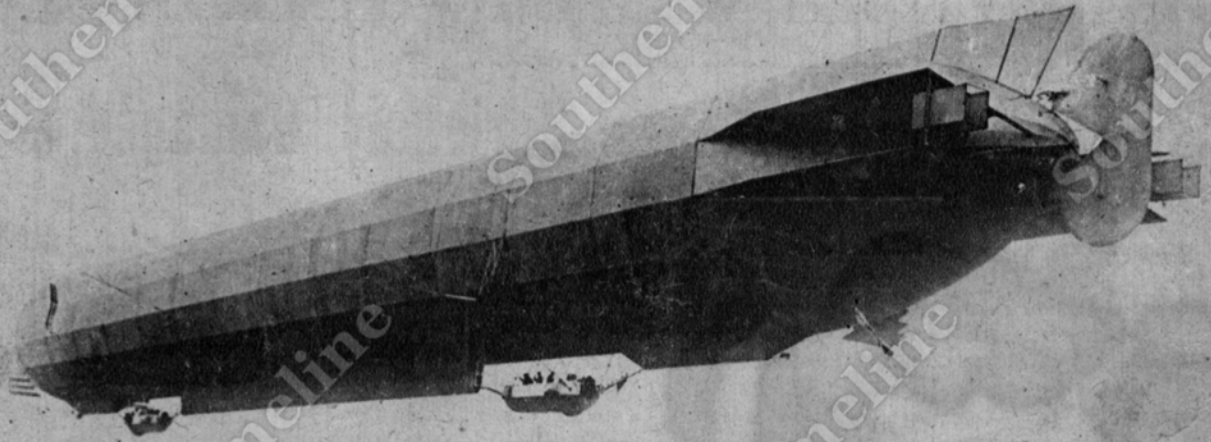


SOUTHEND STANDARD

Air Raid Supplement

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1915.



You English, We have come
Well come again soon

Germany



1. Zeppelin Airship (*Topical*). 2. Message the Germans Left Behind.
3. Unexploded Bomb in Westborough Road Schools Playground.

AIR RAID OVER SOUTHEND.

ONE WOMAN MURDERED.

Houses Burnt Out: Others Seriously Damaged.

Press Association message passed by Press Censor on Monday:—

Two Zeppelins visited Southend and district early to-day and dropped numerous bombs. One woman was killed and some property set alight.

Official communique from the Army Headquarters issued in Berlin on Monday:—

One of our airships early this morning dropped some bombs on the fortified place of Southend, at the estuary of the Thames.

Southend was the scene of the first air raid on this country, when an aeroplane (some say there were two) was discovered at the Thames mouth on Christmas morning, chased along our banks for some miles, and finally headed away to the North Sea over W. reefing. Its fate is unknown. There are a number of fragments of wreckage and the finding of the dead body of an aviator and his machine near these shores affords the clue to the mystery.

Now Southend-on-Sea has the melancholy satisfaction of knowing that nearly six months afterwards it was visited by the most formidable effort yet made from the air upon this country. Sunday was a beautiful day, with a strong easterly wind, which would favour a quick passage across the North Sea. The many thousands who thoroughly enjoyed the sunshine little thought as they went to bed what the sleeping hours would bring. The night was dark, and in the early morning the sky was streaked with small clouds, with a haziness which made it difficult to detect anything moving in the sky above. It was at such a favourable juncture that the blow was struck and fell upon the unfortified watering-place of Southend. The affair occupied so few minutes in its happening that it is not easy to judge the route of the aircraft, give number or description, or to say with certainty what the objective was. Indeed the varied accounts given of what was seen illustrate very vividly the hurried nature of the visit and the indefinite impressions that were conveyed. It is safe to say Southend was twice visited; on the outward and the return journey, which were very closely connected. Apparently the aircraft stopped short about Bread and Cheese Hill, Thundersley, hurling incendiary bombs on that district and South Benfleet, and then turned back at full speed towards the North Sea, perhaps because the effect of her work at Southend was being quickly observed. Independent accounts all agree that operations

began about 2.45; the first call being made to the fire brigade at 2.49. Mr. Flaxman's timber yard and shops were then well alight as the result of an incendiary bomb; another also striking the dwelling house and inflicting considerable damage. Just previously the first explosion was felt; a sharp, almost painful detonation sending many thousands of burgesses straight out of their beds and to the windows, where a whirring noise was heard. It was this shell which possibly struck a house at the rear of 192, York Road East, where the occupants (Mr. and Mrs. Warr) and Corpl. Hanny, of the Border Regiment, and his wife and child, had narrow escapes; a huge hole being made in the back garden and the rear structure seriously damaged. Very shortly afterwards another sharp explosion was heard, and it may be that this was the shell which struck the piece of waste land in front of a ambulance drive, making a great hole in the ground; the force of the concussion breaking the windows of scores of neighbouring houses. It was quite a sight on Monday morning to see glaziers working as if for very life to re-glaze the sashes before nightfall. There was a third explosive bomb, which crashed through the wood paving of Victoria Avenue opposite the Technical School and embedded itself in concrete without exploding. Another was also thrown at Westborough School playground, and passed through the asphalt without bursting. So much for the enemy's effort at destruction of life by explosives. The attempt to destroy property by means of incendiary bombs was much more fruitful of result, although even then the results were puny contrasted with the personal risk and financial outlay involved. Westcliff and Leigh were peppered with them. Benfleet and Thundersley marked the termination of the raid, and on the return journey further fire bombs were dropped.

From the accounts of eye witnesses and a careful survey of the spots where bombs were dropped, it seems probable that the Zeppelin first arrived from over Foulness, started bomb-dropping near St. Erkenwald's Church, and then stopped over the centre of the town, swaying in the wind. Whilst there a large number of incendiary bombs were fired; the electricity works being the objective. Then the enemy, perhaps having settled her course, passed over Coleman's Estate to North Leigh and on to Thundersley and Benfleet. Hereabouts the anti-aircraft guns awoke to life, and finding the position too hot or having completed her

reconnaissance, or the dawn being at hand, the ship turned and made for the sea as quickly as she could; dropping a large quantity of bombs near Leigh gas works and the marshes as if anxious to get rid of them as quickly as possible. The Zeppelin then came over Southend — the incendiary bomb at the Technical School probably being dropped on the way—and made off to sea without perceptible hindrance. Indeed, some assert it was over an hour before the whirr of an aeroplane told of pursuit.

The type of projectiles was easily ascertained. The explosive bomb near the Technical School was a round steel cylinder, about two feet in diameter. The incendiary bombs are by now well-known to readers; having been made familiar to them in our description of the Maldon raid. A steel tube has affixed to it a steel basin, and at the top a handle of stout wire, the incandescent material being placed round the shaft. It consists of soaked rag, charcoal, and other inflammable constituents, including minute pieces of coal.

The hour chosen was the best possible for the purpose. The darkest hour before the dawn was made more suitable by the cloudy atmosphere, which rendered floating objects in the sky absolutely invisible or only of shadowy, indistinct outlines. The evidence of people who were out at the time suggests that a Zeppelin was employed — the various descriptions used being a vessel the shape of a "sausage," or a "stick of pencil" or a "cigar." These are the descriptive phrases associated in the popular mind with the Zeppelin aloft. Mr. Mason, of Southend Gas Works, gives one of the most intelligible accounts, in the course of which he makes it clear that the aircraft paid a return visit to Southend. There is little to support the theory of a second vessel. As it was, the Zeppelin was flying unusually high. The number of bombs dropped tends to preclude the idea of aeroplanes, because quite a number would have been employed, and the bomb-dropping would have taken place over a wider area. Some there are who say that they could have thrown a stone at the invader, or if they had had a rifle they could have played havoc with it. We prefer to believe that it kept at a comparatively safe distance, and that that was the reason for the comparatively poor results achieved—the murder of one woman (Mrs. Whitwell) in her bed, the destruction of the whole or parts of eleven houses, and the creation of numerous cavities in the ground.

What was the objective? It was stated at one time that Kynoch's explosives works constituted the mark, but it is most improbable that German airmen would frustrate their aim by letting off incendiary bombs ten miles from the place and arouse the district for miles around. It seems probable that a raid was planned for the mouth of the Thames. It may have been designed for the Kent shore, but possibly the dark and cloudy night threw them out of their direction. Running at full speed and apprehensive of the British aeroplanes and anti-aircraft guns, they found a large town beneath them and immediately began to bombard it, picking out prominent landmarks. Thus it was that explosive and incendiary bombs fell near St. Erkenwald's Church, near the Technical School, and all round the electricity works and Leigh gas works. It is a great mercy that their efforts miserably failed.

For a couple of hours townsmen hoped there was no loss of life, but, unfortunately, the news circulated at about five that an incendiary bomb struck the roof of 129, North Road, and passing through, hit Mrs. Whitwell, an old lady, as she lay in bed. It killed her instantaneously and set fire to the house. The husband, a Corporation workman and a well-known Salvationist, groped for his wife and could not find

her. When rescued he was in a pitiable condition, exhausted and burnt, and moaning, "My poor wife; my poor wife." He was removed by the St. John Ambulance Brigade to Victoria Hospital, where he is now progressing favourably. Several narrow escapes were recorded; there being quite a number of cases of children who just missed disaster.

