

Blitzed: WW1

In which we investigate the fake bombardment of Britain

by Lestrade aka Unpopular Opinion



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My unpopular opinion, from internet research anyone can do.

I honestly expected this topic to put up more of a struggle but it just melted immediately. Miles has already written papers on this subject ([this one](#) and [this one](#), there may be more I've missed), but I wanted to look at the First World War to complement that work.

We begin with the main overview article: German Bombing of Britain, 1914-1918. As [per Wikipedia](#):

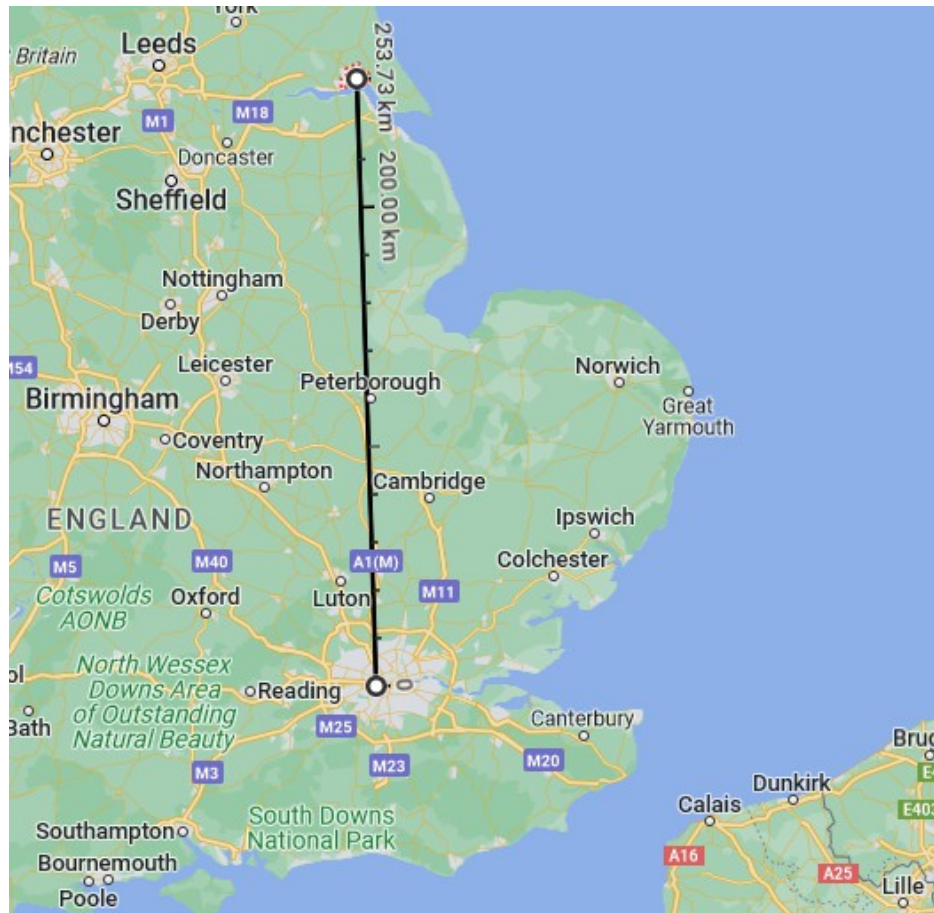
*“A German air campaign of the First World War was carried out against Britain. After several attacks by seaplanes, the **main campaign began in January 1915** with **airships**. Until the Armistice the Marine-Fliegerabteilung (Navy Aviation Department) and Die Fliegertruppen des deutschen Kaiserreiches (Imperial German Flying Corps) **mounted over fifty bombing raids**. The raids were generally referred to in Britain as **Zeppelin raids** but **Schütte-Lanz airships were also used**.”*

This immediately made me laugh because of seaplanes (which I cannot take seriously after looking at the Pacific Theatre and Guadalcanal) and zeppelins. I see “zeppelin” and I immediately think of the formative childhood experience that was playing [Red Alert 2](#), as the Soviets, sending my zeppelins to drop bombs over the enemy base while cackling.

But hey, I'm sure this topic will be far more sensible than piloting cartoonish Soviet blimps.

*“Weather and night flying made airship navigation and accurate bombing difficult. **Bombs were often dropped miles off target (a raid on London hit Hull) and hitting military installations was a matter of luck.**”*

Interesting that aerial bombardment was absolutely rubbish back then and a bomber group couldn't even hit the right city. For Americans unfamiliar with UK geography, here is London vs. Hull:



They missed by 253km. That is... not great.

*“Civilian casualties made the zeppelins objects of hatred. British defensive measures made airship raids much riskier and in 1917 they were largely replaced by aeroplanes. **The military effect of the raids was small but they caused alarm, disruption to industrial production and the diversion of resources from the Western Front.** Concern about the conduct of the defence against the raids, the responsibility for which was divided between the Admiralty and the War Office, led to a parliamentary inquiry under Jan Smuts and the creation of the Royal Air Force (RAF) on **1 April 1918.**”*

They had to form the RAF... to fight... zeppelins. Zeppelins. Giant balloons several hundred feet long that you can shoot with a flak cannon or fighter planes and which promptly burst into flames. I never realised until now that the RAF was an April Fool.

(Lestrade thinks for a moment)

This is going to be a thing where they invented a fear of aerial bombing to justify funding a new military branch, isn't it? Well, let's see.



A genuine poster the British government made. I swear I didn't make this.

“Airships made 51 bombing raids on Britain during the war in which 557 people were killed and 1,358 injured. The airships dropped 5,806 bombs, causing damage worth £1,527,585. Eighty-four airships took part, of which 30 were either shot down or lost in accidents. Aeroplanes carried out 52 raids, dropping 2,772 bombs of 73.5 long tons (74.7 t) weight for the loss of 62 aircraft, killing 857 people, injuring 2,058, and causing £1,434,526 of damage. The German bombing has been called, by some authors, the first Blitz, alluding to the Blitz of the Second World War. The defence organisation developed by the British foreshadowed the ground-controlled interception system used in the Second World War.”

Nearly 11 people killed per raid or 37.5 killed/injured per raid. Out of a population of 46 million (UK population 1914), that is not a lot of people. It's not going to do much to halt the British Army, is it? So why bother? Morale loss, I guess? Therefore: aerial bombings are essentially a psychological weapon. Interesting, given how it leads to World War 2 and the Atom Bomb, which is absolutely and purely a psychological weapon.

The German aircraft were so devastating that sometimes people didn't even realise they had been bombed:

*"In the first month of the war, Germany formed the Brieftauben Abteilung Ostende ("**Ostend Carrier Pigeon Detachment**"), a cover name for an **elite air unit**, commanded by Major Wilhelm Siegert, to be used for the bombing of the Channel Ports, when new long-range aircraft became available. During the opening months of the war, a German pilot flying a Taube regularly dropped bombs on **Paris**. **The first raid consisted of five small bombs and a note demanding the immediate surrender of Paris** and the French nation. Before the stabilisation of the Western Front, German aircraft **made a number of raids on Paris, slightly damaging Notre Dame Cathedral**. The first bombing raids on England were **nuisance raids** carried out against Channel ports. **German press reports mention a raid carried out on 27 October but there is no British record of an incident on this date.**"*

Imagine dropping five bomblets on a city the size of Paris, slightly denting a cathedral gargoyle, and expecting surrender. Even the French wouldn't throw in the towel over that. Probably.

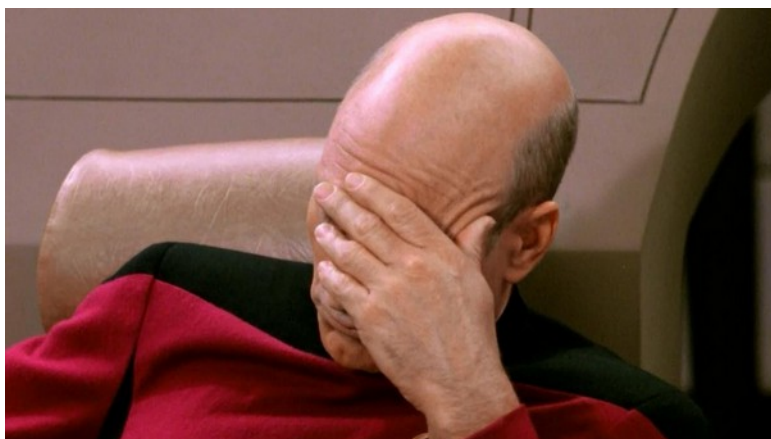
We read on:

*"The **first certain raid on Britain** occurred on **21 December**; the weather was dull with a slight wind from the south and rain showers. At 1:00 p.m. Friedrichshafen FF.29 seaplane no. 203 from I. Seeflieger-Abteilung, carrying four 4.4 lb (2 kg) bombs, flown by Flugzeugführer Leutnant Stephan von Proudzyński and his observer (Beobachter) Fähnrich zur See Ludwig v. Frankenberg und Proschlitz, **dropped two bombs into the sea near the Admiralty Pier in Dover.**"*

You dropped two bombs in the sea. Near a pier. That's... that's nothing. That's not anything. You've literally missed anything man made and even if you had hit Dover pier that's no big deal.

We then get one of the most aggressively stupid paragraphs I've seen on Wikipedia for some time. This is so bad the agent who was told to write this must have been deliberately trying to out the entire project:

*"On **24 December** the weather was cloudy, slightly misty with a north-easterly breeze. Proudzyński and Fankenberg in FF.29 no. 204, appeared high over Dover; **Tommy Terson looked up from his garden in Leyburne Road, picking Brussels sprouts for his Christmas dinner**, as the object in the sky rushed past then **his garden exploded and knocked him down, causing him superficial injuries**. As he got up he saw a crater 10 by 4 ft (3.0 by 1.2 m) where his sprouts had been. **The windows of the houses near the explosion had been broken and a neighbour James Banks, up a ladder collecting holly, had been thrown to the ground**. The aircraft dropped a bomb near Dover Castle, which broke some glass. A British pilot took off but failed to find the aircraft."*



I can't even.

This excerpt is so ridiculous I think it by itself proves the entire German bombing campaign is fiction. Nobody should be expected to take this seriously. Come on.

