

Meanings of Military Service

Home Front: Just how terrifying were air raids in London during World War One?

Learning Resources KS3

GOVERNOR'S HOUSE, THE ROYAL HOSPITAL, CHELSEA. had a good journey but the London train was 25 minutes late in leaving & hour through it rende most of it up. I am toging to get on to Helde who was during out but have not recended as he has not get returned but. hope to get her before the port goes The servents heard The was on the Engles sught, bombs e guns de. Legger ango Breston & Kennington got rather heavely went over to watchley after dinner. told me the Grands had 160 officers killed & wounded, a that poor young done is awary them - his father must be broken hearted. William is still bad a two of the other permisent clinhs are laid up too. Hunderson is blundering along. Like most

Letter from General Sir Neville Lyttelton to his wife Katherine Lyttelton, 25th September 1916.

The letter from Neville Lyttelton describes a Zeppelin raid over London. The second paragraph of the letter reads: 'The servants heard the row on the Zeppelin night, bombs and guns Lizzie says that Brixton and Kennington got rather heavily bombed.' Over 50 bombing raids were made by airships on England during the war.

Image Courtesy of Queen Mary University of London Archives



Bringing up the reinforcements postcard

The picture shows the babies born during the war. The inscription on the back reads: 'This is what I promised you. What do you think of it? Nurse Ponting had an operation for appendicitis last Monday she is going on very nicely the last time I heard. Did not see anything of the Zepps last night, but head 4 bangs which I put down to bombs where they were I do not know. From G. Walker.'



Postcard of Queen Alexandra's visit to The Royal London.

Dated September 4th 1914 the postcard shows the large crowd gathered outside the front of The Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel to see Queen Alexandra as she visited the wounded soldiers at the hospital. The back of this picture postcard reads: 'Air raid, all safe, very close, just over us, no damage to L.H.'



Aerial Photo of the Daylight Raid.

This image is a copy of the original photo which is now missing. While the photograph is not extremely clear, it does highlight the areas that were hit during the daylight raid on 7 July 1917. St Bartholomew's Hospital can be seen to suffer a direct hit.

Image Courtesy of St Bartholomew's Hospital Archives.

Social Functions.

Owing to the splendid efforts of this Committee, backed up by the talented members of College, the social events of the Session 1915-16 met with marked success, despite inevitable difficulties. An excellent Concert took place on November 6th, 1915, and this was followed up later in the term by a Progressive Whist Drive. Two Concerts of a varied nature were held during the Lent Term, both of which were highly appreciated. At the second Concert, on March 21st, a Pierrot troupe, calling themselves "The Chierots," achieved an immense success, but unfortunately (and when I tell you, you'll never believe me), several Zeppelins arrived on the scene in the middle of a love-duet, and insisted on doing their bit. They were eventually driven off the stage, but the audience was obliged to disperse in darkness and haste. Nevertheless their enjoyment of the concert was not the least impaired.

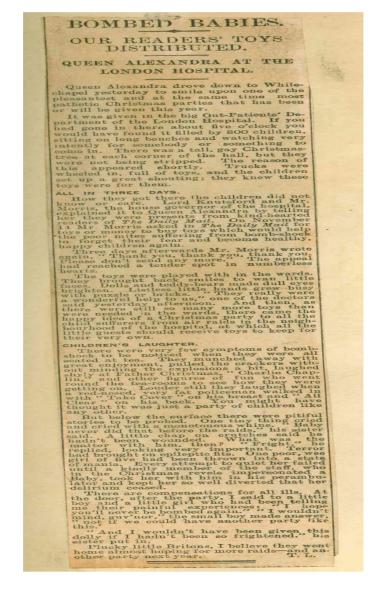
N.L.B.