Early last week the Mayor issued a circular, giving the precautions to be observed in the case of an air raid. The instructions included: "As a precaution against possible danger from hostile aircraft, it may be considered necessary by the authorities, if the presence of such aircraft in the neighbourhood of the Borough is known or anticipated, to reduce the lighting of the town to a minimum. In such case the electric supply will be temporarily discontinued and the public lighting by gas reduced as far as practicable. Before such a step is taken, warning will be given by the sounding of one sustained blast from a steam whistle which has been installed at the electricity generating station. If the whistle should be sounded after dark inhabitants should remain in their houses, and where gas is the means of lighting employed therein, lights should be reduced to a minimum. When the authorities consider that the lighting may be restored, three short blasts at intervals of

15 seconds will be given from the whistle." For some reason the whistle blew minutes after the raid was over, and its only effect was to bring thousands of people hurrying into the street. It is a difficult point to decide whether it is not better to trust to methods of supervision in such times rather than precautions of this nature, which are rarely observed owing to the great excitement.

This brings us to speak of the magnificent behaviour of the townspeople. There was no sign of panic; perfect calmness reigned everywhere, although the glare of several burning houses lighted up the dawn. The chief nuisance was the number of private motor cars flying about, bent on sight-seeing, and seriously incommoding traffic in the congested areas. Really splendid work was accomplished by the Fire Brigade; the turn-out being smart and the organization most effective. The co-operation of the Regular and Special Police was close and energetic, and the work of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the Voluntary Aid Detachment was worthy of a great occasion. The troops turned out smartly, and some hundreds of the National Guard hurried to their rendezvous, where they remained for an hour. One squad, under Mr. Luff, was engaged in protecting the area where the unexploded bomb had fallen at the Technical School until relieved by a party of Rifles.

Incidents of the Bombardment.

BELOW WE GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF THE DAMAGE DONE.

POMERANIAN DOG KILLED.

The first alarm which the fire brigade received was to 55, Ashburnham Road, occupied by Mr. and Mrs. May, where a bomb crashed through the roof of the back bedroom, which was, fortunately, unoccupied at the time. A baby was, however, sleeping in the next room, while Mr. and Mrs. May also occupied a room on the same floor. Mrs. May told a *Standard* representative that it was just about three o'clock when she was awakened by a loud explosion, followed by the glare of flame. She rushed into the room where her baby was sleeping and clutched the child, then ran out into the street in her night attire. By this time the explosion had awakened the neighbours, and many were out in the road scantily clad. Only a thin wall divided her baby from the room, which was a mass of flames, and she was very thankful to escape. The bomb left a big hole in the roof, crashed through the bedroom floor, and fell into the front room beneath. There a small black Pomeranian dog was sleeping, and this poor animal perished in the flames. The Fire Brigade soon got to work, under Capt. Harvey, and succeeded in getting the flames under before they reached the other rooms. The roof covering the top bedroom was destroyed, while the contents of the bedroom were demolished, and much damage done to the rooms underneath by fire and water. Mr. Thomas May, the occupier of the house, who came in while a *Southend Standard* representative was viewing the premises, said: "My wife and myself were asleep in the back room on the first floor, with our little daughter in a cot against the wall. Suddenly there was a loud buzzing noise, and then there came a terrific explosion. I leapt out of bed to find the place filled with suffocating smoke and flames leaping up from the end room. I roused my wife and we picked up the child and got out into the street as quickly as we could. Having got my wife and child into safety I went back and helped to put the fire out."

DOCTOR'S HOUSE BURNED.

A second and more serious outbreak of fire was caused by another bomb dropped on a house at the corner of Ashburnham Road and London Road. This house is No. 65, London Road, occupied by Mr. Henry Woolcott Hull, M.R.C.S. There one of the bombs dropped near the bedroom facing Ashburnham Road, where

the servant had a very near escape; the projectile falling less than a yard from her head and then into the sitting-room beneath. The flames spread with great rapidity; the rooms being flooded with a sort of liquid which was similar to petrol. Two bedrooms and a store room upstairs were completely gutted, only the bulging walls being left standing. Downstairs the kitchen and a sitting room were also nearly burnt out, and all the furniture destroyed. The Fire Brigade played on this fire with a supply of salt water and succeeded in getting the flames under, but not before several hundreds of pounds worth of damage had been done by fire and water. Dr. Woolcott Hull, who was home on leave from his duties in the Navy, had a near escape. He was alone in the house except for the servant. The bomb fell between the rooms occupied by Dr. Hull and the maid, and buried itself in the kitchen floor.

It was while Capt. Harvey and the Fire Brigade were coupling up to tackle this fire that the captain and several of the firemen had a narrow escape. They were up a backway doing their work when a bomb dropped within twenty feet of them, falling into the back garden of Mr. Morris, of 55, London Road, Southend. It made a deep hole in the garden, and Captain Harvey, seizing a spade, covered it over with earth, and later it was taken possession of by the police.

BOARDING ESTABLISHMENT ABLAZE.

The occupants of the Cromwell boarding establishment, London Road, also had a providential escape. The house is a large double-fronted one, lying back from the roadway, and occupied by Mrs. Samme. There were eight persons in the house at the time, and, fortunately, they all escaped unhurt. Mrs. Samme was aroused by the noise of a bomb exploding in the London Road, and immediately got up to arouse her daughter, who was sleeping in a bedroom opposite. As she was looking out to see what was the matter a bomb crashed through the roof, falling within a few feet of where she was standing. It fell through into the front room downstairs, and immediately the whole place was a mass of flames. Very scantily clad the occupants rushed outside just as another bomb fell outside the Technical Schools. The occupants state that the liquid from the bomb spread all over the surface of the room and soon became a blazing mass. Some members of the fire brigade were soon on

the scene, and Ald. J. Beery, an old lieutenant of the Fire Brigade took charge of the operations. The fire had got a tremendous hold in the top of the building, and it was soon apparent that the premises were doomed. The conflagration raged for about three hours, and the front upper storey was reduced to a mass of wreckage, while the front sitting room was also considerably damaged. The whole of the furniture in these rooms was destroyed, and the place presented a desolate appearance when viewed by a *Standard* representative on Monday morning. The debris was still smouldering, and only the four top walls were left standing.

Richmond Avenue, off London Road, though only a short road, received two bombs. No. 1, Richmond Avenue is occupied by Mr. Sawkins, and he told a *Standard* representative that there were four adults and one child in the house. They were awakened just about three o'clock by a loud explosion in the room next to theirs. Rushing downstairs, they found that a bomb had fallen through the roof of a back sitting room. A portion of the roof was carried away, and everything in the sitting room destroyed, while the walls were blackened with smoke and an oily fluid. Some damage was done to the downstairs room, but thanks to the efforts of the fire brigade, it was confined to the limits where the conflagration occurred, and the damage was not large in this instance. Mr. Sawkins stated that he was thankful it was not much worse. His wife was naturally very frightened, but they were pleased to escape as they did.

JUST LIKE FIREWORKS.

Six doors away, at the end of the road, the residence of Mr. C. W. Pavey, builder, etc., of No. 7, Richmond Road, was struck by an incendiary bomb, which made a great hole in the roof. Mr. Pavey, who was very much upset, stated that about 2.45 they were awakened by the noise of the explosions and they were all downstairs wrapped in blankets, when a bomb came through the roof. It struck the landing and the liquid rolled all down the stairs in flames. "It was just like fireworks," added Mrs. Pavey, "and it was a mass of blue flame."

The fire brigade turned their attention to this outbreak, and though some damage was done to the rooms, the injury was slight.



1. The Whitwells' Residence.

2. Incendiary Bomb at Leigh (*Skinner*).

3. Mr. Jay's Son's Marvellous Escape: The Maid and the Boy.



1. Butcher's Shop Damaged in Hamlet Court Road.

2. Empty House Burnt in Baxter Avenue.

Mr. R. C. Saunders, of St. John's Road, Southend, told a *Standard* representative that he was looking through his window when he saw a bomb drop within 10ft. of him. It shot up like a huge bonfire. It was a blue light and then the thing exploded. He also saw another bomb drop in a garden three doors away.

One bomb was dropped in Hamlet Court Road, where it came through the facade of Messrs. Ainslie Bros.' butcher shop, lodging in the floor just inside the front door. It was fortunate that the walls were tiled, for they were smothered with an oily coloured substance and much smoke. The outbreak was soon quelled there with little damage done except by some water. The bomb made a hole in the floor about 9ins. deep. The missile was dislodged by the firemen and placed on the butcher's block and afterwards taken charge of by the police. In this instance the bomb took a most curious course. It came down the outside of the shop premises in front of the bedrooms occupied by Mr. Dudley, the manager, and Miss Dudley, his daughter, and they had a narrow escape, as the projectile must have taken an inward course, for it passed through the facade and embedded itself in the floor of the shop.

While the Fire Brigade were in Hamlet Court Road the falling of the bombs so startled the horses that they dashed into Messrs. Boots' chemist shop front and smashed a large plate glass window. It was with difficulty that they were got under control again.

Several bombs were dropped along London Road, one setting fire to a fence, the property of Mr. Sandercock, and others made indentations in the ground, Mr. E. J. Bell, ironmonger, of Hamlet Court Road, who assisted to put out the fire at Messrs. Ainslie's shop, said that he saw sparks flying out to the west of his house, which showed that bombs were dropped between there and Valkyrie Road.

A NARROW ESCAPE.

