

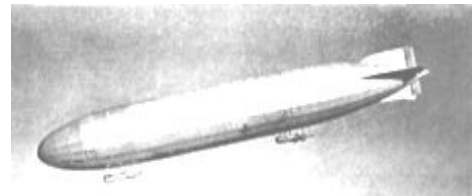
Commemorating the Zeppelin attack on York, May 1916

Clements Hall
Local History
Group




In May 2016 Clements Hall Local History Group joined forces with the Mount, Millthorpe and Scarcroft Schools in York, to mark the centenary of the 1916 Zeppelin raid on York. This attack had tragic consequences and so we decided to conduct a live tweeting exercise, about the bombing and its aftermath, as it happened.


This is our record of the tweets which went out on [@zeppelinWW1live](https://twitter.com/zeppelinWW1live)





24 March

-  In May we're tweeting the Zeppelin attack on York, 2 May 1916, as it happened, 100 years ago, with its aftermath. Follow us!



25 March

-  We'll be including gripping eye-witness accounts from Scarcroft School in York

2 April

-  Zeppelin attack on Middlesbro and Skinningrove. 2 injured.
-  Zeppelin attack on Sunderland. 22 dead and 128 people injured. Schools damaged.

6 April

-  Skinningrove ironworks bombed.
-  Zepp attack on Sutton-on-Hull. Hull anti-aircraft gun defences

improved, but three HE bombs landed near East Park. Woman died of shock.

19 April

🐦 Army has now left Scarcroft school buildings in York, being cleaned before pupils and teachers return

🐦 Evenwood/Bishop Auckland bombed. Child killed 4 injured. No air raid sirens. Warning from policeman on bike. Intercepting RFC pilot killed.

26 April

🐦 A Hull man has been fined £5 for "frightening women", by telling them that Zeppelins were coming.

1 May 2016

🐦 Local weather reported good but with some short periods when the skies have been cloudy and overcast

2 May

🐦 At 168 Bishopthorpe Rd, York Alex Johnstone's mother is thinking of her son, who is 25 tomorrow. He is serving in France

🐦 Zeppelin L21 has crossed the east coast near Scarborough and is heading inland

🐦 Zeppelin crew donned thick clothing for their mission. Temperatures could fall to -25 deg at height. L21 range is 3000 miles.

🐦 Zeppelin L21 reported to be heading for Vale of York – what is the target?

🐦 At 230 Bishopthorpe Road, Sarah Kirby is doing her hair. 7 year old Goff Kirby is in bed. The lights go out.

🐦 Archbishop Lang is at Bishopthorpe Palace. He hears bombs and resolves to seek safe storage for Minster glass

🐦 Lovely mild spring evening in York this Tuesday 2 May 1916

FRIGHTENING WOMEN.



















FOOLISH OFFENCE ON ALARM NIGHTS.


















Telling a number of women that Zeppelins were passing over New Holland during the air-raid alarm on the night of March 19th, resulted in Francis Durbridge, an employe in the Health Department, Hull Corporation, being summoned before Councillors Ombler and Dunkley at Hull Police Court to-day for making a false statement. The proceedings were taken under the Defence of the Realm Regulations.

Defendant at first said he would plead guilty, but afterwards, when his solicitor Mr Walter Reed, arrived in Court, he withdrew this plea and pleaded not guilty. Supt. Scott prosecuted for the police.

According to the evidence of Special Constable North, defendant was in Lowgate on the night in question. There were also a number of women and children in the street, who were in a very nervous condition. The incident occurred at 9.30 p.m., about three-quarters of an hour after the alarm had been given. One of the women happened to ask defendant if he had heard anything. He replied, "They're just passing over New Holland." The words could be distinctly heard by the people, and one woman exclaimed, "My God! what shall we do?" Defendant was slightly under the influence of drink at the time.

Continuing, witness said he then went up to defendant and told him he ought not to have made such a remark. Defendant replied, "Oh, but they have." He (witness) then took him to the Central Police Station, where he was detained.

-  Zeppelin L21 reported to be captained by Kapitanleutenant der Reserve Max Dietrich
-  Appears that niece of Captain Max Dietrich is Marie Magdalene, later to be Marlene Dietrich, now 15 years old, still at school
-  Zeppelin pilot seems to be following the railway line
-  It's 1916 and bombs are falling on the Dringhouses area of the City of York
-  York has no searchlights or anti-aircraft guns for defence
-  The gas lights have gone out – the warning for an attack
-  Windows rattle at 230 Bishopthorpe Road. Wilson Kirby sees the Zeppelin and tells his family to go into back room
-  The noise and sight of L21 is overwhelming, it makes a constant 'ominous menacing growl'
-  Out in the street you can 'actually feel the displacement of air caused by the high power engines'
-  L21 is silhouetted against the sky as it is a clear night. Witness estimates it to be too high to hit with guns
-  Zeppelin spotted over South Bank area in City of York at about 3-5000 feet
-  At 230 Bishopthorpe Road loud bangs now shake the entire house. L21 moves towards St Clement's Rectory (now Rectory Grove)
-  L21 cannot fail to be heard between Bishopthorpe Road and Nunthorpe Avenue. Witness says it sounds like many many trains
-  First bomb has landed harmlessly on the Knavesmire by Albemarle Road wall
-  Dreadful bangs, and bombs are shaking the ground, big hole in the Knavesmire
-  Nunthorpe Hall has been hit – it's a Red Cross hospital for wounded soldiers
-  More bombs falling – on Nunthorpe Court grounds – seem to have missed the house
-  Nunthorpe Hall is burning – nurses helping wounded soldiers to evacuate