We read on:

*“Proposals to bomb Britain were first made by **Paul Behncke**, deputy chief of the German Naval Staff, in **August 1914**. These were backed by Alfred von Tirpitz, who wrote that **"The measure of the success will lie not only in the injury which will be caused to the enemy but also in the significant effect it will have in diminishing the enemy's determination to prosecute the war".**”*

Again, this is all mind games and psychology. Also note that last name “Behncke”, which I will bet is a variant of Bernanke, as in Ben Bernanke, former Federal Reserve Chairman.

*“The campaign was approved by the Kaiser on 7 January 1915, **who at first forbade attacks on London, fearing that his relatives in the British royal family might be injured**. Following a failed attempt on **13** January 1915, **which was abandoned because of the weather**, the first successful attempt took place on the night of 19/20 January 1915. **Two Zeppelins were to attack targets near the Humber estuary but were diverted by strong winds and dropped their bombs on Great Yarmouth, Sheringham, King's Lynn and the surrounding Norfolk villages**. Two British aircraft took off but **failed to find the airships; four people were killed and 16 injured**. Monetary damage was estimated at **£7,740 (£223,900 in 2023)**.”*

Love the bit about “don't hurt my cousins by accident”. So we've got zeppelins, that can't be located by the British airmen, which supposedly drop bombs around the east coast and kill/maim 20 people. Who were these people? How did the bombs do a quarter million quid in damage, in terms of modern costs? Were entire houses levelled?

Are we in fact talking about a story in the press that, essentially, claims that some people in the countryside are now dead and the government needs to give out a lot of money due to an alleged raid from airships that nobody could see? That attacked at night and got lost but managed to hit, what, a dozen buildings by luck? A dozen buildings spread across Great Yarmouth, Sheringham, Kings Lynn and (to keep it as vague and muddy as possible) “surrounding villages”. Sure. My gut suggests that there were no airships and nobody was killed, this is a story and it cost a quarter mil equivalent of bribe money / black op budget / general excuse of treasury theft to get it going.

*“The raid **prompted alarmist stories about German agents using car headlights to guide Zeppelins to their targets**. The first Navy attempts to bomb London, made by **L8**, **failed due to poor weather**. The first attempt was made on 26 February but **was abortive due to headwinds**. A second attempt ended **when the airship flew below the cloud base to check its position and found itself over Belgian army positions near Ostend**. The Zeppelin was riddled by small-arms fire and landed near Tienen, where it was destroyed by high winds. A four-airship raid by the Army on 17 March ran into fog and was abandoned, one airship bombing Calais and being damaged on landing. On 20 March the three remaining Army airships set off to bomb Paris and one was lost on the return journey. Two Navy raids failed **due to bad weather** on 14 and 15 April, and it was decided to delay further attempts until the more capable P-class Zeppelins were in service.”*

Again, these things are useless. Apparently they barely function as aircraft because if the weather is rubbish they get lost or crash. You can bring them down with small arms – not even AA gun batteries, just some lads with rifles can take them out. The airship fleet is decimated despite doing barely anything of note.

It keeps going:

*“The Army received the first of these, LZ38 (Hauptmann Erich Linnarz) raided Ipswich on 29/30 April and Southend on 9/10 May. **An Imperial Order dated 12 February authorised the bombing of the London docks, which was interpreted by the German General Staff as permitting bombing targets east of Charing Cross.** This interpretation was formally accepted by the Kaiser on 5 May 1915. LZ38 also attacked Dover and Ramsgate on 16/17 May, where, over Dover at 2:25 a.m., it was illuminated by searchlights, the first such event in the war. Anti-aircraft fire induced Linnarz to dump his bombs on Oxney, to no effect”*

You dumped your entire bomb load... to no effect. What?

*“Flight Sub-Lieutenant Redford Mulock, a Canadian member of the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS), flying an Avro from Westgate-on-Sea, carried two incendiary bombs and two hand-grenades. Mulock caught up with LZ 38 as it bombed and Linnarz ordered the Zeppelin rapidly to climb before Mulock could attack then turned north, floating above the Goodwin Sands, where **engine-trouble forced him to turn for home.** Mulock followed the Zeppelin, climbing steadily to 7,000 ft (2,100 m), as far as the West Hinder lightship **but could not catch up.** LZ38 attacked Southend again on 26/27 May, dropping seventy bombs, killing **three** people **and** wounding **three**, with no damage to buildings. Five aircraft rose to intercept and failed to find the airship, two being damaged on landing. **These four raids killed six people and injured six, causing property damage estimated at £16,898.**”*

Cheeky little 33 there. Interesting the zeppelin is faster than an Avro biplane.

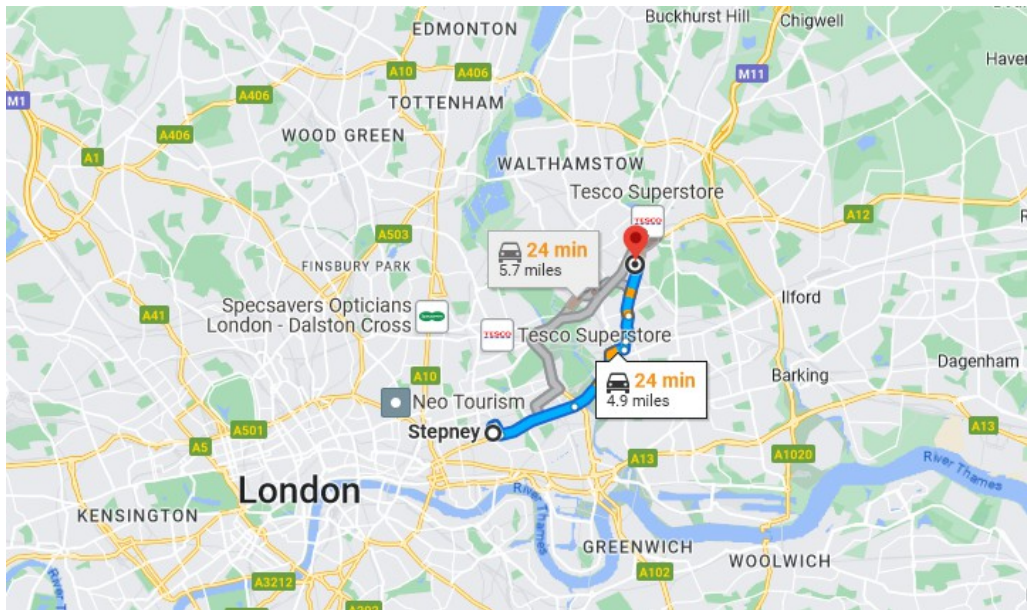
Again, we've got these airships that vanish into the mist and do basically nothing of use. A single battalion of experienced infantry sailed across the channel or the North Sea at night via a naval transport and landed on the east or south coast with a mission to rampage around the countryside with rifles and grenades would do far more damage as a terror raid. You'd kill a lot more people and the morale loss would be higher. That would also be a lot cheaper than building all these blimps.

*“On the night of 30/31 May, Linnarz commanded LZ38 on the first London raid; LZ37 was also to be part of the raid **but was damaged early on and returned to Namur.** Flying from Evere LZ38 crossed the English coast near Margate at 9:42 p.m. before turning west over Southend. **London police were warned of a raid around 11:00 p.m.; a few minutes later small incendiaries began to fall.** These devices, weighing 25 lb (**11** kg), were filled with thermite and the exterior was wrapped in tarred rope.”*

Translation: military intelligence started some fires / set some explosives and tipped the police off about the “raid” shortly before it happened. A bit like with the IRA.

“About 120 bombs were dropped on a line from Stoke Newington south to Stepney and then north toward Leytonstone. Seven people were killed and 35 injured; 41 fires were started, burning out seven properties and the total damage was assessed at £537,900.”

120 bombs, across about five miles of East London.



Leytonstone is the top right point, you can drive to Stepney in about half an hour and it's a five mile trip.

So understand that what you're actually looking at there is the claim that a zeppelin dropped thermite bombs on east London and caused 7 properties to burn down killing 7 people. Why so limited? It's a densely populated area. The fire should spread. A lot more people should be hurt.

"Aware of the problems that the Germans were experiencing in navigation, the government issued a D notice prohibiting the press from reporting anything about attacks not mentioned in official statements. Earlier press reports had contained detailed information about where bombs had fallen. Fifteen sorties were flown against the raiders, only one of which managed to make visual contact with an airship. No ground-based guns fired and no searchlights found the airship; one British pilot was killed on landing."

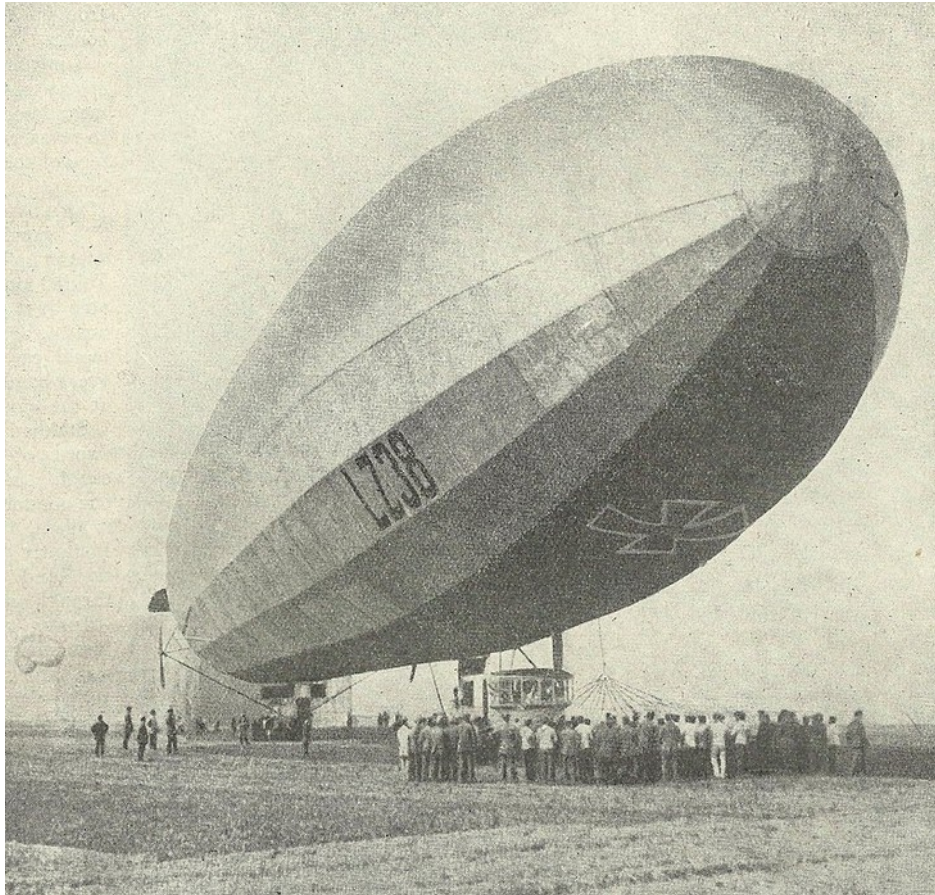
A D Notice is where the UK government / Crown can on a whim do a complete lockdown of the entire press on any topic for any reason. I ask people how we can possibly say we have freedom of speech in Britain when D Notices exist and I'm met with a confused, blank stare.