A bomb, the remains of which were shown to a *Standard* representative by one of the firemen, caused great havoc at 51, Winton, 65, West Road, the residence of Mr. Pensam. It came straight through the roof, carrying away the staircase, which rendered escape for the occupants impossible by means of the stairs. Mr. Pensam, who is an accountant in London, resided at this house with his wife, two daughters, and a servant. Miss Pensam heard the noise of the bomb falling on the roof, and she called her father. On opening his bedroom door he found the landing a blazing mass, and he then ran and got out of the bedroom window. Mrs. Pensam also jumped out of the window, injuring her side, cutting her foot, and twisting her wrist. Another daughter ran across the landing and escaped through the same window, singeing her hair. The maid was in the back of the house, and Mr. Pensam had to go round and catch her as she jumped from the second storey. One of Mr. Pensam's daughters told a *Standard* reporter that they all had to escape by the means of the front windows, with only their night attire on. She received a nasty blow under the left eye. The servant was at the back of the house and Mr. Pensam had to go round and catch her as she jumped from the second storey. The house was completely gutted and only the four outside walls and one skeleton wall in the centre were left standing. Every stick in the house was utterly destroyed and a cat perished in the flames. Mrs. Pensam said they were all in bed when it occurred. She exclaimed to her husband, "There's a bomb. Get up and wake the girls." Two of them were sleeping in a room adjoining, and the third was at the back with a maid. As soon as her husband opened the door he saw that the staircase was one mass of flames. Clad only in her nightdress she climbed through the window and jumped into the front garden. Irene and Gladys went to their window, and she called to them to jump. Everything in the house was destroyed, even down to a tin of paint, and a considerable sum of money and jewellery were lost. Mr. Pensam, however, succeeded in rescuing some puppies, but not badly burned about the hands and face. The St. John Ambulance men treated Mr., Mrs., and Miss Pensam for burns.

BOMB PASSES BETWEEN TWO BEDS.

Almost on the opposite side of the road, at 14, West Road, Westcliff, a boy aged four,

named Arthur Jay, and a maid, named Alice Butcher, who was sleeping in the same room, had a narrow escape. The bomb passed between the two beds, both of which were burnt and charred, whilst the remaining furniture in the room was burnt to fragments. There was a great hole in the ceiling through which the bomb fell, and this embedded itself in the wall. The bomb missed the beds by a few inches. Mrs. A. V. Jay, the mother of the boy, gave the following account of the happenings: "The first thing I heard was the noise of something crashing through the roof. A slight explosion followed, and I went at once to a bedroom, at the back of the house, where my little boy, aged four, was asleep. The maid uses the same room. The floor was one mass of flames. Even the hangings of the cot were on fire. I caught up the boy and shouted to the maid to follow. She scrambled out of bed and we all got out of the house as fast as we could. Three special constables and some neighbours then went in, put the fire out with buckets of water, and saved the house. I never for a moment imagined that it would be possible to do so. The maid, Alice Butcher, also stated that she was awakened by the sound of crackling, and then the room burst into flames, and she knew no more until her master and mistress got her out of the room.

An empty house, No. 105, Baxter Avenue, was almost completely destroyed, only the walls being left standing. The house had been unoccupied for only a week, and was previously the residence of Mr. Freeman. It was while engaged in dealing with the fire here that Fireman W. Sawkins fell a distance of about 9ft. through the roof, twisting his ankle.

MRS. WHITWELL'S DEATH.

It was at 120, North Road, that the only fatality occurred. Mr. George Whitwell, with his wife, Mrs. Agnes Frances Whitwell, were asleep in their room. A bomb came through the roof immediately over the bed in which Mrs. Whitwell was sleeping, and it is probable that she was either killed outright or rendered insensible by the missile striking her. Her husband, George Whitwell, managed to get out of the burning building, and it was at first thought that Mrs. Whitwell had also escaped. Some time later, however, her body was discovered by Special Constable Dolphin in a corner of the room and beneath a quantity of debris. As Dr. Walker described at the inquest, the body was little more than "a charred, mutilated mummy," and the flames had practically destroyed the trunk beyond recognition. Mrs. Whitwell was 60 years of age, and was a prominent Salvationist in Southend, having been a member of the local corps of the Salvation Army for 25 years. Her husband is a much respected man, and is employed by the Southend Corporation as a carpenter. He received a terrible blow on the head and was also much burned about the neck and shoulders. He was removed to the Victoria Hospital, and though his condition is undoubtedly precarious, he is now progressing favourably. Prior to his removal to the hospital he was treated by the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

BORDER CORPORAL'S NARROW ESCAPE.

The first bomb seems to have fallen at the rear of "Rothsary," 152, York Road East, a short distance from St. Erkenwald's Church. The house was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. S. J. C. Warr and their family of two little girls. In addition, Corp. Hanny, of the Border Regt. was billeted there, and at the time was being visited by his wife and baby. At about 2.50 they were suddenly roused by a tremendous explosion and Mr. Warr jumped out of bed exclaiming, "O, my God O, my God, the devils have come." In the darkness he went downstairs, but on account of the fallen glass and plaster had to return for shoes. His wife and children were happily uninjured and were safely removed. Corp. Hanny and his wife and child, however, were sleeping in the room at the back of the house and had a miraculous escape. The ceiling completely fell in, walls were cracked and plaster blown everywhere, and the roof dismantled. Mrs. Hanny and the baby escaped injury, however, but the husband was cut about the face by the falling material. The bomb fell just clear of the back addition, tore up a large quantity of the concrete paving and ploughed a hole eight to ten feet across and about six feet deep. The earth was thrown up a great height; the roofs of the surrounding houses being covered with the mould. A piece of the concrete was

thrown some distance through the roof of a house in the southern end of Honiton Road. The houses in Cheltenham Road and York Road were shaken by the concussion, and a great number of windows were smashed. In conversation with our representative Mr. Warr said it was impossible to describe the noise made by the explosion, and for a time he could not believe no lives were lost in the house.

IN HONITON ROAD.

At about five minutes to three a second explosion was heard, which was the result of a bomb falling on the land between Honiton Road, Ambleside Drive, and Southchurch Av., about two minutes' walk from the scene of the York Road disaster. A gentleman living near to the spot where the bomb fell narrated to our representative that he was roused by what proved to be the explosion in York Road, and that was followed by a noise as of a rushing train and a few seconds afterwards the bomb fell opposite his house. It created a hole eight feet across and about three feet deep, and sent up a great cloud of smoke and dirt. Much damage was caused by the explosion to houses at the western end of Ambleside Drive, Honiton Road, Southchurch Avenue, and a few at the eastern end of Kilworth Avenue. Innumerable panes of glass were blown to pieces, doors were forced off the hinges and bolts smashed, and in many of the residences ornaments were broken.

A small incendiary bomb fell in Toledo Road, adjoining the Drill Hall, York Road, at about five minutes to three. It came to earth at about the centre of the roadway and immediately burst into flame, rousing the residents. No damage was done beyond making a hole about 9ins. across and 3ins. to 4ins. deep.

MR. FLAXMAN'S FIRE.

One of the fiercest fires seen in Southend for a long time was that at the yard of Mr. J. C. Flaxman, builder, etc., Southchurch Road. Corp. White, of the Special Reserve Police, reports that at 2.40 he saw two bombs drop in Mr. Flaxman's yard and immediately huge flames burst out. Corporal White rescued a horse and some tools before the arrival of the brigade. In a short space of time the yard, which contained very large quantities of timber, building material, etc., was a raging inferno; the reflection of which lighted up the sky for several miles round. The timber machine sheds and tool sheds formed good fuel for the hungry flames, which, fanned by a slight breeze, seriously threatened the houses adjoining at the back. The Fire Brigade, who have never had a busier or more exciting night, worked with a splendid will and tackled the serious outbreak with commendable skill. The heat thrown off was something tremendous, and thousands of people watched the flames leaping high up in the sky. Many soldiers helped to remove wooden palings at the rear and anything which would catch alight, and the fight against the flames continued for just five hours, it being eight o'clock before the outbreak was subdued. Some of the timber in the yard was saved from total destruction, but was greatly damaged. Mr. Flaxman told a *Standard* representative that he estimates his loss at £2,000. There was in the yard a quantity of building materials ready for use. Tool-sheds, machine sheds, and a portion of the office were totally destroyed.

Mr. Flaxman and his family also had a narrow escape in their house, which is in front of the yard off Southchurch Road. Mr. Flaxman, jun., informed our reporter that the bomb carried the landing of the house away, and the whole family had to escape through the windows into the street. The men of the Border Regt. succeeded in putting this fire out. In connection with this fire a plucky incident is recorded on the part of Private Hinton, of the R.A.M.C., who has been invalided home from the Front. He was present at the fire, and when he saw the bomb dropped he dashed for it, picked it up, and threw it into a bucket of water.

A bomb also struck the house in Royal Terrace occupied by Mr. Tolhurst, and this set alight to the residence, but in this instance the fire was put out before much damage was done.

BOMB IN PRITTLEWELL SQUARE.

Inspector Kyle, of the Southend Borough Police, who lives in Alexandra Road, says that he was awakened by the force of the explosion.

and saw there was a fire in the town. He went to Prittlewell Square and there saw a bomb burning. He threw some water on it to attempt to put it out, but this failed. He then called for a pail of water, and a man brought him one. He thrust the bomb into the water, and the heat from the projectile kept the water boiling for three minutes.

A house, No. 40, York Road, had the roof and ceiling damaged by some projectile, though no trace of it could afterwards be found.