-  Hospital cooks Louisa Lamming, and Lucy Brown, from 44 Scarcroft Road, are concerned for their colleagues and patients.
-  6 Nunthorpe Avenue has taken a direct hit – terrible damage
-  13 Upper Price Street has taken a direct hit – more terrible damage
-  A car has arrived to help take wounded soldiers to safety from Nunthorpe Hall
-  Terrible sounds of breaking glass, falling masonry and people screaming
-  More bombs falling in Caroline Street, Victoria Street, Price's Lane and Kyme Street
-  Sounds can be heard of alarm bells still being rung at The Mount School
-  Mr Chapman of 6 Nunthorpe Avenue is being comforted by neighbours
-  His daughter, Emily, has been killed, his wife and other daughter are receiving urgent medical attention
-  Droning and humming of the Zeppelin has receded - it's crossed the river – terrible thuds from over there
-  No news yet of the Avisons who live at 13 Upper Price Street – the house was in darkness
-  Houses reported destroyed in Caroline Street and Newton Terrace – no one reported killed
-  Reports of injuries due to blast and broken glass are coming in
-  Neighbour believes the Avisons had gone to bed
-  Reports that Mr and Mrs Avison may have died due to the direct Zeppelin hit on their house
-  Firefighters working hard to control the blaze at Nunthorpe Hall and other properties
-  Evacuation of wounded soldiers from Nunthorpe Hall reported to be entirely successful
-  Girls at The Mount School still reported to be sheltering in the basement of the school

- 🐦 Emily Chapman, who has died in Nunthorpe Avenue was a typist at the railway company
- 🐦 Mrs Chapman has lost an arm in the blast and has been taken to hospital
- 🐦 100s of houses with windows blasted out – much damage on Nunthorpe Road by the church
- 🐦 Confirmation now that the Zeppelin killed George (70) & Sarah Ann (69) Avison at 13 Upper Price Street
- 🐦 Norah Chapman of Nunthorpe Road reported to have severe spinal injuries as a result of the blast



3 May

- 🐦 As day dawns in South Bank the damage done by the Zeppelin becomes clearer
- 🐦 3 people are confirmed dead on South Bank and more are injured
- 🐦 The Zeppelin has destroyed at least 9 houses and badly damaged others
- 🐦 Local people are picking their way across rubble and broken glass to look at the damage
- 🐦 St Clement's Church is open as a centre for help and information
- 🐦 Mount School girls have walked out to see the damage in their local area
- 🐦 Mount girls played cards and were read to by candlelight to keep their spirits up during the raid
- 🐦 Scarcroft School reporting many children absent from school this morning
- 🐦 Mount girl Agnes Smithson reports seeing half a house with a bed hanging from an upstairs room
- 🐦 Dramatic rescue of an 8 year old girl in Caroline St. Dragged from house by father. Mother injured.
- 🐦 She says 'everyone - men more so than women - were panic-stricken'
- 🐦 Some roads impassable in South Bank area due to last night's Zeppelin attack

4 May

- 🐦 Interview with Wilson Kirby, about the Zeppelin raid on Monday evening
- 🐦 Kirby is a Claims Clerk for the Railway Company living at 230 Bishopthorpe Road
- 🐦 Kirby reports that the Zeppelin bombs made all the doors and windows of his house shake
- 🐦 Kirby's son, Jack, says the family hid in the corner of a back room throughout the raid
- 🐦 Zeppelin damage to Nunthorpe Hall is severe. Will it need to be demolished?
- 🐦 Norah Chapman has wounds to her back and right arm as a result of the Zeppelin attack
- 🐦 Nine people reported dead in Monday's Zeppelin raid, three in South Bank area

5 May

- 🐦 18 Zeppelin bombs dropped on South Bank area on Monday 2 May 2016 resulting in 3 deaths and about 40 more people injured
- 🐦 Charlotte Meysey-Thompson of Nunthorpe Court reports: 'big trees blown in half'
- 🐦 Monday night's raid lasted 10 minutes, killing 9 people in the City of York.
- 🐦 All people made homeless by Monday night's raid have now been found shelter
- 🐦 Rev Argles reports to the Town Clerk that the Chapman family are in great need.
- 🐦 Norah Chapman and her mother are in the County Hospital – recovery is expected to be slow
- 🐦 The Town Clerk has learnt that Mr Chapman has lost his home and the wage earners in his family
- 🐦 149 applications for help have been made to the York Citizens' Committee following the Zeppelin raid



George and Sarah Avison, killed by a Zeppelin bomb in Upper Price St in York, 2 May 1916

Emily Chapman, killed by a Zeppelin bomb in Nunthorpe Avenue in York 2 May



Claims to the Citizens' Committee range from house repairs to funeral expenses.

George and Sarah Ann Avison will have a joint funeral at York Cemetery



8 May

Norah is in York County Hospital and asks Annie to send her jellies as the food is awful

The Zeppelin killed her sister and injured herself and her mother

Norah Chapman has written to her friend Annie Ryder describing her loss