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Extract from the East London College Magazine 1916

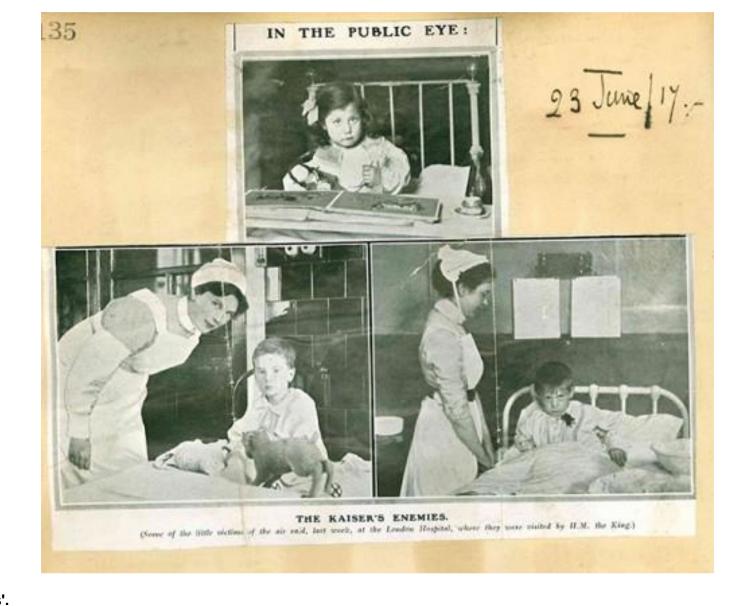
This notice in the East London College Magazine describes the moment that the a concert was interrupted by a Zeppelin raid.

Image Courtesy of Queen Mary University of London Archives



Bombed Babies' Newspaper Article.

The article describes how readers of the paper had kindly donated toys to the young victims of the air raids. It tells how the children responded to their toys and how the gifts helped to alleviate their 'bomb-shock'.



'Kaisers Enemies'.

These cuttings from a newspaper have the description 'The Kaisers Enemies (some of the little victims of the air raid, last week, at the London Hospital, where they were visited by H M the King)' The picture shows some of the young victims of the air raid over London. These children became known as 'Bombed Babies'.



Bombed Babies

A newspaper cutting from the Daily Mirror which began a campaign for toys for the young victims affected by the air raid in East London. This photograph shows the toys being distributed to children in the London Hospital.

A good history enquiry process:

- 1 Setting the motivating challenge
- 2 Gathering information
- 3 'Working' the information
- 4 Making judgements
- 5 Refining thinking
- 6 Communicating understanding in as imaginative and varied ways as possible

Approx 50 Zeppelin raids on Britain during WW1

A maximum of 12 Zeppelins in any one raid

•556 deaths in total from Zeppelin raids

•First one on Great Yarmouth 19th January 1915 – 2 deaths

•First on London, 31st May 1915, 7 dead, 15 injured

Why such panic?

- Government secrecy
- So many people see the Zeppelins
- No effective defences

'Lieutenant Leefe Robinson last night became the first member of the Royal Flying Corps to shoot down one of the German airships that have been bombing England since the war broke out. The raider was caught in search-lights above Hatfield. Despite not being able to climb as high as the raider, Lt. Robinson emptied his Lewis gun into the tail of the raider which burst into flames and crashed. Lt. Robinson has been awarded the VC for his brave and courageous action. Last night was the first time British planes have been able to shoot down one of these raiders."

(a simplified newspaper account, September 3rd 1916.)

'It was a fantastic sight, like a big silver cigar, and it seemed to be going very slowly by this time. A lot of people came out of their houses and then all of a sudden flames started to come from the Zeppelin and then it broke in half and was one mass of flames. It was an incredible sight: people were cheering, dancing, singing and somebody started playing the bagpipes. This went on well into the night.'

(10-year old Henry Tuttle, remembers the first downing of a zeppelin.)

'To me it was what I would call an awful sight. It was like a big cigar I suppose and all of the bag part had caught fire the gas part. I mean - it was roaring flames; blue, red, purple... And we knew that there were about sixty people in it - we'd always been told there was a crew of about sixty - and that they were being roasted to death. Of course you weren't supposed to feel any pity for your enemies, nevertheless I was appalled to see the kind, good-hearted British people dancing about in the streets at the sight of sixty people being burned alive - clapping and singing and cheering. When I said I was appalled that anyone could be pleased to see such a terrible sight they said; 'But they're Germans; they're the enemy - not human beings.'

(Sybil Morrison remembers the same incident.)