

# **Zeppelin Postcards in World War I**

**Presented by  
Steve Suddaby**



**Philatelic Society of  
Lancaster County  
22 September 2021**



# **Zeppelin Postcards in WWI**

## **Introduction to Zeppelins**

### **German Postcards**

- **Propaganda & National Pride**

### **French Postcards**

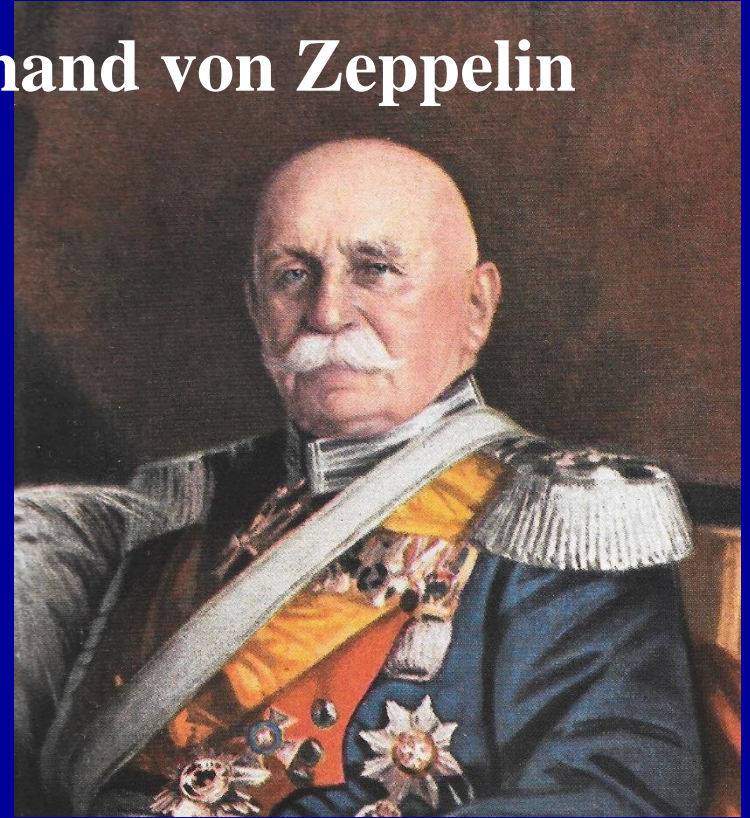
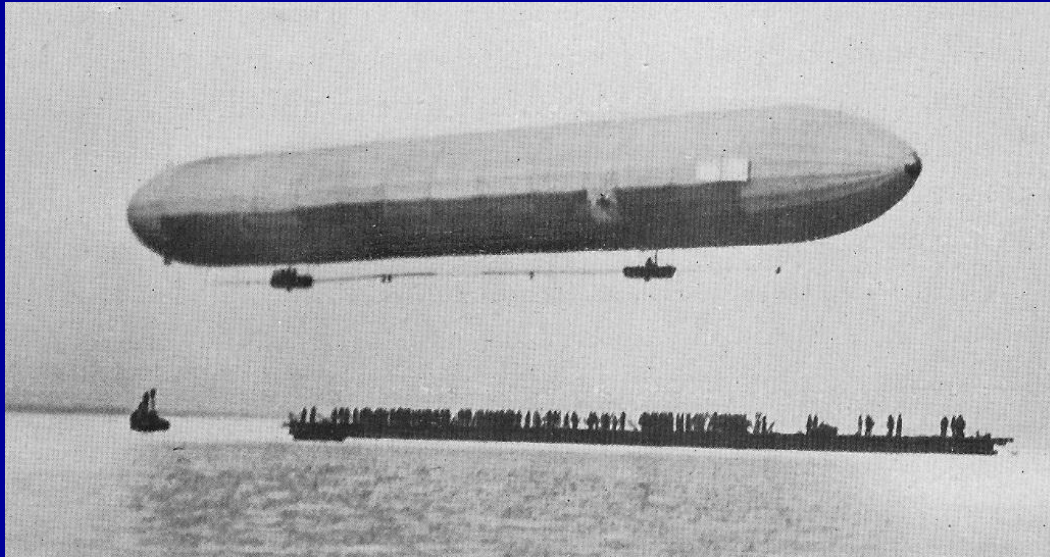
- **Outrage, Just Desserts, & Rare Humor**