We turn to the page on Zeppelin LZ38's raid and learn:

*"LZ 38 became the first airship to bomb London on **31** May 1915, dropping 1,400 kilograms (3,000 lb) of bombs on the eastern suburb of London, **killing seven people**. A consequence of this raid was that reporting restrictions were introduced in England. Formerly press coverage contained detailed accounts of the location of bombing raids: after this, only generalised locations were published. The first bomb, an incendiary, was dropped on 16 Alkham Road. Moving south it dropped **eight** more bombs. Its ninth landed on **33** Cowper Road setting the house on fire killed **3**-year-old Elsie Leggatt and her **11**-year-old sister, Elizabeth **May**. The next incendiary set fire to **187** Balls Pond Road causing the death of the married couple, Henry and Caroline Good in the resulting flames. **Steering away from the Tower of London**, and, over Whitechapel LZ 38 dropped another explosive on Christian Street: **8**-year-old Samuel **Reuben** and 16-year-old Leah **Lehrman** were killed. The seventh and last victim was Eleanor **Willis**, 67, **who died of shock two days later**. In total Zeppelin LZ 38 dropped 91 incendiaries, 28 explosive bombs and 2 grenades."*

Lots of Funny Numbers and Jewish surnames. May like Theresa May. Reuben. Lehrman (variant of the investment bank). Willis like Bruce which is McArthur which is Perry. Lots of dead children (oy vey where have we seen this before) and an old lady who died of shock later on. Right.

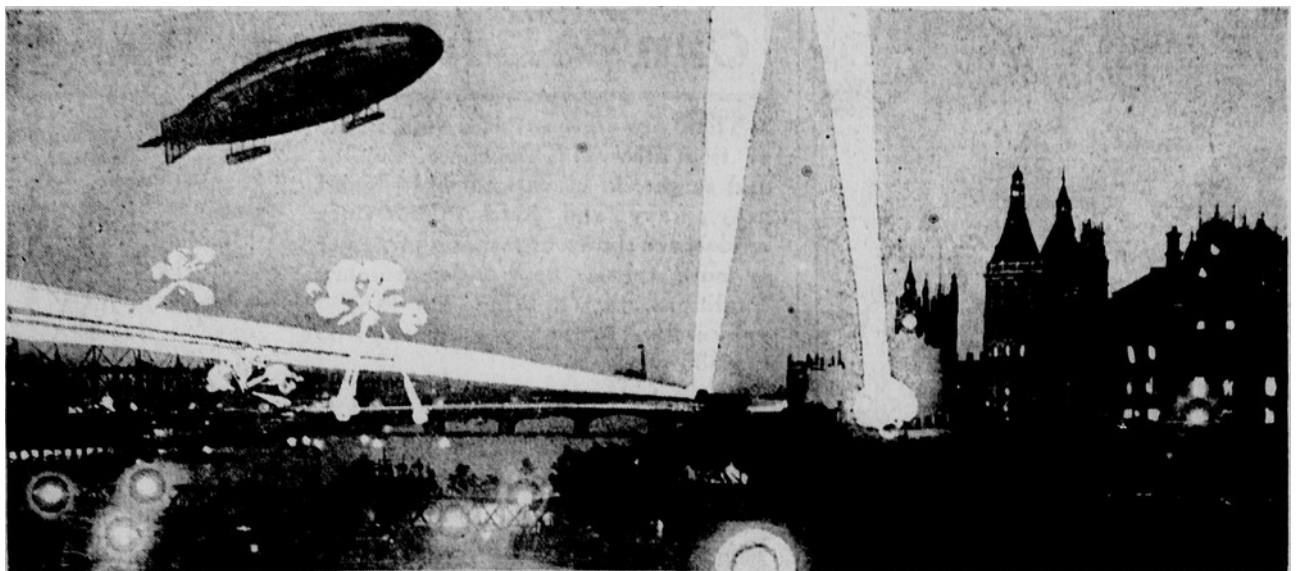
Any evidence that this Zeppelin even actually existed? Photographs are provided:



“Zeppelin LZ 38 near its hanger” - original [here](#).

That is a drawing, Sharon.

We also have this:



*“1st Zeppelin raid takes starts 11:00 PM May 31 1915. There is an 8-hour difference between Seattle and London. **Yet in a remarkable feat** 105-years-ago Seattle Star received news of the bombing and commissioned this picture for its June 1, 1915, Night edition” – original [here](#).*

Very remarkable. Especially how the canon plot is that there were no searchlights or AA fire that night. Thank you Seattle Star, B+ for effort. Again, the zeppelin is drawn in. This is a cartoon not a photograph.

What happened to Zeppelin LZ38? Oh, it was parked up in a shed in Brussels and was bombed, completely destroying it without a trace.

I don't know what to tell you reader. I'm shocked. Shook. It's coming across awfully like there were no German raids on Britain in WW1 and it's all bollocks. But... World War One... that's like the big one where so many people got wiped out.

(Lestrade clicks a few times and loads up the Wikipedia page on The Somme)

(Long pause, “roller-coaster descent” sensation)

No, no. That's too much for me right now. Back to the bombing campaign. From Wikipedia:

“The naval airships also tried to raid London; on 4 June strong winds led the commander of L10 to misjudge his position and bomb Gravesend. L9 was also blown off course by the weather on the night of 6/7 June, attacking Hull instead of London and causing considerable damage. On the same night a raid by three Army Zeppelins also failed because of the weather; as the airships returned to Evere they ran into RNAS aircraft flying from Veurne, Belgium. LZ38 was destroyed on the ground and LZ37 was intercepted in the air by Reginald Warneford in a Morane Parasol, who dropped six 9 kg (20 lb) Hales bombs on the Zeppelin, setting it on fire. LZ37 crashed into the convent school of Sint-Amandsberg; two nuns and all but one of the Zeppelin's crew died. Warneford was awarded the Victoria Cross for his achievement and Zeppelins were withdrawn from their bases in Belgium.”

This is all just bizarre. Are war zeppelins even real? I mean they obviously existed in general, you had zeppelins ferrying tourists around places. Didn't they even used to dock at the top of the Empire State Building? Very steampunk. But maybe with the military zeppelins, the bomber zeppelins... maybe these never were a thing. I don't know, man. Check this out:



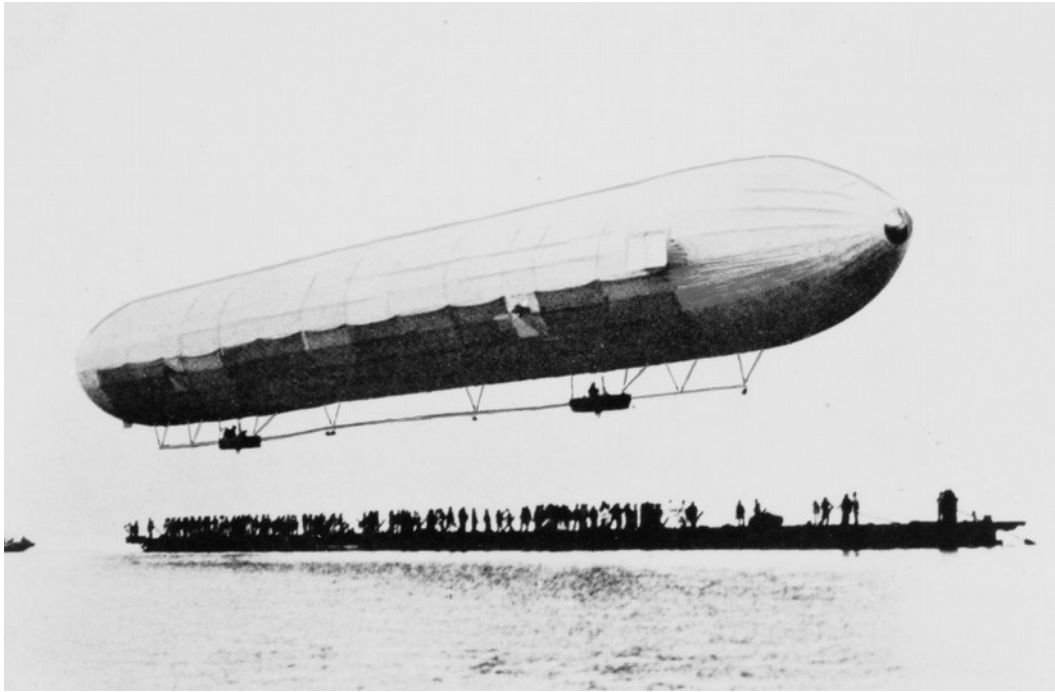
Zeppelin LZ30 – [original here](#).

This zeppelin was destroyed in an accident at its hanger in eastern Europe. To my eyes those ships are all duplicates (e.g. the smoke is identical) and the photo is a paste-up.



“LZ 14 Near Helgoland” – [Original here](#).

Again, the zeppelin is pasted in. **And the rest is a painting, like the old Hollywood backdrops.**



Zeppelin at Lake Constance – original [here](#).

Again, a drawing not a photograph.



Zeppelin L37 – Original [here](#).