BOMB NEAR THE TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

It is very evident from the information obtained by a *Standard* reporter that the large explosive bomb dropped not five yards in front of the tramway shelter at Cobweb Corner was the first one which fell in the centre of the town. It quickly followed the explosions in the easterly, or York Road end, and it fell with a terrific crash. The bomb cut its way through the wood blocks and embedded itself in the concrete underneath. It was really marvellous how so large a projectile could have cut its way through the blocks without doing more damage or displacing only three or four blocks. Fortunately this bomb did not explode, but flattened itself out. It resembled a football in appearance, or, as one spectator put it, a large plum pudding. On Monday afternoon this bomb was removed by the military under the direction of Colonel Hitchens, of the Border Regiment, and Captain J. H. S. Dimmer, the Brigade Major, and was taken to Shoeburyness. During the day the scene was visited by many thousands of people. One incendiary bomb fell and exploded in Leigh Close without doing much damage.

BOMB IN ESSEX STREET.

Mr. G. Burwell, of 5, Essex Street, Southend, in the course of an interview, said about 2.45 a.m. he heard an immense report, followed by a flash—like an electric flash. He then put on his trousers and looked out and saw flames rising from a corrugated iron building. He went downstairs and put the fire out. He discovered the bomb in his yard; it was a most ugly looking thing, and was eventually handed over to a Special Constable.

SCRATTON ROAD

Mrs. A. E. Alderton, of 19, Scratton Road, had a bomb in the garden at the rear of her house.

OTHER BOMBS.

One bomb was dropped on the beach to the east of the Pier—not far from the hospital. Another fell about a hundred yards to the west of the Pier, close to the Sunk Garden. One dropped in London Road near the electric light station. One fell in Mr. Tolhurst's garden in Royal Terrace. An incendiary bomb settled in Summerville Road, setting fire to a fence. Two were discovered in the grounds of Nazareth Convent, and one in the Great Eastern Railway Yard. Another narrowly missed a lamp-post in St. Vincent's Road, two fell in St. John's Road, one each in Campbell Road, Essex Street, Coleman Street, Prittlewell, Clifton Mews, Tudor Road, on the Front, at Westcliff near the Westward Ho Hotel, behind Harcourt Avenue, 14, Grange Gardens, Carlton Drive, back of Cambridge Road, 16 and 68, Princes Street, Essex Terrace, 2, Clifton Mews, corner of North Road and West Street, back of 63 London Road, North Road and Carlton Drive. Two bombs were also discovered at Dentall's Farm, Prittlewell, and three in the Free Library grounds.

At Westcliff and Leigh.

The residents of Westcliff and Leigh had their baptism of fire as nearly as can be ascertained at 2.45 to 2.40 a.m. As to the number of Zeppelins or aeroplanes engaged, there appears to be a great diversity of opinion and the altitude at which the machines were operating is somewhat conflicting. In endeavouring to obtain exact information as to the course taken by the bomb droppers a number of eye-witnesses concurred, including Inspector Carr, of the Leigh Police, who had received valuable reports from his men on night duty.

Putting the various versions from this and other sources, together, it would appear that one Zeppelin was clearly seen coming from the direction of Coleman's Estate going in a south westerly direction and dropping incendiary bombs. It passed over that part of the district lying north of Pall Mall and South of London Road. A bomb of the incendiary

type fell through the roof of No. 58, Cranleigh Drive, passing through a bedroom and into the scullery. Although there were several occupants of the house, they all escaped uninjured; a fireman effecting rescues from the front bedroom windows.

The fire was soon extinguished. The airship continued its course to the Marine Parade, where more bombs were dropped, and a desperate effort was made to destroy the Leigh Gasworks. Many eye-witnesses say that at least a dozen incendiary bombs were aimed at this object, but fortunately without any success. The nearest, however, fell dangerously near; some put the distance at only eight yards away from the objective.

A great number fell on the mud, some of which have been recovered, and as 23 have been taken to the Leigh Police Station, it is very evident that a plentiful supply of ammunition was expended.

From the Gas works the course took a north easterly turn, and the vessel was plainly seen by many residents passing over the Broadway. One man in Queen's Road, Leigh, saw the Zeppelin pass over the Grand Hotel for two or three minutes, but it does not appear to have sent any missiles down. From here it followed the main road and at Leigh Road West it began operations by dropping a bomb in Mr. Walker's back garden. This was extinguished by Mr. Walker and no damage was done, except a hole in the lawn. Mr. A. J. Arnold, who lives a couple of doors away, heard a great explosion shortly after this, accompanied by a rattling on the roof of his house as if a shower of shrapnel had fallen on it. This explosion was heard by a great number of people in the district, but there is no indication as to the spot where this bomb exploded.

The theory seems to be, therefore, that it must have exploded in the air, and showered shrapnel. It is a fortunate circumstance that no one was hit, as by this time hundreds of people were out in the streets. The next place that seems to have attracted the Huns' attention was the vicinity of the "Plough." A bomb was dropped within a few feet of Dr. Victor Hodgson's garage and a little further on another medical gentleman had a visitation. Dr. Cecil Macdonald was aroused by a loud explosion—probably the one that took place in Westcliff. This was followed by an incendiary bomb falling in his front garden, a few feet from his house; looking out, he saw another one falling in Ceylon Road. He did not see it actually falling, but saw it as it struck the ground and burst into flame and clouds of smoke. Yet another fell at the back of the premises occupied by Mr. Jay, shopfitter, nearly opposite Dr. Macdonald's house. The bomb alighted in the next garden to Mr. Jay's, and was extinguished by Mr. Jay. His little son was shortly afterwards photographed holding the trophy.

In this particular spot no fewer than five bombs appear to have been dropped within a radius of less than one hundred yards, yet no material damage was done. So far as can be ascertained, no one was injured at Leigh and very trifling damage was done to property.

At the Leigh Police Station one bomb is perfectly intact and bears a pink paper giving directions in German for igniting and launching the missiles. A workman who was early astir declares that the Zeppelin was so low down that he could have hit it with a stone. This, however, appears to be an underestimate of distance.

Mr. F. Kirby of High Street, Leigh, was amongst the first who saw the airship and is quite emphatic that it was travelling at a great height and would not be readily hit by rifle fire. At the time he saw it the airship was passing over Rectory Grove and Marine Parade on the way to the gas works.

A number of people say there were aeroplanes as well as Zeppelins; some putting the number down at Leigh as four Zeppelins and several aeroplanes. It appears quite possible that there might have been two Zeppelins or, not improbably, only one. From reliable evidence an aeroplane was seen and heard after the Zeppelin had gone, and it is surmised that it was one of our machines in pursuit. It is not yet known the result of this late chase. The bombs in the various police stations seem to be exactly the same as those used by the Germans in the recent raid at Maldon. The explosive type would appear to have been used very sparingly.

Leigh is perfectly undisturbed by the visitation, and quite anticipates a return visit. Many comments are being made as to the absence of anti-aircraft guns and why the

raiders were not brought down by shell fire. From a reliable source the reason is given that the firing of shrapnel or explosive shells at aircraft over crowded streets is likely to do far more execution amongst the inhabitants than would be done by the bombs of the enemy.

This seems perfectly feasible, as shrapnel, exploding in the air strikes downwards. Still, there seems to be a good deal of disappointment that none of our aircraft brought the raiders down. Here again a Zeppelin coming down by the run on the top of a crowded district would probably do an enormous amount of damage, especially if all her cargo of unexploded bombs went off. At the same time the Leigh folk appear to think they ought to have had a run for their money.

The steam hooter does not appear to have the desired effect of sending residents to cover. At the first sound of it people thronged the main road en route to Southend. The Leigh Fire Brigade ably assisted at Southend.

REMARKABLE MESSAGE FROM THE AIRSHIP.

"KILL OR CURE."

The following message, written on a piece of cardboard in blue pencil, was found in the garden of 11, Rayleigh Avenue, Southend, having evidently been attached to a bomb: "You English. We have come, and we'll come again soon. Kill or cure. German."

BOMB IN WESTBOROUGH ROAD PLAYGROUND.

The bomb which was dropped in Westborough Road School playground has been dug out and has been found to be of similar character to that which fell outside the Technical School.

SOUTHEND ALDERMAN'S LETTER.

Alderman J. R. Brightwell, J.P., of Southend, has been the recipient of an anonymous letter from a supposed German source, exulting over the success of the raid.

A BEACON LIGHT.

On Saturday night a large quantity of wood which was stored near the flagstaff on Southend Cliff was set on fire by some means. A big conflagration occurred, and the Southend Fire Brigade had considerable difficulty in getting the flames under. The affair is regarded with some suspicion by the military authorities in view of its close proximity to the air raid.

When the military went on guard of the unexploded bomb at the Victoria Corner a girl ran up and breathlessly enquired if anything had happened there. "Not yet!" was the laconic response.

