derek had turned up the music loud again.” (pg. 281)

To watch a video and hear the Glenn Miller Band, click the link below.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bR3K5uB-wMA
President Franklin D. Roosevelt

Roosevelt was president from 1933 – 1945.

Prime Minister Winston Churchill

Churchill served as England’s prime minister from 1940-1945 and again from 1951-1955.
Frances Hodgson Burnett was a real author who wrote *Little Princess* and *The Secret Garden*. Flissy read them both and did a report on Burnett for school.