This image is also heavily doctored and at least partially drawn in. I think the people in the bottom left might be from a real photo but that's it, the rest is a paste/sketch.

All of these photos (and more) can be seen on this Wikipedia page entitled "[List of Zeppelins](#)".

Back to [the main article](#):

*"After an ineffective attack by L10 on Tyneside on 15/16 June **the short summer nights discouraged further raids for some months** and the remaining Army Zeppelins were reassigned to the Eastern and Balkan fronts. The Navy resumed raids on Britain in August. On 9/10 August, **four Zeppelins were directed against London; none reached its target and L12 was damaged by ground fire near Dover and came down in the sea off Zeebrugge.** Despite **eight** attacks by RNAS aircraft, the airship was towed into Ostend where it was dismantled. **The four-Zeppelin raid was repeated on 12/13 August; again only one airship, L10, made landfall, dropping its bombs on Harwich.** A third four-Zeppelin raid tried to reach London on 17/**18** August **but two turned back with mechanical problems, one bombed Ashford, Kent in the belief it was Woolwich and L10 became the first Navy airship to reach London. L10 was beset by navigational errors, mistaking the reservoirs of the Lea Valley for the Thames and bombing Walthamstow and Leytonstone. Ten people were killed, 48 injured** and property damage was estimated at £30,750. Anti-aircraft guns were fired at L10 and a few aircraft took off in pursuit but **the Zeppelin suffered no damage. L10 was destroyed a little over two weeks later when it was struck by lightning, caught fire off Cuxhaven and was lost with all hands.**"*

OK I've got to try and rein it in with the quotes. This article keeps going and going – it's just that every single paragraph is like this in terms of ridiculous content. It's amazing stuff.

It just goes on...

*"After **three more raids were scattered by the weather** a five-Zeppelin raid which became known as the **Theatreland Raid** was launched by the Navy on **13 October**. Arriving over the Norfolk coast around 6:30 p.m., the Zeppelins encountered nearer London the new London Air Defence Area defences installed since the September raid by Admiral Sir Percy Scott, which included new 3-inch guns at Barnes Common, King's Cross and Dollis Hill. **The new gun sites proved ineffective, although the airship commanders commented on the improved defences of the city. A 13-pounder gun near Broxbourne was put out of action by three bombs dropped from L15,** which continued to London and began bombing over Charing Cross, **the first bombs striking the Lyceum Theatre and the corner of Exeter and Wellington Streets, killing 17 people and injuring 20.** More bombs were dropped on Holborn, as the airship neared Moorgate it was engaged by a new French 75 mm anti-gun mounted on a lorry and manned by naval ratings from disbanded armoured car squadrons sited at the Honourable Artillery Company grounds in Finsbury.*

*L15 quickly jettisoned ballast, dropped only three more bombs (one landing on Aldgate High Street, causing much damage) before departing, having suffered engine damage from the shells. **L13** bombed around Guildford and near Woolwich later on. L14 dropped bombs on Otterpool Army Camp near Folkestone, killing 14 soldiers, injuring 12 and later bombed Tonbridge and East Croydon. **L16 and L11 had gone even further off course; L16 dropped up to 50 bombs on Hertford and L11 scattered a few bombs over Norfolk before heading home. In total, 71 people were killed and 128 were injured.**"*

You bomb the West End of London and only hit 37 people? You then flee London to drop random bombs over the entire county of Hertfordshire and then Norfolk? [The Lyceum Theatre wiki page](#) doesn't even mention the bombing by the way. The British Library [evidences the event through diary entries from schoolboys who were "annoyed they lost 3 hours sleep" from hearing the zeppelin bombs roar "like a lion"](#).

...and on...

*“On the night of 2/3 April, a six-airship raid was made by Army and Navy airships, the naval ships against the naval base at Rosyth and the Forth Bridge on the east coast of Scotland, the Army Zeppelins attacking London. **None of the airships bombed their intended targets; 13 people were killed, 24 injured and much of the £77,113 damage was caused by the destruction of a warehouse in Leith full of whisky.** A two-Zeppelin raid the following night **failed to bomb London** in inclement weather and **caused no casualties or damage**; another against the north of England on the night of 5/6 April **had little effect**. One of the three raiders turned back with mechanical problems; **the ironworks at Skinningrove and a colliery near Bishop Auckland were bombed with casualties of one dead and nine injured.**”*

They can't get to London but they can reach Scotland and hit a whiskey warehouse. Do they not have, I don't know, compasses? Spotlights mounted on the hull? Sextants? Star charts? Something to navigate with?

If the technology to navigate an aircraft over thousands of miles and bomb a city at night wasn't available back in 1915 then why do it in the first place and how did they hit anything at all? Chance? Surely they'd be essentially dropping their bombs at random?

...and on...

*“**The first raid of 1916 was carried out by the German Navy. Nine Zeppelins were sent to Liverpool on the night of 31 January/1 February. Poor weather, difficulty in navigating and mechanical problems scattered the aircraft across the Black Country, bombing Tipton, Wednesbury and Walsall; 61 people were reported killed and 101 injured. Fifteen of the fatalities occurred in the town of Tipton.** L21 (Kapitänleutnant der Reserve Max Dietrich), caused the majority of the damage. Despite the ground fog, **22 aircraft took off to find the Zeppelins but none succeeded.** Six aircraft were damaged beyond repair and two pilots were killed in landing accidents.”*

Tipton's wiki page doesn't bother to recollect the time they got bombed by a zeppelin. It does mention getting bombed in World War 2 however:

*“During the Second World War (1939–1945), **there were a number of air raids on the town. On 19 November 1940, three people were killed by a Luftwaffe bomb which was dropped in Bloomfield Road and destroyed several buildings including the Star public house; it was rebuilt after the war but demolished in 1996. Just before Christmas in 1940, an anti-aircraft shell fired from the hills at Rowley Regis fell down the chimney of the Boat Inn, Dudley Road East, Tividale; fatally injuring 12 people at a wedding reception (including the bride, while the groom lost both legs) as well as the resident of an adjacent house. On 17 May 1941, six people died in an air raid in New Road, Great Bridge. Tipton Tavern and New Road Methodist Church were destroyed and a number of nearby houses were damaged. Tipton Tavern landlord Roger Preece was trapped in the rubble but survived with minor injuries.**”*

So the Germans... in World War 2... killed 9 people in Tipton. Whereas an anti-aircraft shell fired... by the British... killed 12 people at a wedding. Tipton actually suffered more from the AA fire than from the Luftwaffe. Right.

...and on:

“On 28/29 July the first raid to include L31, one of the new R-class Zeppelins, took place. These were 660 ft (200 m) long, with a capacity of 2,000,000 cu ft (55,000 m³), powered by six engines, capable of operating at 13,000 ft (4,000 m) and could carry up to 4 long tons (4.1 t) of bombs. The ten Zeppelins achieved very little; four turned back early and the rest wandered over a fog-shrouded landscape before giving up. Adverse weather dispersed raids on 30/31 July and 2/3 August. On 8/9 August, two Zeppelins were part of a nine-airship raid on Hull. The sixth successful London raid was on 24/25 August, when 13 Navy Zeppelins set out and L31 reached London; flying above low clouds, 36 bombs were dropped in ten minutes on West Ferry Road, Deptford Dry Dock, the station at Norway Street and homes in Greenwich, Eltham and Plumstead. Nine people were killed, 40 injured and £130,203 of damage was caused. L31 suffered no damage in the attack but several weeks of repair work were needed following a hard landing.”

You drop 36 bombs over several streets in London (i.e. a densely populated city) and only kill 9 people? Injure 40? Again, these Zeppelins are enormous! How are the planes unable to find them? How do they sneak up on anyone?



“Members of Kagohl 3 in front of a Gotha bomber” - Original [here](#).

Paste up. Separate figures inserted into an image. I think people need to understand that photography didn't always have to be crap back in the early 20th century. For comparison, here is a street scene of Belgian refugees in London:



See how crisp this is? Nice clear photo, same time period. If you [follow this link to the article](#) I pulled the image from you'll see a bunch of other photographs all ridiculously clear and crisp in comparison with what military intelligence spoon feeds you.

[Eventually, the zeppelins become completely invisible:](#)

“The last attack by Zeppelins on London took place on the night of 19 October 1917. It had been over 12 months since the last Zeppelin raid, during which time the ceiling of German airships had been improved to a height that existing aeroplanes could not reach. Their undersides had also been coated with a special non-reflective black paint, rendering them almost invisible to searchlights. Up to eleven Zeppelins including LZ85, approached London from the north, with a few bombs falling north of Watford being reported from around 9:00 p.m. The wind was freshening from the north-west. The commander of the Western sub-section of the London Air Defence Area, Lt-Col. Alfred Rawlinson (holder of Royal Aero Club Aviator's Licence No. 3 and brother of Sir Henry Rawlinson), surmised that the airships were likely to switch off their engines; carried silently on the wind over central London, they would drop their bombs undetected.

Rawlinson ordered all the searchlights in the London area to be switched off, since they would 'give the game away'. A bomb was dropped at around 11:30 p.m. on the heart of the West End, destroying the premises of Swan & Edgar in Piccadilly Circus but the ground defences remained silent. Another bomb fell on Grove Park, Lewisham a few minutes later but the deception worked; London avoided up to 200 bombs. None of the Zeppelins made it back to their base in Jutland. Blown by the increasing gale, one was brought down by French anti-aircraft guns at 7:00 a.m. on 18 October near the German frontier at Luneville, another was forced to land at 9:20 a.m. near Bourbonne-les-Bains in western France by pursuing aeroplanes, two came down and were destroyed by fire near Gap, France in the Hautes-Alpes département in south-west France at 2:00 p.m. Three more were carried out to sea and were lost over the Mediterranean with all hands when their fuel ran out.”

Yep.

OK.

So.

I need to try and make sense of this. We've got the threat of a German aerial weapon – the Zeppelins (and also the Gotha bombers, true). They can whizz in and whizz out and we can't do much against them. This is scary. Innocent people die (allegedly), including schoolchildren. This upsets and scares people. The German's confirm this is entirely a psychological weapon. The RAF get founded. Not much changes for several years. Random whiskey distilleries and properties in Hull and Norfolk and Birmingham get bombed. The odd West End theatre gets clipped. Houses in the poorer East End districts are bombed. [A school in Poplar is hit](#) and 18 children are killed (on the 13th of June). The zeppelins are rarely if ever spotted or shot down, being invisible even to trained pilots going up to look for them. The photographs of the aircraft are faked. The fate of the zeppelins is invariably "it went down at sea with all hands" or "got shot down over rural France" or "we blew up the hanger it was parked in, killing everyone". What can we make of this?