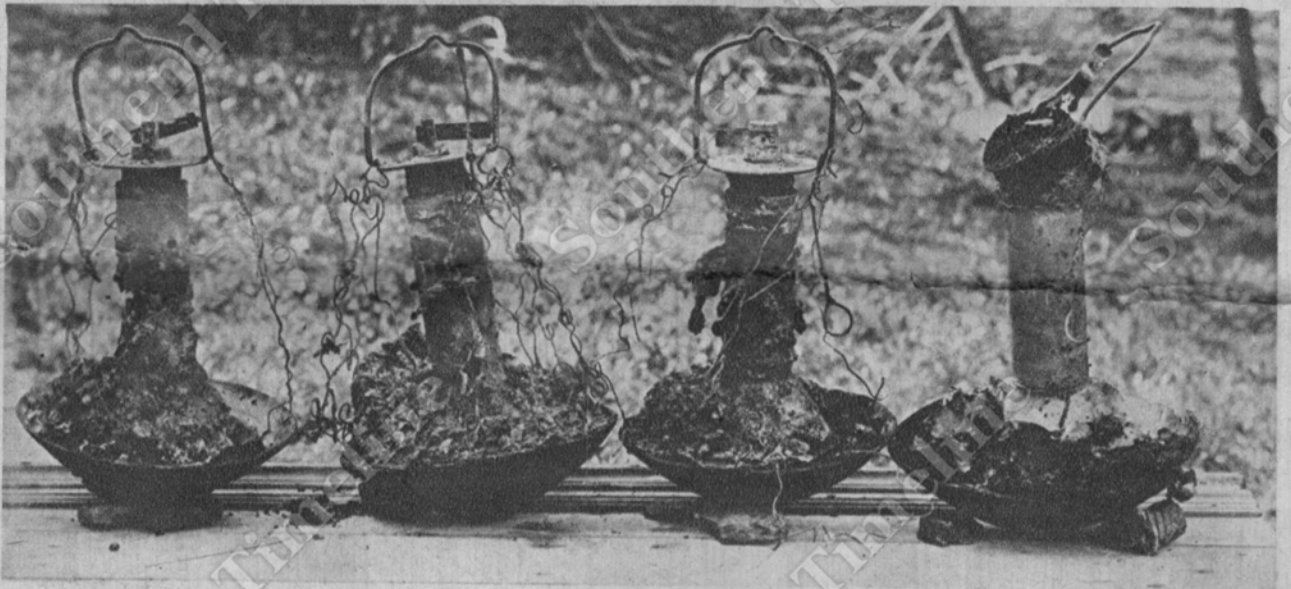
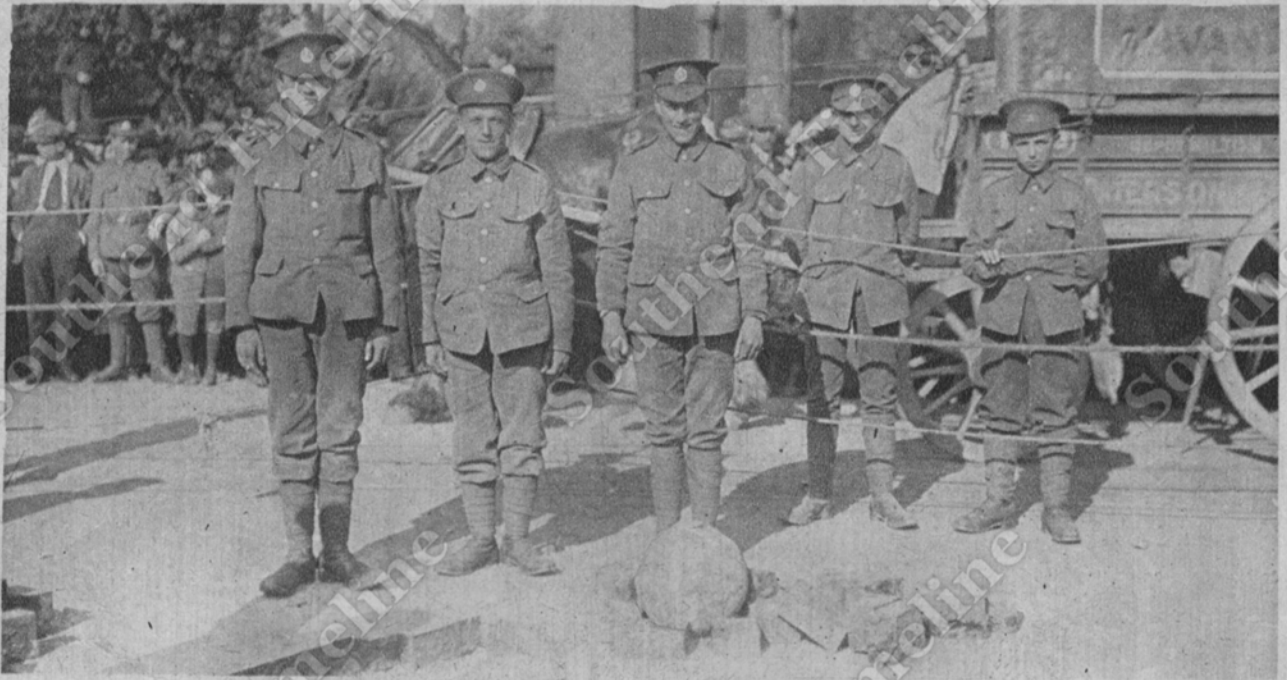
To show how impotent are these specimens of German frightfulness, the following incident will serve as an illustration. A party of girls were hurrying along the Leigh front towards Southend in pursuit of the Zeppelin. One lagged a little behind, and her companions shouted out, "Come along, do hurry, or you will miss the fun!" Having visited Malden and interviewed a number of people there immediately after their visitation of "frightfulness," the writer came to the conclusion that Southend and Leigh treated the affair with even greater contempt and utter disregard of danger than was shown in the former town.

THE BOMBS.

A representative of the *Southend Standard* saw the collection of bombs at the police station, where they were kept in the safe custody of the police. They numbered over 90 altogether and some of them were exploded. They were each ticketed with the place where they were found. Each missile weighed about 50lbs. The incendiary bombs were made of steel, zinc, tow, wire, tar, and filled with petrol or benzene. A channel bored through in several places contained a fuse lighted by a cap fixed in a heavy rounded base. Wound round wire supports was a mass of tow saturated with inflammable liquid. This was inside a zinc case, outside of which was wound more tow covered with moist tar. The explosion in the centre fired the saturated tow, the liquid burst all over the place with the impact, and the whole catching fire, a mass of smoke and flames ensued, igniting everything with which it came in contact.

RUSH AT THE POST OFFICE.

There was a tremendous rush at the Southend Post Office on Monday morning and throughout the day by persons who were telegraphing to anxious friends that they were



Unexploded Bomb at Victoria Corner and Men who Removed it.

2. Collection of South Benfleet Bombs (*Sulman*).

3. Southend Bombs (Missile Marked with a Cross is that which Killed Mrs. Whitwell).



1. Leigh Boy's Harvest of Bombs (*Skinner*).

2. Destruction at Mr. Flaxman's Timber Yard.

safe. Considerably over 2,000 telegrams were sent all over the country was considerably in excess of normal times. Much delay was occasioned, and on Monday evening senders of wires were informed that guarantee of delivery that day could not be given.

THE FIRE BRIGADE.

The Southend Fire Brigade, under Captain Harvey, received the call at 2.49, and turned out in two minutes 15 seconds from the time of the alarm. They were assisted in their work by the Westcliff and Leigh sections of the Brigade and the fact that they had eleven fires raging at one time made their task the stiffest they have ever been called upon to accomplish. Throughout the town, however, the greatest admiration has been expressed as to the promptitude and capacity with which they tackled the situation. In some cases the buildings were doomed before they could reach them, and in other instances the brigade were handicapped by the fact that a high pressure of water was not kept up during the night, and also that there were so many supplies required within a given area. Captain Harvey was loud in the praise of the services of all the firemen and also the auxiliary firemen.

THE AMBULANCE WORK.

The local branch of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the Voluntary Aid Detachment also rendered good services under the leadership of Mr. Langley Jones and Commandant Flide. Mr. Whitwell was treated by them and Dr. Coll Macdonald, and the St. John Ambulance men conveyed him to the Victoria Hospital. A number of minor cases were also dealt with. Superintendent Langley Jones, Commandant Flide, and practically all the members were at the raid station shortly after the hooter was blown.

SIGHT-SEEING AFTER THE RAID.

Though there were few people in the streets when the first red glow of Mr. Flaxman's fire was seen in the sky, large crowds of people soon began to arrive until the thoroughfares were thronged with them. Many had had but little time to dress, and had come out in slippers, with a convenient overcoat covering all, and minus collars and ties. Towards four o'clock the crowd greatly increased in volume and most of the places which had been damaged were visited. Throughout the day the streets were more animated than usual, and a large number of people came down

from London and other parts of Essex to see what damage had been done.

Throughout the crowd was most orderly and obedient to the instructions of the police and the special constables, to both of whom great credit is due for the smoothness of the arrangements. The sounding of the bugles brought out the military, who attended the various fires. On Monday morning, General Colomb, Colonel Hitchins, and Colonel Patten Bethune visited the scenes of the damage.

AT HADLIGH.

The inhabitants who were aroused, as most of them were, had a great view of the Zeppelin. Mrs. Welham, of Daws Heath Road, gave the following account: We were awakened by a great explosion, Southend way, and heard sounds of something in the air coming in our direction. We took our clothes downstairs to dress there. By that time the noise of engines seemed overhead. We looked out and the Zeppelin was over us so far as we could judge. We went to one side of the house, and it seemed large. My husband told me to go to the other side to get out of the way, but it seemed huge there. It was a great thing—just like the underside of a boat and it seemed of the colour of aluminium. Then it moved over to Solbys, and when over that house it seemed to turn; it went off in the direction of Benfleet; at any rate, in a south westerly direction. Soon it re-appeared as if coming from Benfleet, but much higher up. Before it reached us it turned in a south-easterly direction, towards Southend, and was soon lost in a cloud. Directly we got out of our house we saw the red glow of a fire at Southend, and soon the town appeared to us to be in flames at many places; so much so that my husband walked there to find out about relatives.

