



Protecting the Tyne: Zeppelins Over South Shields

Lesson Plan: Zeppelin Raids 14 April & 15 June 1915

Teacher/s	Date
Subject History	Year
Learning Objectives Understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources. Create structured accounts, including written narratives.	Success Criteria The children will understand the impact of the first Zeppelin raid over the North East.
Key Question What effect did the raid have on people in the North East?	
Starter Activity/Introduction Zeppelin L9 crossed the coast at Blyth to avoid anti-aircraft guns on ships protecting the Tyne. The story of the Zeppelin flying over the recruiting meeting made quite a stir. The illustration is from a popular magazine <i>The War Illustrated</i> and the article from the Sunderland Echo April 15 th 1915. Discuss the shock effect of this huge enemy airship overhead, apparently unstoppable and invulnerable.	Resources Zeppelins over Blyth activity sheet
Main Activity The Zeppelin danger captured the public imagination with a flurry of stories, adverts and mocking cartoons. Local printers and photographers were quick to cash in with images like the bogus <i>Zeppelin over Blyth</i> postcard. On the second sheet, the children can make their own fakes using contemporary images of South Shields. They can draw German airships on blank sky areas or for a little more authenticity use the Zeppelin silhouettes provided. Print out on thin card if possible.	Resources Make Your Own Zeppelin postcard activity sheet Zeppelin L9 Silhouettes
Plenary Think of a short appropriate caption for the South Shields postcards, like <i>Beach Bomber</i> or <i>Ferry in Peril</i> . Compare captions and discuss how they can add to the 'shock factor' or impact of the postcards.	Resources Class captions





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Zeppelin L9 flew over the North East on 14th April 1915. The airship was first sighted over Blyth around 8pm before flying on to Wallsend and Hebburn. L9 dropped 31 bombs but only two people were injured and little damage was done.

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A REMARKABLE INCIDENT.

A dramatic incident occurred in the Blyth Market Place when the airship was first noticed. The Rev. J. W. Ogden was addressing a recruiting meeting, and was speaking of the barbarism of the Germans. He asserted that the barbarism committed in Belgium would be nothing to that which would be committed here, were they to set foot upon our shores. Immediately afterwards the Zeppelin hove in sight, and the speaker, pointing skywards, remarked "Here is a visitor for you."

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TO POINT THE PATRIOT'S APPEAL, A ZEPPELIN APPEARS AT A RECRUITING MEETING IN THE MARKET SQUARE OF BLYTH.

Imagine you were in the crowd at the recruiting meeting. Write an extract in your diary describing what you saw and felt.

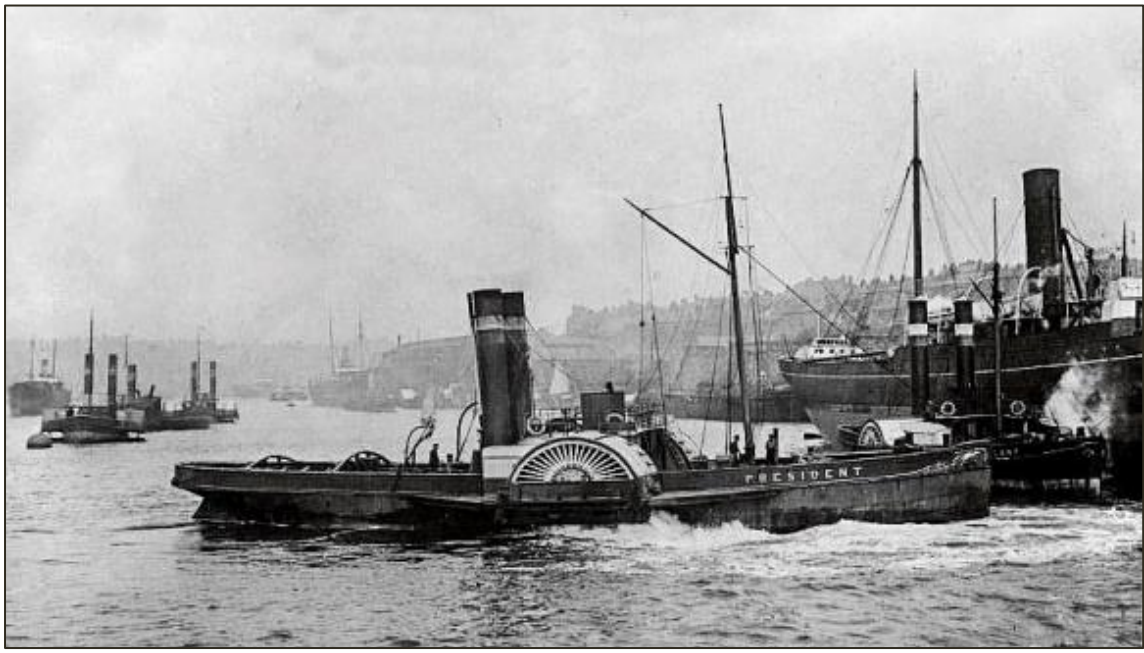
14th April 1915....



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Now cut out and design your own sensational postcards of South Shields. Draw or cut out and paste on a menacing Zeppelin and write a short caption. There may be a war on but there's money to be made.





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