Conveniently, they even kill off one of the top men behind the Zeppelin attacks:

"The last Zeppelin raid on Britain took place on 5 August 1918, when four Zeppelins bombed targets in the Midlands and the North of England. The airships reached the British coast before dark and were sighted by the Leman Tail lightship 30 mi (48 km) north-east of Happisburgh at 8:10 p.m., although defending aircraft were not alerted until 8:50 p.m.. Despite thick cloud, two aircraft intercepted the new L70, which was carrying Peter Strasser, Führer der Luftschiffe of the German Imperial Navy, as an observer. The Zeppelin was shot down in flames with no survivors. Egbert Cadbury and Robert Leckie flying a DH.4 were credited with the victory. The remaining airships dropped their bombs blind, relying on radio bearings for navigational information and none fell on land. An attempt was made to salvage the wreckage of L 70 and most of the structure was brought ashore, providing the British a great deal of technical information; the bodies of the crew were buried at sea."

Yep. Exit stage left Mr. Strasser. [We turn to his page:](#)



“Peter Strasser (1 April 1876 – 5 August 1918) was chief commander of German Imperial Navy Zeppelins during World War I, the main force operating bombing campaigns from 1915 to 1917. He was killed when flying the German Empire's last airship raid over the United Kingdom.”

Rather helpfully his article also gives us the casualties of the first Blitz:

“Official British estimates list 498 civilians and 58 soldiers killed by air attack in Britain between 1915 and 1918. 1,913 injuries are recorded. The Imperial Navy dropped 360,000 kg of bombs, the majority on the British Isles. 307,315 kg were directed at enemy vessels, ports and towns; 58,000 kg were dropped over Italy, the Baltic and the Mediterranean. German army airships carried 160,000 kg of bombs to their designated targets: 44,000 kg hit Belgium and France, 36,000 kg England, and 80,000 kg Russia and south eastern Europe. However, questions remain over whether airships (and more importantly, their irreplaceable crews) would have been better used as a purely naval weapon.”

Probably me reading too much into it but civilians $4+9 = 13 + 8$ and soldiers are $5 + 8 = 13$. Just interesting how that mirrors. Also that dropping 360,000 kg of explosives on towns and cities but only killing 500-odd people in a four year campaign is quite odd. You would expect more deaths. 2,469 casualties both deaths and injuries, civilian and military combined over 4 years means 617 a year. Or for deaths alone that's $556 / 4 = 139$ per year. 139 deaths. Out of a population of 46 million. Can that be fabricated? Yes. That's not a lot of people, especially during wartime, especially when you factor in the rural areas.

If it's true from the next bit that the Germans only did 51 zeppelin raids in WW1 that's a mere 10.9 (or should I round up to 11?) people dead per raid – how can they firebomb packed residential tenements and get so few people? The Germans probably lost more zeppelin crewmen than the British lost civilians!

From [this article on German Strategic Bombing in World War One](#):

“In Britain, fear of the Zeppelin as a weapon of war preceded its actual use: even before the war the British public was gripped by "zeppelinitis".”

Again: psychological weapon, not physical.

“The Zeppelin proved too costly compared to air planes, too large and slow a target, its hydrogen gas too flammable, and too susceptible to bad weather, anti-aircraft fire (below 5,000 feet) and interceptors armed with incendiary bullets (up to 10,000 feet) for the Imperial German Army (Reichsheer), which abandoned its use in 1916. The Imperial German Navy (Kaiserliche Marine), whose airships were primarily used for reconnaissance over the North Sea, continued to bomb the United Kingdom until 1918. In all, fifty-one raids on Great Britain were carried out, the last by the Navy in May 1918. The most intense year of the airship bombing of England was 1916. In December 1916, two Zeppelins of the R Class took off from Wainoden in an attempt to bomb Saint Petersburg. One was forced down by adverse weather conditions and damaged beyond repair, while the other, hampered by engine problems, turned back before it reached the target. No further attempt to bomb Saint Petersburg was made. Germany employed 125 airships during the war, losing more than half and sustaining a 40% attrition rate of their crews, the highest of any German service branch.”

I mean they're supposed to be able to fly faster than attack planes and fly higher than any plane can go to evade pursuit and be completely invisible using special paint even with searchlights trained on them but hey – details. Germany never attacked St. Petersburg with zeppelins. Interesting. Shades

of “why not use Kamchatka to get to Japan” from the Pacific Theatre series. Also that half your zeppelin pilots never made it to the end of the war, reducing the number of fake testimonies you need to produce.

*“In May 1917 the Germans began using heavy bombers against England using Gotha G.IV and later supplementing these with Riesenflugzeuge (“giant aircraft”), mostly from the Zeppelin-Staaken firm. The targets of these raids were industrial and port facilities and government buildings, but few of the bombs hit military targets, most falling on private property and killing civilians. Although the German strategic bombing campaign against Britain was the most extensive of the war, it was largely ineffective, in terms of actual damage done. Only 300 tons of bombs were dropped, resulting in material damage of £2,962,111 damage, 1,414 dead and 3,416 injured, **these figures including those due to shrapnel from the anti-aircraft fire.** In the autumn of 1917, however, over 300,000 Londoners had taken shelter from the bombing, and industrial production had fallen.”*

OK, so now it’s 1,414 dead and 3,416 injured... when you factor in people hurt by the British anti-aircraft fire. This is also corroborated by a BBC Bitesize (an educational resource for secondary school children) [article that states that](#):

“By the end of the war, almost 1,500 British citizens had been killed in air raids, and over 3,400 had been injured.”

So all this would appear to admit that of the 4,830 people affected in total, 2,469 were from German fire and 2,361 were from “friendly” fire. That’s about 50/50! Or worse, are all the injured from friendly fire and it’s supposedly 556 dead from the Germans and 4,274 injured from the British Army itself?

We then have to thoroughly inspect [this article](#) by historian Simon Webb entitled “How thousands of civilians were killed by British shells in the London Blitz”. Now, he’s talking about World War 2 initially but this is all quite interesting:

*“For many years, the assumption has been that those tens of thousands of men, women and children who died during the bombing were killed by the explosion of German bombs. **This is not so. A large proportion of the deaths, perhaps as many as half, were caused not by the German air force, but rather by the British army and their artillery.***

*During the First World War, German aeroplanes began flying over England and dropping bombs. Since rifle and machine gun fire was not able to hit anything more than 3,000 feet above the ground, **the decision was made to use heavy artillery, typically naval guns as shown below.**”*

Here is the photograph he provides as illustration:



“Such weapons were removed from ships and fixed emplacements on shore, bolted onto lorries and then driven to London. The results of firing artillery in the middle of a large city were disastrous. Many shells failed to explode in the air and only detonated on impact, when they landed.

On 7 July 1917, for instance, 22 bombers flew across London, dropping bombs in different parts of the city. The British responded by firing more than 2,000 artillery shells into the sky; none of which hit any of the German planes. Many only exploded when they landed in the streets of London. A total of 55 civilians were killed during the bombing, 10 of whom died as a result of the artillery fire.”

...that would be 10 of the 556 dead just from one “raid”. Also, how exactly do we know which destroyed properties were hit by an artillery shell versus a German bomb? How do they delineate? You find a bunch of ruined buildings with the roof caved in and probably on fire, with corpses strewn around. Is this from a German or British bomb? How can you tell? This is never explained.

Anyway, Webb continues:

“The scientist J.B.S. Haldane was a member of a government committee in the 1930s which examined possible defences against bombing. In 1938, he wrote bluntly about the British artillery shells used during the First World War: “They killed a number of Londoners in 1916-1918. In some raids they caused as many casualties as the enemy bombs”. ”

See, this is not me or Webb making this up, it’s supposed to be 50/50 split even according to the government’s own estimation!

“It is almost impossible to hit a fast-moving aeroplane with artillery, and the shells which did explode rained down hundreds of thousands of heavy chunks of metal. These caused many deaths, but even worse was the fact that many of the shells had defective timing mechanisms. This meant that instead of exploding 10,000 feet overhead, they plunged to earth and exploded there.

One expert working at Cambridge's Cavendish Laboratory estimated that half the shells exploded at ground level and that they killed as many people as the German bombs. If true, this would mean that the British army and their artillery were responsible for over 25,000 deaths in Britain during the Second World War.

Beginning on Sunday, 8 September 1940, when an artillery shell landed outside a café near Kings Cross, killing 17 people, the death toll from anti-aircraft fire was constant and unrelenting. Nor were the deaths limited to London. On 14 September 1940, members of the Women's Royal Naval Service were sitting down to dinner at the hotel in Lee-on-Solent where they were billeted.

A shell fired by artillery in Portsmouth flew through the window of the dining room and exploded, killing 10 of the young women. In some areas of the country, there is no doubt that more people were killed by shells than bombs."

He then mentions Tipton, which we saw earlier:

"In the Midlands district of **Tipton**, 23 civilians were killed during air raids during the Second World War. 11 of these deaths were caused by German bombs, but 12 died during an incident on 21 December 1940, when a wedding party was taking place in a pub in the village of Tividale.

An artillery shell weighing 28 lb (12.7 Kg) was fired from nearby Rowley Hills and sailed down the chimney of the building where the party was being held. The bride was killed, the bridegroom lost both legs and 11 other guests died."

Note there's no mention of any bombs hitting Tipton in World War One, despite Wikipedia's claim earlier. Only in World War 2 and that was a half and half between the Luftwaffe and a nearby Army base. Question: what if the army cannon responsible for the 11 dead had fired twice? What if they only admitted to firing once? How can we know?

"The strange thing is that during the war, the number of injuries and deaths from anti-aircraft fire was common knowledge and widely reported in both national and provincial newspapers, despite the censorship. On 29 March 1944, for example, the Western Mail reported that:

Anti-aircraft shells, one of which exploded in a crowded factory, killing 12 people, including seven women, and injuring as many more, were the chief cause of damage during activity over the South Wales coastal area on Monday night.