AT SOUTH BENFLEET

The firing of guns was first heard about 2.45 and just before three o'clock the outline of a Zeppelin was distinctly seen travelling almost due east. It was about this time that four bombs were dropped in the vicinity of Forest House, the residence of Mr. Bruce Lemonde. Three of these were incendiary bombs, but no damage was done beyond setting the brushwood on fire and the fourth (an explosive bomb) fortunately fell into a pond; otherwise the explosion might have been attended with serious results. This bomb was afterwards found in two sections, one having a label bearing a German inscription. Another fire-bomb dropped amongst the thick under-

growth of Combe Wood setting the furze ablaze. The fire, however, was quickly discovered and stamped out. All the bombs have now been claimed by the police authorities. At 3.15 a.m., by the aid of a field glass, the Zeppelin was still visible, occasionally shimmering in the moonlight, but she was now at a high altitude and soon afterwards passed out of sight.

Mr. Bruce Lemonde, of Forest House, Thundersley, told a *Standard* pressman: At 3.15 Monday a Zeppelin passed over South Benfleet, New Thundersley and district, going in the direction of London, and dropped in its wake, at intervals of about 100 yards, six bombs. Messrs. Simmonds, G. Layzell, Jennings and himself extinguished the fires and collected the bombs. In each case large cavities in the earth were made and the fires continued for about half an hour.

GRAYS AND THE ZEPPELIN RAID.

The Zeppelin raid was clearly visible from Grays, but the siren from the electricity works was not sounded, and but few people witnessed the spectacle of the aerial invader being repulsed as it travelled up the mouth of the Thames. In fact, only those who were on duty were thus privileged, P.C. Maynard being one of the first to view the Zeppelin. Supt. Page was at once aroused and in the course of conversation later in the day he described the spectacle. It would, he said, be just before three a.m. and the Zeppelin could be seen approaching at a great height. The sound of the dropping of the bombs could be distinctly heard, coupled with the roar of the guns and the lurching of the shells in the air from the guns. As far as he could see the vessel was not hit. It did not come up as far as Grays, but when a considerable distance away a squall of clouds seemed to envelop it and he lost sight of it. From what he had heard the airship did not reach Stanford-le-Hope and no bombs were dropped around the Grays district.

It was, continued Mr. Page, fairly light at the time and the Zeppelin showed with a silvery shimmer upon it. The bursting of the projectiles over the Southend area could be distinctly seen and heard.

OTHER PLACES WHERE IT WAS SEEN.

A sentry on Foulness Island reports that he saw a Zeppelin pass over one of the heads of the Island shortly before 2.30. The Rev. Father Sheppard, of Stock, also reports having seen a Zeppelin over that village.

Personal Impressions.

WHAT LOCAL RESIDENTS OBSERVED.

Messrs. C. M. and R. D. Boyce, who carry on the business of motor engineers at their garage at 72, Leigh Road East, Southend, give an interesting account of their happenings on Sunday night, which probably explains the fusillade of bombs on the centre of the town. Mr. R. D. Boyce told a *Standard* Pressman: About three o'clock I was aroused from my sleep by the sound of an explosion. I got up, put my head out of the window, and heard the noise of an engine. I woke my brother up, and we went downstairs and stood in the roadway. My brother saw a Zeppelin overhead. He saw it quite distinctly, and it was at a great height. We heard the noise of the engines, and why I know it was a Zeppelin was because the engines were running quite slowly. They were running as slowly as can the engines of an ordinary car. Suddenly the engines were shut off and everything was quiet. There were only two policemen out in the road, and when the engines stopped they said, "All right; they have sheared off." The engines were quite quiet for a quarter of an hour, and then we heard them again.

"Do you think that the engines were shut off during the whole of this time, or do you think the airship was cruising about?" asked the reporter.

"No, I don't think she could have been cruising about, or we should have heard the sound of the engines. It seemed to hang over this spot for a quarter of an hour," replied Mr. Boyce.

Proceeding, Mr. Boyce said the first bomb he saw dropped fell into the front garden of Mr. Sanderoock's house, on the corner of Richmond Avenue and Leigh Road, setting light to the fence. He and his brother went and put this out. Then in quick succession bombs fell on No. 1, Richmond Avenue and also on Mr. Patey's house, which is almost directly oppo-

site Messrs. Boyce's garage. His brother went and assisted at these fires. The three bombs dropping in the same spot go to prove that the aircraft was almost stationary. These bombs created a tremendous explosion; and in quick succession more bombs fell in St. John's Road, Hamlet Court Road, and four in Ceylon Road. "We were right in the centre of it all," added Mr. Boyce, "and the whole place seemed to be ablaze. The bombs lighted when they fell, and seemed to take a zig-zag course. I am certain that the Zeppelin which was over Southend was never fired at. It was twenty minutes after I first heard the engines that the Corporation hooter went."

Mr. Boyce has secured a piece of tarred tow rope which was attached to one of the bombs.

AIRSHIP DESCRIBED.

GRAPHIC STORY OF ITS COURSE.

One of the most graphic accounts related in connection with the tactics of the Zeppelin invader is that which Mr. William Ledcott, of the Crystal Mineral Water Works, Salisbury Avenue, Southend, told to a *Southend Standard* reporter on Tuesday. Mr. Ledcott is a member of the Special Police Reserve, and he was on duty at Cobweb Corner, which is at the junction of High Street, London Road, Southchurch Road, and Victoria Avenue. Told in his own words, his narrative is as follows: "I think there must have been more than one Zeppelin, though I only saw and heard one. The reason for this is that I have read in the papers that a Zeppelin was seen over Leigh, Benfleet, Pitsea, and Canvey Island. Now the one I saw I followed all the way round and took its course, and it certainly left in the direction of Shoebury. She was a huge thing; aluminium coloured, and she had a black streak running round her at the top. I cannot say what colour the streak was. She was extremely sharply pointed at both ends—much

more sharply pointed than any of the pictures I have seen.

I was on No. 6 beat, and some members of our squad say that they saw as many as four Zeppelins. Mr. H. B. Snow is certain he saw four come over. I went on duty at one o'clock on Monday morning. My beat lay along London Road, North Road, and Victoria Avenue. Having completed the first round with my colleagues I was awaiting the arrival of the sergeant at Cobweb Corner at 2.30 to report. At 2.40—to be exact—four of us were standing at the corner with one of the ordinary police force—when we heard a whirring noise, and the question was immediately raised, "What's that?" We all went into the middle of the road and searched the sky, and saw coming from the direction of Hamlet Court Road straight across to the Great Eastern yard a large dim shape, which, as it came near, we made out to be a huge Zeppelin. Corpl. Frost immediately went for the fire brigade, while the policeman on duty went to warn the authorities. I then stood in the middle of the roadway and took out my watch and noticed the Zeppelin's movements, and timed them. She came across London Road, cut across Baxter Avenue and circled the Great Eastern Railway Station. Then she turned sharply round and came to a standstill over the middle of the roadway at Cobweb Corner.

She then stopped her engines, and the sound ceased. The Zeppelin gradually dropped down 100 to 150 feet, and it was then that I had a good view of her. I should then estimate her height at from 500 to 600 feet. She was most distinct and remained motionless for four minutes—I timed her by my watch. It was a peculiar feeling standing there watching her, wondering what was going to happen. I then walked from the centre of the road to Garon's hoarding, and the first thing I noticed wrong was when a bomb fell. It fell within

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AND AT GRAYS AND CHELMSFORD.



1. Bomb Burst in York Road.

2. Cavity Caused by Bomb in Honiton Road.



1. Cromwell Boarding Establishment Guttled.

2. House Guttled in West Road.

five yards of the special constables in front of the tramway centre, but fortunately it did not burst. It fell with terrific force and buried itself under the wooden paving. Mr. Anderson, of the Special Police, who was on duty for the first time, was knocked over on to the pavement by the force of the concussion, but I did not feel anything. She then started her engines and proceeded straight up the London Road in the direction of Westcliff. She started dropping bombs all the way. I ran up the road and saw the first incendiary bomb drop at the corner of Boston Avenue. It fell on to the pavement. It was very hot, and I got my whistle chain, which has a hook on it, put it round the wire of the bomb, and put the bomb in the centre of the road. I spoke to a watchman, and was also asked by a man at the electric light station if he should blow the hooter. I said, "Have you not had instructions from the police yet?" He said, "No." I suggested to him that he should run across and stand by, as at any minute instructions might come. He then ran across and evidently received instructions, for the hooter was almost immediately blown. I saw a person then rush out of a house in his pyjamas saying that his house was on fire at 61, London Road. I said, "The fire brigade have been notified, but I will let them have your address." During this time the Zeppelin, which had been going very slowly, started to circle round Prittlewell way and gradually worked back from Harcourt Avenue in the direction towards Southchurch Road. By the time she had reached Southchurch Road, the intensity of her engines was so great that the noise she was making showed she was putting on more speed. She gradually went out of sight and I lost the sound of her engines about nine minutes past three. She appeared to go directly out to sea, and would pass in my estimation over Shoebury. I am certain she never came round and went up to Leigh, unless she went out to sea and then followed the Thames back. If she did, of course I could not see it. I am certain of her course because I followed every movement. It seemed most curious to me that this airship, in making the noise she did in passing over the town, and also in going away again, should have no guns brought to bear upon her. I can say that no guns were fired at her while she was over the town.

