

Berwick Journal, April 15th 1915

ZEPPELIN RAID ON NORTHUMBERLAND

PRECAUTIONS IN BERWICK

Last night Northumberland received a visit from a Zeppelin. The dirigible was first sighted coming towards Blyth from the sea shortly after 8 o'clock. Having dropped a bomb at Bedlington, Choppington was next visited, where more bombs were dropped. Cramlington received several, as did Seaton Burn, while in the vicinity of Seven Mile House, on the North Road, another was dropped. Having arrived at Wallsend, the German crew proceeded to further lighten ship, and 5 bombs were dropped in passing the mid-river town. This last seems to have been the closing act of the performance. Little damage and no loss of life had up till late this morning been reported. One of the bombs narrowly missed a passenger train. Shortly after 8 o'clock the military authorities at Berwick received information of the occurrence, and the town was promptly plunged into darkness, the supply of electricity for street lighting was stopped, gas lamps were all extinguished, and the police and military were sent round to visit houses and shops and instruct occupants to put out all lights. Considerable excitement prevailed.

A British aeroplane passed over the town, flying very high, in the afternoon.

Instructions are given today to ensure the implicit obedience by householders of any instructions that may be given by the military, or the police, as to the extinguishing of lights. The Chief Constable stated this morning that more stringent reduction of artificial light would be enforced.

The East Coast train, which left London at 2.20 for Edinburgh, was held up for about 2 hours at Newcastle on account of the Zeppelin raid. The train arrived in Edinburgh at 12.40 instead of 10.45pm. The lights were all extinguished.

Berwick Advertiser, March 16th 1915

Word was received last night that an airship was about. The electric power was switched off from the Electric Works, householders were told to put out all lights. picture houses closed and people went home.