It is only since 1945 that we have chosen to forget about the unpalatable fact that our own artillery was shelling towns and cities and massacring thousands of civilians."

Yeah I mean that's definitely one for the memory hole, right? Don't want the peasantry talking about how tens of thousands of their own people were killed by their own military.

[Later Edit: I've just realised that Miles has previously linked Webb's article in [this paper here](#). You'll forgive me if I keep this bit in as it's part of my train of thought writing this and I feel like I have my own take / commentary that warrants its inclusion]

Now all this obviously begs the question "Why did they bother firing this artillery into the sky if it's so useless at hitting the German aircraft?". Well, Webb rationalises this by saying there was a threat from zeppelins and bombers and whatnot but the point of the anti-aircraft fire was (again) psychological:

*“It was accepted that shooting down bombers with artillery was almost impossible **and more likely to kill your own civilians than to harm the enemy.** When the Blitz on British cities began in September 1940, the military doctrine was that the only defence against such an offensive was to launch counter-attacks on German cities.*

*This left the inhabitants of London and other cities feeling that the government was doing nothing to protect them. **The fear was that there would be a mass flight into the countryside, which would disrupt the war-effort by removing workers from the factories.***

It was accordingly decided to bring artillery into play once more, to persuade ordinary people that the government was fighting back.”

There you go: a psychological weapon from the Germans requires a psychological counter-weapon from the British state. We'll make a lot of noise shooting artillery into the sky and that will make people feel they are safe or that we are fighting back. This is a good idea for why this is happening, but I will take it further:

1. He's a Webb, so he's one of them and will be gatekeeping.
2. He's gatekeeping because although he's revealing what the British government did, he's presenting it in a context that essentially justifies it. We had to fire artillery to keep people working to maintain the war effort as if we didn't trick them then they'd run away and we'd lose the war and suffer more.

This is the bit in the story where Miles would normally lean against the fireplace, light his pipe while playing the violin and start talking about “door number 3”. He's solving other cases right now so it's my turn:

3. Door number 3 is ignored: there was no German bombing campaign. That's why the imagery of the zeppelins are faked and that's why nobody can fly up and find the damn things and why they keep falling into the sea with all hands. The Army are simply shelling the population (and probably also using localised explosives planted in specific buildings to be fair). They probably told the Army personnel who questioned this policy the same thing Webb is telling you in the article above: this is all for a good reason. So the troops are firing shells into the sky and rationalising it all. I expect the bulk of “deaths” are fictional for treasury theft payouts and the real ones are accidental. There were no zeppelins from Germany doing any actual bombing campaign / damage.



“German airship bombing Calais on the night of 21–22 February 1915” - Original [here](#).

This is a collage, with pencil sketch drawn-in sections, not a photograph.

The motive for all this this would be several fold:

1. Stop people fleeing the cities and living a quiet life. Keep them working in the factories.
2. Maintain an ongoing state of panic/hysteria so people are more easily manipulated.
3. Paint the German enemy as “baby killers” so you can’t question the war effort without supporting atrocities – i.e. curtail speech.
4. Insurance Fraud – note how in the Wikipedia articles from the start they kept quoting how much money was paid out per bombing? For example:

“About 120 bombs were dropped on a line from Stoke Newington south to Stepney and then north toward Leytonstone. Seven people were killed and 35 injured; 41 fires were started, burning out seven properties and the total damage was assessed at £537,900.”

See what I mean? Half a million quid payout – which in present value is, what, [around £63 million?](#) 7 deaths 7 properties. 42 total casualties from 41 fires. A bonanza.

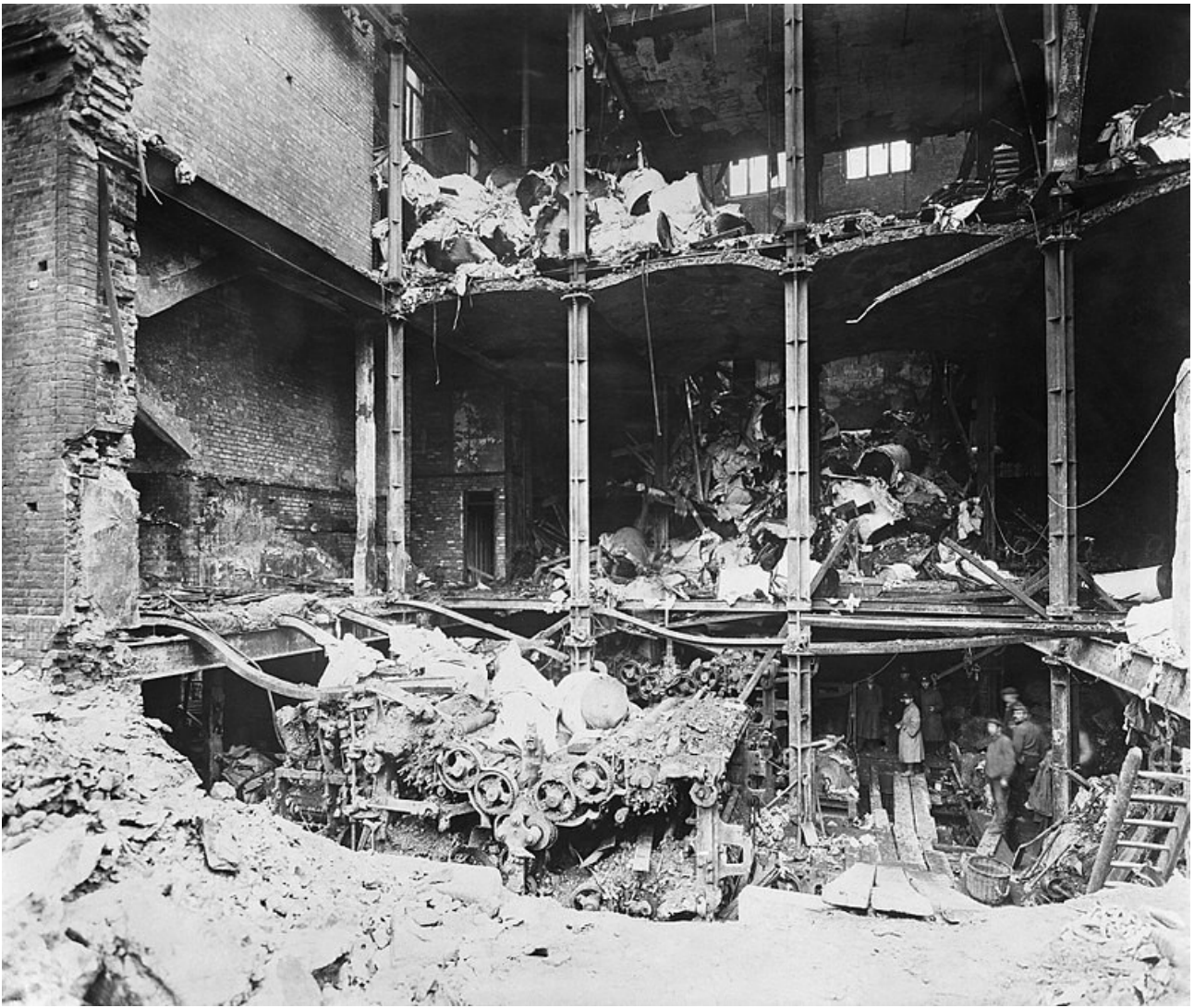
Do we have any evidence (beyond hearsay / journalistic claims) of the property damage caused by this seemingly mythological bombing campaign?

[Per Wikipedia:](#)

*“The start of 1918 was a cold one and London was concealed in fog for the first few weeks. On 28 January, the forecast looked promising, but fog closed-in as the squadron was taking off, resulting in seven Gothas successfully crossing the Channel, while only **three** reached London. Their arrival caused an accident at Bishopsgate Goods Yard as people rushed for shelter under the arches there; 14 were killed in the crush. Bombs fell over a wide area from Poplar in the east to Maida Vale in the west. **The single Giant which had accompanied the raid later bombed a print works in Long Acre, the basement of which was being used as a public shelter; 38 were killed when the floors above collapsed, it took six weeks to recover all the bodies.** The total casualties for the raid were 65 killed and 159 injured. One Gotha was shot down, again by 44 Squadron, and crashed near Wickford in Essex; another four were lost in landing accidents.”*

Note that’s 14 killed from panic, not from an explosion/shrapnel. So 556 WW1 casualties from bombing, minus the 10 from British artillery mentioned a few pages back and minus 14 from a stampede becomes 532. I’m not even trying to look for these they’re just jumping out. Incredible odds that an underground public shelter, built beneath a print works, was struck and led to 38 deaths. Such bad luck! Also that it took six weeks to excavate the dead. Really?

Can we see a photo of the print works bombing please?



“Odhams Printing Works in Long Acre, which was bombed on 28 January 1918; 38 people were killed and 85 injured in an air-raid shelter in the basement.” - original [here](#).

That took six weeks to excavate? That ramp, with the planks, down into the cellar? That’s a six week job for rescue crews working shifts? I take it some of the “85 injured” were stuck under the rubble – so how did they survive for that long? The rest of the building is holding up pretty well given that it was (checks notes) bombed by German aircraft and collapsed presumably while on fire. This couldn’t possibly be a photo of an abandoned factory building?

Hey at least they got one of the German pilots:



"The engine of a Gotha V, shot down on 18 December 1917, put on public display at Trafalgar Square." - [original here](#).

You have to laugh. An engine block of an alleged bomber, on display in Trafalgar Square. "We got him!". Come on.

Wikipedia concludes:

"Between 25 May 1917 and 19 May 1918, the Gothas of the England Squadron, together with the Giants of Rfa 501, dropped 105,000 kg of high explosives and 6,500 kg of incendiaries on England. The raids killed 837 people and injured 1,991, of which 486 deaths and 1,432 injuries were in the London area, representing 68% of the total."

OK so now it's 837 (8+3+7 = 18) people dead, just between 1917 and 1918. Wikipedia, you need to be consistent in what you're telling me. Also the BBC. Maybe nobody knows?