Asked as to the apparent size of the airship Mr. Ledicott replied that he should say she was 300ft. long at least. She was a huge looking thing, and he could see bombs being dropped from each side of her as fast as they could drop them. It was like a shower of bombs over the London Road area. As each bomb came down it was like two streaks of light, and they fell with a great thud. "In my mind I am sure that one airship could not have done all the damage. If people saw an airship over Pitsea at three o'clock this could not have been the one. She flew higher as she went away. I do not think this is the same airship as did the damage in the York Road district. These bombs are dreadful things, and no sooner are they in a house than the building is a mass of flames. They are saturated with petrol and throw out huge volumes of smoke. They also smell very strongly of spirit. One thing which struck me was the cool way in which the people behaved, and the crowd was most orderly when it came out."

Mr. Ledicott suggested that it would be a good thing if people kept a couple of pails of water in their bedrooms, so that they could throw water over the bombs when they fell in the event of another raid.

Mr. B. Wolf, of No. 39, Southchurch Avenue, told a Press representative that he was awakened at 2.55 by two loud reports, and he dressed and went out. He ran to where he heard the sounds come from and discovered a house at the corner of York Road and Cheltenham Road had been struck by a bomb. There was a large cavity sufficient to hold six men in the side garden. Looking inland Mr. Wolf saw flames shooting up in the air. The sky was ablaze.

Mr. Overton, of Mappedurham Hotel, Palmerston Road, first heard the noise of aircraft engines at 2.55. The first bomb seemed to drop a few minutes later, and was quickly followed by another. Later he heard the engines of another vessel. Firing was also heard from the direction of Thames Haven.

Mr. Fuller, who resides at Boston Avenue, Southend, in course of conversation with a reporter, said he was awakened at dawn by loud explosions and looking out of the win-

dow he saw houses burning within a radius of 500 yards, and what appeared to be bonfires on the ground in several places. There were two between the electric light station and the Girls' High School, and one on the allotments, all in Boston Avenue. A house in Baxter Avenue was already ablaze, and at 44, Harcourt Avenue one had already gone through the roof. Dressing hurriedly he ran into the streets, which were already filled with people in every condition of dress and undress. He helped to put out the fire in Baxter Avenue, and the burning bedclothes were carried out into the street. The bomb had gone through the roof of a room occupied by two young ladies, missing the bed by a foot or so. The remains of the burned out incendiary bomb were found in the blankets. The streets were crowded at four o'clock by a crowd like a Bank Holiday and there was not the slightest panic.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT WORKS AIMED AT.

Mr. W. Abbott, of 6, Park Street, Southend, gave the following account of what he saw: About 2.55 the first bomb dropped just missed the Victoria Hospital, and set Flaxman's timber yard on fire. Another dropped on Dr. Hull's house at the corner of Ashburnham and London Roads, and a further one fell half-way up Ashburnham Road, doing no damage, as it did not catch fire. A fourth fell on Cromwell House, causing a fire, and the roof fell in. Two bombs fell in West Road, and outside 75, London Road a bomb fell, but did not explode. The Corporation Yard was apparently aimed at, but the bomb missed it and caught the kerbstone outside.

Soon after the sounding of the military fire alarm, says a *Standard* representative, a brilliant reflection was thrown up into the sky, presumably at Southchurch. At Westcliff, from the sound of the engines, it appeared the Zeppelin was approaching from the east and at short intervals flashes shot up one after the other, nearer and nearer towards Leigh. Residents, however, in the neighbourhood of Westcliff were generally of opinion a raid was in progress on the extreme northern boundary of the borough, and not so certain as results show. The sky presented a strange appearance of vivid blue and red. Only one explosion was heard, and as the subsequent incendiary bombs were dropped only the flash and a strange crackling noise betrayed the whereabouts of the raider. There was no panic and very little excitement after the first alarm; the streets were frequented by residents, who appeared to enjoy the strange experience.

POLICE SERGEANT SEES THE CRAFT.

P.S. Drage, of the Southend Police, who lives in Victoria Road, told a *Standard* representative that he saw the Zeppelin quite plainly. He was at home, and, hearing the explosion, he looked out of the window and saw the airship going across the town. It was a tremendous length and was flying at a great height. It was a long black object.

P.C. Eves also plainly saw that the invader was a Zeppelin.

Seen by a *Standard* reporter, Inspector G. H. Hogsflesh, of the Special Police Reserve, said he was in the police station when the first explosion occurred. He went out into Alexandra Street and saw a huge Zeppelin approaching right over the High Street. It came over the railway bridge and dropped a bomb on Royal Terrace.

P.S. John Faers, also of the Special Police Reserve, told a *Standard* man that the Zeppelin came from the direction of Flaxman's yard, passed over York Road, and circled past the Royal Terrace, where he lost it to view. Just later he saw it returning almost straight down London Road. "It was like a big black tube and flying at a tremendous height."

A number of Corporation workmen engaged on night work on the Esplanade state that they saw the Zeppelin approach from the south, and proceed in the direction of Leigh. At the latter place, Mr. R. H. Dyer, the Assistant Surveyor to the Southend Corporation, saw bombs being dropped over Leigh.

Mr. W. A. Lawrence, of "The Dinghey," Leigh Hill, was aroused by the explosion of one of the bombs and went out into the front garden. He first sighted the Zeppelin very high up, coming from the direction of Canvey

Island; it was shedding incendiary bombs like peas, and left a trail of them burning on the edge of the marshes just beyond the gas works. The Leigh gas works was obviously the mark, but although one or two fell very close, they failed to hit the target. Mr. Lawrence saw the airship quite clearly, as it passed almost directly over his house, making its way for the Leigh Road. Beyond Canvey Mr. Lawrence could distinctly see the flashes of the anti-aircraft guns and watched the shells exploding in the air.

A friend of a Leigh resident was staying the night at the "Lobster Smack," Rolo Haven. He was aroused by the noise of the guns, and went out with others to watch the firing. One of the party, after the excitement had subsided, discovered that he was experiencing considerable pain in the region of his feet. On closer inspection he found that he had quite forgotten to put on his boots and socks before rushing out.

Mr. R. Dick, a special constable at Leigh, was on duty in the Leigh Road, and, together with other Specials, had a splendid view of the Zeppelin. He was standing near the Leigh Road end of Carlton Drive when he sighted the gas bag coming towards him from the direction of the Grand Hotel. It came on until it was straight overhead. Then someone shouted "Take cover; it's right above us!" There was a dash for convenient doorways, but nothing happened.

Mr. C. E. Shepherd, the town missionary, who lives in Napier Avenue, told our representative that just before three a.m. he was roused by a dog barking next door. He got out of bed and heard a strange noise overhead. Slipping on some clothes he rushed out into Queens Road, through Gordon Road to London Road, and ran towards the Tramway Corner. When near to "Homeleigh," a Special Constable called out to him, "Look up, Mr. Shepherd; there's a Zeppelin overhead." Mr. Shepherd says he stooped down and rushed away, and as he did so he saw a bomb drop on to the fencing of "Homeleigh" and shoot across the road in flames. Mr. Shepherd says he distinctly saw the shape of the Zeppelin, which was something "like a sausage," and heard the whirr of the engine.

LOOKED LIKE LIQUID FIRE.

A gentleman residing in Chelmsford Avenue says that he was aroused at 2.45 by an explosion, and looking upwards he saw a peculiar light in the sky towards the pier. There appeared to be a searchlight flashing and there was a red glow. Almost immediately he heard a sound like the patter of rain and simultaneously two blinding flashes came right in front of his window. One bomb dropped on the roof of a house in Baxter Avenue, and another on some allotments, while a third fell about thirty yards away. As the bombs dropped they looked like liquid fire, for they immediately spread and blazed furiously. The Zeppelin passed over his house and across Chelmsford Avenue to North Road, and he saw from the back the reflection of three more bombs as they fell. It was one of these that led to the death of Mrs. Whitwell.

Mr. W. H. Oldham, of Ashburnham Road in an interview with a *Southend Standard* reporter, said he was on duty with the Special Police with Mr. Harper on Monday morning. He is not certain about the time, but he puts it at seven or eight minutes past three, when two bombs dropped in London Road not 20 yards from them. One was on the right hand side of the road near the electric light works, and the other on the opposite side of the road, about twenty feet away. One did not explode and they shovelled dirt on to it. He thinks these bombs were discharged on the return journey made by the Zeppelin. They both heard the noise of the engines of the aircraft distinctly, but could not see anything. A colleague, Mr. Ansell, of High Street, saw the explosive bomb fall near the Technical Schools.

Mr. W. Mason, an engine attendant, of Burnaby Road, engaged at the Southend Gas Works, seen by our representative, said—

"At about five minutes to three on Monday morning we were doing our round, re-charging the retorts, when we heard an explosion. It was very deafening and we went outside the retort-house to see what it was, thinking it might be in the works. As we got outside we heard a second explosion and saw smoke

rising above the Kursaal. There were two distinct clouds of smoke, one higher than the other. Until then we had not thought of aircraft, or we should have 'downed lights.' There was only about a minute between the two explosions. When we got out into the open from the retort-house we could hear the engine going distinctly, but could not see anything.

"After the two explosions we saw three greenish lights shoot from the sky down to the ground, and then we detected where the Zeppelin was. It had been travelling in front of a cloud, which made it difficult for us to see it, but when it passed the cloud and got out into the brighter light of the dawn we saw it. We noticed it was then a little more to the west from where the smoke was rising after the explosions.