"Material damage that they inflicted was estimated at £1.4 million, £1.2 million of that being in London."

i.e. adjusted for modern valuation some people in London got a sweet, sweet payout of £84 million.

"Although German hopes of being able to hit specific war-related targets were not realised, there were often severe falls in munitions production around the time of major raids. Although the Germans also failed in their other aim of destroying the morale of Londoners to the extent that they pressured their government into suing for peace, the lack of preparation of civilians did engender mass panic at times and during the sustained "Harvest Moon raids" of October 1917, the capital was, by some accounts, close to collapse. However, rather than pleading for peace, the public reaction was to vociferously demand retaliation."

Exactly, that was the whole point. It made everyone pissed off and scared and they wanted blood. This helped the British government it didn't hinder it.



“A group of people stand outside the Bedford Hotel on Southampton Row to watch at men at work beside a large crater. The damage was caused by a 50 kilogram bomb during a Gotha raid on the night of 24 – 25 September 1917.” - original [here](#).

A hole in the ground. From a German bomb? Or British artillery? Or just a hole dug overnight?

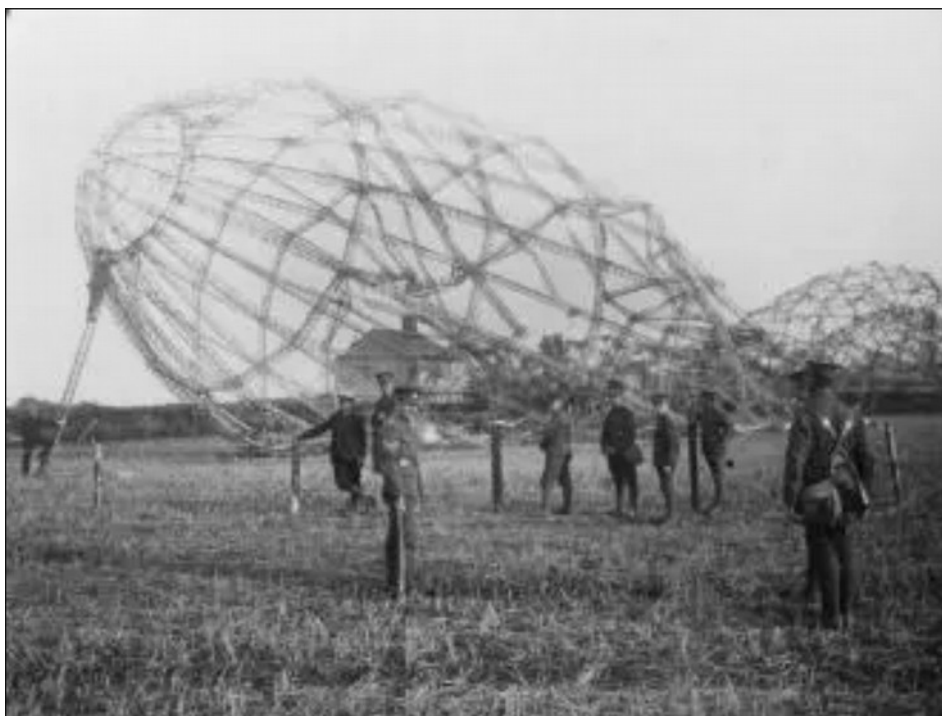


Image 11 of 11

Cleopatra's Needle, Embankment, London, 4/5 September 1917. A 50 kg bomb, dropped by a German Gotha plane, exploded close to the monument on the night of 4/5 September 1917. The resulting blast killed the driver and two passengers of a passing tram. © Ian Castle © Ian Castle

Original [here](#).

Again, a hole in the ground. I find it interesting people were still out and about riding carriages around central London in late 1917. Was nobody worried about getting caught out in the open during a bombing raid? Was it not difficult to navigate what with the blackouts?



“ZEPPELIN SHOT DOWN NEAR COLCHESTER, ENGLAND IN 1916” – original [here](#).

Interesting that the whole thing obviously caught fire and immolated the entire canopy covering the frame. The frame which, despite then crashing to earth, is completely intact and sturdy enough to prop a ladder against as per the left side. Notice the ground appears rather untouched (e.g. there was no fire when the enormous 600-foot long vessel smashed into the ground at high speed throwing wreckage and corpses and detonating any unexploded ordinance everywhere). The army personnel are just standing around looking at it. Almost like... a staged photo of a metal frame placed in a field.

More photographs can be found via [this BBC article](#):



*“The German crew managed to scramble free from **L33** and local militia had to keep local souvenir hunters at bay”*

The crew scrambled free. From the burning, falling blimp. What did they do, use parachutes? It would be zeppelin number **33** wouldn't it. Note the complete lack of fire damage to the pilot compartment.

But ah, the BBC explains, it didn't fall to earth on fire. The Germans burned their own ship:

*“Its huge **650ft long body**, which **had lost too much height to fly back to Germany**, crash-landed close to New Hall Cottages in Little Wigborough, near Colchester. **The German captain, Alois Bocker, decided to set the Zeppelin on fire, but not before attempting to warn those living in cottages nearby.**”*

What a nice man. Note the cottage is really far away, as per the previous photo, and the fire wouldn't have affected it.

*“However, **the terrified occupants refused to open the door after hearing German voices**. Bocker and his crew **then headed up the road towards Peldon but were arrested when they asked a***

policeman for directions to Colchester. They were taken to Mersea Island and later handed over to the military."

The sad thing is that normies will read this drivel and think nothing of it.

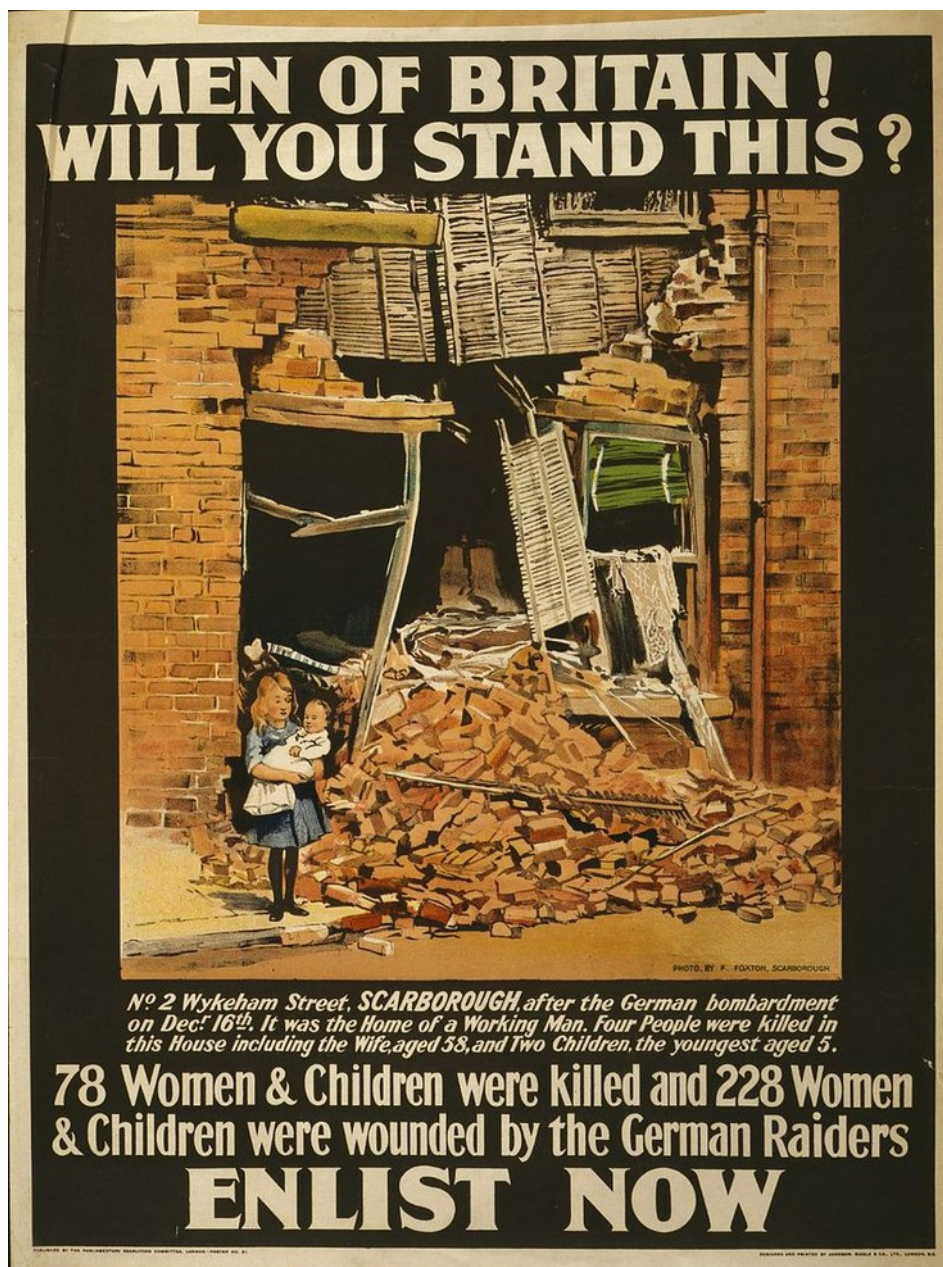
Extra Time: Remember Scarborough!

I appreciate this next bit isn't aerial bombardment but I enjoyed reading about it and will force you to as well.

In the [Raid on Scarborough, Hartlepool and Whitby](#) the German Naval fleet attacked several ports on 16th December of 1914:

"The bombardments caused hundreds of civilian casualties and resulted in public outrage in Britain against the German Navy for the raid and the Royal Navy for failing to prevent it."

It led to a lot of this sort of thing:



We're back to good old fashioned atrocity propaganda. Love a bit of atrocity propaganda. It's that or Corpse Math.

*“The remaining ships divided, Seydlitz, Blücher and Moltke proceeded towards Hartlepool, while Derfflinger, Von der Tann and Kolberg approached Scarborough. At 08:15, Kolberg began to lay mines off Flamborough Head in a line extending 10 mi (8.7 nmi) out to sea. At 08:00, Derfflinger and Von der Tann began to bombard the town. **Scarborough Castle, the prominent Grand Hotel, three churches and various other properties were hit. Civilians crowded into the railway station and the roads leading out of the town.** At 09:30, the two battlecruisers ceased fire and moved on to nearby Whitby, where a coastguard station was shelled, incidentally hitting Whitby Abbey and other buildings in the town.”*

Whitby Abbey is literally a famous ruin, as per Dracula. You're telling me the German Navy has nothing better to do than bomb an abandoned building, a coastguard station and, what, the town pub? Or at Scarborough they hit... a hotel?



Original [here](#).

Pretty sure the bloke in the coat is cropped in. He's blurred whereas everything else is in focus. The resolution is different on him than on, say, the table to his right. He also appears to have no legs – is that a second guy crouched on all fours wearing a bowler hat, head down? Or is the second figure meant to be the legs of the man standing?

[The Great War Blog](#) I pulled this image from is worth reading. Some gems:

*“Hipper’s first raid on Yarmouth six weeks ago **killed no civilians**, but today’s operations will leave **137** dead and more than 450 injured. Although his ships fire thousands of shells during the*

ninety minute raid, they do remarkably little damage to legitimate military targets. The Scarborough Mercury reports of the attack on Whitby:

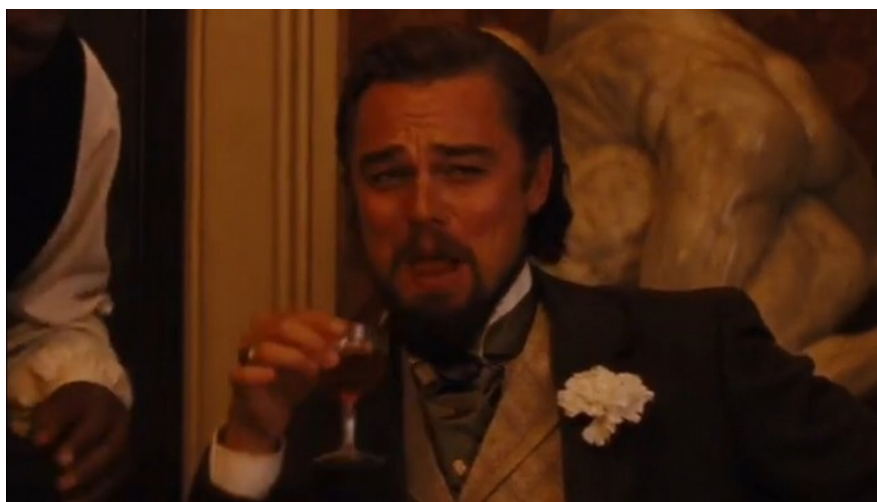
The great majority of the shots had passed over the East Cliff, and fell half a mile further on in the region of the railway station, where nearly all of the material damage was done. Here, in the Fishburn Park district, houses were wrecked right and left, and here it was that the second fatality occurred."

Thousands of shells, houses wrecked – 2nd casualty. OK. Everyone was down the market I guess.

"William H. Tunmore, a railwayman employed on the North-eastern Railway, was the victim. He was driving a horse and cart at the Bagdale crossing near the railway station when a small shell struck him and killed him on the spot, though the horse was absolutely uninjured. He was sixty-one years of age, and a married man, his home being in Grey Street. The only other case was that of an invalid lady, Mrs Miller, of Springhill terrace, who was hit in the side by a piece of shell while she was lying in bed."

(Lestrade struggles to contain himself)

You see reader, the battleship... essentially sniped... an old man driving a horse and cart. The enormous naval shell killed the man and missed the horse completely. The only other death caused by "thousands of shells" was an old woman hit "in the side" while lying in bed in her house!



Honestly, I do have a laugh covering this stuff.

*"The shock sends panic-stricken people fleeing into the country, **sparks a surge of volunteers at recruiting stations across Britain**, and stirs the British propaganda machine to its shrillest rhetorical heights."*

Of course it did, that was the point!

The beauty of it: you say the Germans are "baby killers" and tell Men Of Britain that they can either die on the battlefield, in the sunlight, protecting their family and nation, fighting another man in a sort of equable and honourable manner OR you can die cowering in your house, at night, you and your entire family wiped out by a bomb or naval shell which you never knew was coming.

Do you see how great that is as a con? Get your arse to the trenches or the Hun will get you!

Back [to Wikipedia](#):

“Hartlepool was a more significant target than the resort town of Scarborough. The port had extensive docks and factories and was defended by three 6-inch naval guns on the seafront. Two guns were at Heugh Battery and one at Lighthouse Battery. The guns were manned by 11 officers and 155 local men of the Durham Royal Garrison Artillery.”

It's 155 local men as $1 + 5 + 5 = 11$.

“The gun crews were warned at 04:30 of the possibility of an attack and were issued live ammunition. At 07:46, they received word that large ships had been sighted and at 08:10, a bombardment of the town began. No warning had been given to naval standing patrols in the area and the poor weather just before the raid meant that only four destroyers were on patrol, while two light cruisers and a submarine remained in Hartlepool harbour. Destroyers HMS Doon, Test, Waveney and HMS Moy were on patrol when Doon saw three large vessels approaching at 07:45, which opened fire shortly after. The only weapons the destroyers carried capable of damaging large vessels were torpedoes; as the ships were out of torpedo range the destroyers turned away except for Doon, which closed to 5,000 yd (2.8 mi; 4.6 km), fired one torpedo which missed and also turned away.”

No warning, always with the no warning, as in the Pacific Theatre.

“The shore batteries remained confused about the approaching ships until shells began to fall. The German ships were at such short range that the shell fuzes did not have time to set and many failed to explode or ricocheted into the town, because they were travelling horizontally, rather than plunging.”

Miles probably can unravel the physics of a shell fired horizontally causing it to ricochet. It sounds like bullshit. It's a shell, not a rubber ball.

“Two shore guns fired at the leading ship, while the third fired at the last, smaller, vessel. The gunners were hampered by a rising cloud of smoke and dust around them, affecting visibility. They found their shells had no effect on the armoured sides of the ships, so instead aimed at masts and rigging. The accuracy of the third gun was sufficient to oblige Blücher to move behind the lighthouse to prevent further hits. Two of her 15 cm (5.9 in) guns were disabled; the bridge and a 210 mm (8.3 in) gun were damaged.”

We fired the guns and immediately went blind due to the smoke and dust it kicked up. Also, our shells can't pierce the enemy hulls. Excellent.

“In the harbour, Captain Alan Bruce of the scout cruiser HMS Patrol attempted to put to sea but the ship was hit by two 210 mm shells, forcing Bruce to beach the ship. The second scout cruiser, HMS Forward, had no steam in her boilers and could not move. The submarine HMS C9 followed Patrol to sea but had to dive when shells started falling around it and at 08:50, the German ships departed. The ships had already departed when Patrol was clear of the harbour; Commodore Roger Keyes commented afterwards, that a target of three stationary cruisers was exactly what the submarine had been intended to attack.”

And (later on in the article):

“The German ships fired 1,150 shells into Hartlepool, striking targets including the steelworks, gasworks, railways, seven churches and 300 houses. People fled the town by road and attempted

*to do so by train; 86 civilians were killed and 424 injured (122 killed and 443 wounded according to Arthur Marder in 1965). Seven soldiers were killed and 14 injured. The death of Private Theophilus Jones of the Durham Light Infantry, age 29, was the first death of a British soldier from enemy action on British soil for 200 years. **Eight** German sailors were killed and 12 wounded."*

[Mr Jones, the unlucky gentleman in question:](#)



Nice crop at the neck there. We have some additional photographs also:



Look at the two kids on the left. See the level of resolution/blurring. Now look at the brick wall directly to their left or below them and how that's a different level of resolution/blurring. Then notice the kids are strangely small in scale. Then notice the white line around the man crouching over on the lower right. Then notice the white line around the "small boy with walking stick" top right, also the white insert line around the "small penguin child peering at the camera" in the upper middle. They're all pasted in.



"Damage at St. Barnabas church, Hartlepool" – original [here](#).

I guess the shell might have pulled off a trick shot and whizzed at just the right angle over the fence and striking the side of the building, blowing out all the windows in the process. Equally, who is to say it wasn't an abandoned building? Or a bomb set on a timer planted by the military at night?



*"Five members of the **Bennett** family were killed during the raid." - original [here](#).*

Bennett = peerage. Quite a bit more damage than when it hit the church, eh? You'll note throughout this paper how inconsistent the size of the explosion/crater/hole is from building to building. For example this terraced house has the front and some interior walls completely collapse with no obvious fire damage and the bodies already removed. You can see the bed upstairs, still in place. The back wall of the building however is completely stable and has not collapsed. Nor the roof. **Why are the bricks on the ground white?** Was this another flour bomb?

Meanwhile you can see the impact of presumably the same sort of naval shell on the Scarborough Lighthouse:



Original [here](#).

See what I mean? One shell removes the front of a building, collapsing it. Another punches a small hole in a church, managing to miss the nearby fencing and roof. Another manages to fly in at the perfect height to not hit the roof of the nearby building and slam into the side of the lighthouse, half-way up. What a shot! What luck.

Anyway, I think this fairly heavily breaks the narrative of WW1 German bombing of Britain. As always, shenanigans from the Phoenix people. Hope you enjoyed this.

As a parting shot I include this:



"Up in flames: The Zeppelins would explode in a fireball similar to the 1937 Hindenburg disaster, above, when the hydrogen-filled airship burst into flames after hitting a mooring mast" – [From this Daily Mail article](#).

Found this while looking at pictures of zeppelins. You'll note this is a doctored image. The zeppelin itself, for example, is cropped in or at least partially drawn in. Note the undercarriage detailing. Or, perhaps most visible, is the point at the nose where the flame is erupting. You can see that sharp jagged line at the hole of the nose and notice how the entire zeppelin is a separate component to the whole picture, as is the flame gout, as is the entire right half of the skybox where you have the smoke and white dot SFX. The figures on the ground are presumably drawn in or cropped in – the buildings on the horizon (lower left) are drawn in for example. There's also no mooring mast as far as I can see – what did it hit? So... yeah. The Hindenburg Disaster was fake. How about that?

[Late Edit: [Damn it! Miles has already covered it in detail.](#)]

[More to Come.](#)