"Immediately after seeing these greenish lights fall earthwards we saw the reflection of a fire on the sky, and I think it must have been Flaxman's wood-yard. In the reflected light we could see the sky more easily, and we saw the craft plainly. There was only one, and it was end on to us, but we could not at that time be certain whether it was a Taube or Zeppelin. In a few moments it seemed to veer round to the south, and then we could see the length of it, and there was no mistaking what it was. It was a Zeppelin plainly enough.

"As it was making towards the south more of the greenish lights were seen, and then it veered round again and seemed to go up the river.

"We not only saw it, but heard the throb of the engine. We were pretty sure there was only one.

"Fifteen or twenty minutes afterwards we heard sounds of another one, but we could see nothing. We came to the conclusion it was from our own aircraft in pursuit, or the Zeppelin flying much higher and making off.

In response to our representative, Mr. Mason said they came to the conclusion the lights were on the bombs. The reports of the explosions were deafening. As soon as they heard the shocks they extinguished every available light, but day was just dawning.

(By CHARLES GAUNT).

Southend's hour of crowded life came in the early hours of Monday morning, and the war, which to most of us is only an abstract thing, came to our very doors.

Dawn was just peering in the sky when the raiders arrived. In quick succession their bombs came crashing down, the sky was lit with their flashes, and the quiet morning calm was shattered.

Soon, however, the sky was illuminated by something bigger than flashes. Many a bomb found its mark. By three o'clock the clouds were crimson with the reflected light of leaping flames rising from nearly a dozen outbreaks. West and east the fires raged luridly, masses of white and pink smoke drifted across the sky and made a pretty picture, punctured now and again by quick flashes of light, and once by something that sounded like the sustained rattle of musketry.

About five to three the steam syren began sounding its shrill note of warning. Like magic Reserve Police, ambulance men, uniformed members of the National Guard sprang into being and hurried to their appointed posts. The streets were alive with running forms. Ambulance motor cars, motor ambulances and stretcher parties were quickly on the scene. All round the fire brigade bells rang and clanged. Southend was like an ant hill disturbed. Bugles rang out, the soldiers appeared, and later came in useful to form cordons about the burning buildings. And simultaneously came the crowds.

By a quarter past three the streets con-

verging on the scenes of the numerous explosions were streaming with people drawn by their inherent curiosity to the centre of interest. Rapidly the day broke and the clouds of onlookers thickened. It can be safely said that never before had people dressed so quickly. The same impulse stirred all, young and old, to be out seeing. The authorities' warning to remain quietly indoors was as if it had never been given. We Brits are not going to sit mum at home whenever there is a sight to be seen out of mere considerations of safety; so Southend in its thousands crowded the streets.

As the day became brighter the streets took on a veritable Bank Holiday aspect. It was too early for the buses and trams, so people, excepting fortunate motor owners and cyclists, trudged along to their sightseeing. And there was plenty to see. There were a score or so of holes in the roads and payments made by the bombs, and here and there a wall or fence damaged. There were flaming and smoking ruins of houses and business premises to feast the eyes upon. The operations of the firemen as they fought with hose and axe a dozen simultaneous outbreaks afforded quick excitement for the half-dressed multitude.

After six, when the trams started, they brought up hundreds of sight-seers. Others came in by trap, by cycle, afoot, in motors from the surrounding countryside. The streets soon looked like a Sunday mid-day.

It was remarkable the matter of course way in which people took the raid. No words of fear were to be heard on any side. Many persons had been frantically nervous of air-raids, had dreaded their coming, but at the moment when the danger fell, their fears fled, and they joined in the light-hearted bands which thronged the streets as eager as the most eager to see what was going on.

Inquest on Mrs. Whitwell.

The inquest on the body of Mrs. Agnes Frances Whitwell, wife of George Whitwell, of 120, North Road, Southend, was held at the Park Hotel, Southend, on Tuesday by the Divisional Coroner (Mr. C. Edgar Lewis). Mr. J. Corbett was foreman of the jury.

Miss Amy Whitwell, daughter of deceased, who wore the uniform of the Salvation Army, said she resided at 8, Junction Road, Canning Town. She had viewed the body at the mortuary.

The Coroner: Is that the body of your mother?—Yes, as far as I can tell.

And the wife of George Whitwell?—Yes. Who is employed by the Southend Corporation as a carpenter?—Yes.

What is her age, 58?—No, sixty. Crispin Whitwell, son of the deceased, who resides at 120, North Road, Prittlewell, stated he lived with his father and mother.

The Coroner: When did you see your mother last alive?—On Sunday night, between 10 and 10.30.

Was she then going to bed?—Yes. Which room did she occupy?—The front bedroom upstairs.

With your father?—Yes.

At 2.45 on Sunday morning were you asleep?—Yes.

Where were you sleeping?—In the back of the house in a room above the landing.

What did you hear?—I heard a noise like the rattling of slates.

What did you do?—I opened the door, and all I could see was smoke.

Did you hear anything more?—Yes, I heard someone calling.

Who was it?—My father.

Where was your father?—On the landing. What did you do?—I called to mother.

Did your mother answer you?—No.

Did you then go into the next house?—Yes.

The Foreman: Did you hear the whistle from the Corporation yard at all?—No, I did not.

William Dolphin, of 173, North Road, Prittlewell, a member of the Special Reserve Police, said about 2.55 a.m. on Monday he was in bed.

The Coroner: What aroused you?—Father. He called me and I got up.

Why had you been called?—Father told me there was a fire near by.

Did you then go to 120, North Road?—Yes. And found it on fire?—Yes.

Did you go upstairs?—Not directly. I went up after I had got the furniture out.

You did go upstairs after the furniture was taken out?—Yes.

What did you first find?—We found a lot of debris in the corner, and there was a body in the corner covered with debris.

—That was in the front bedroom?—Yes.

Anything near the bed?—About four feet from the bed.

What was the object in getting the furniture out first?—We wanted to save as much as we could.

Was it known that anyone was in the house?—We were given to understand that no one was in the house.

And after you removed the furniture you found the body?—Yes.

Did you find anyone else?—No, sir.

The Coroner (pointing to the remains of a bomb): Did you find this thing?—No, sir.

A Juror (Mr. Hogsflesh): Was the Corporation whistle heard?—Yes, I heard it after I turned out.

The Foreman: How long after?—Ten minutes or a quarter of an hour after. I could not tell exactly how soon.

The Foreman remarked that there was considerable complaint in the town as to the sounding of the hooter.

The Coroner: I do not think that is a matter for me to enquire into. That is a matter for the Corporation to ascertain.

Supt. Ellis: There was a big rush on the telephone at this time. Probably they gave the alarm as soon as they received it. The aircraft dropped one very near the works soon after.

The Coroner enquired who found the portion of the bomb in Whitwell's house.

Inspector Clarke replied that it was picked up by a private individual and handed to P. S. Gossett, of the Special Police Reserve.

P. S. Gossett stated that the bomb was handed to P. S. Gossett outside the house. That was the first time it was seen. It was taken by P. S. Gossett to the Central Police Station.

Special Sergt. Gossett (a juror) said the top part of the bomb was handed to him by one of the helpers. One of the military found the lower half of the bomb and handed it over to the authorities. It was found in the bedroom.

The Coroner said as Mr. Gossett was a member of the jury he would discharge him from the jury so he could give evidence. He would like to have evidence where it was found.

George Gossett, of 108, North Road, Prittlewell, a sergeant in the Special Police Reserve, was then called.

The Coroner: Where did you see this bomb

first?—It was handed to me, being the sergeant, by Mr. Jeffreys.

When and where?—As soon as the fire was put out and as soon as we got into the room.

Do you know where he procured it from?—From the side of the bed. It had fallen off the bed.

—No, told you so?—Yes.

Was the place on fire when you went into it first?—No, out.

No one in the house when you went there?—No.

A Juror: Were you told that no one was in the house?—The question was asked by several bystanders if anyone was in the house, and it was said that no one was there, and that was why the furniture was got out first.

A Juror: Where was the husband?

The Coroner: He was injured and was taken next door.

P. C. Brown, stationed at Prittlewell, said on Monday, about 4.30 a.m., he visited 120, North Road, Southend. He went into the front bedroom and there saw a large hole in the roof caused by the entry of a bomb. The hole penetrated into the bedroom.

The Coroner: Was the body still in the bedroom?—No. The bed was standing with the head towards the wall, and there was the hole in the roof immediately above the bed.

You found the body in the adjoining room and conveyed it to the mortuary?—Yes.

A Juror: The hole in the roof was immediately over the bed?—Yes.

Dr. J. F. Walker, of Royal Terrace, Southend, said about 5.30 on Monday afternoon he viewed the body. It was nothing more than a charred mutilated mummy.

The Coroner: Death was due to burning?—Yes.

The Coroner, addressing the jury, said with that evidence before them he thought they were now in a position to arrive at their verdict. There was only one thing they could do under the circumstances, and that was to say that the deceased woman died from burning, the result of incendiary bombs dropped from hostile aircraft.

The Foreman: Can we not return a verdict of murder?

The Coroner: I don't think it will do any good. I am very pleased to say that Dr. Hinks tells me that the husband is getting on very well considering, and we all hope he will make a complete recovery.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the Coroner's directions, and expressed sympathy with the family.



1. Fire in Ashburnham Road. 2. The late Pte. B. Gladwell, Welsh Regt.
3. The late Rifleman J. Hilleard.