### **British Postcards**

- **Outrage, Fascination, Fiery Revenge, and Mocking the Hun (and everyone else)**

# Zeppelin 101

**Created by Graf (Count) Ferdinand von Zeppelin  
(1838-1917)**



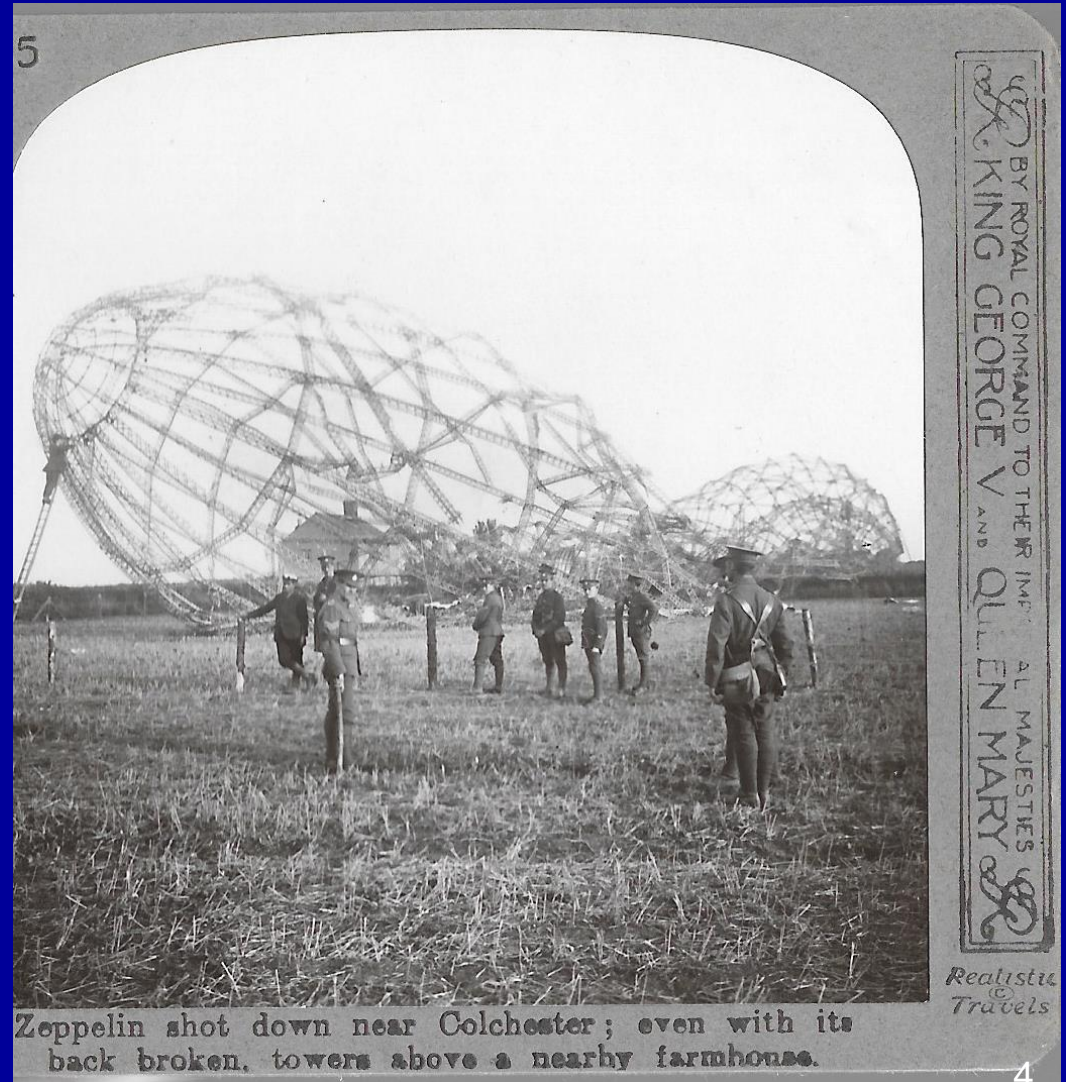
**First Zeppelin flew in 1900  
from Lake Constance**

From Dr. Hans Hildebrandt, *Zeppelin-Denkmal für das Deutsche Volk*,  
copyright 19??, pp.73, 318



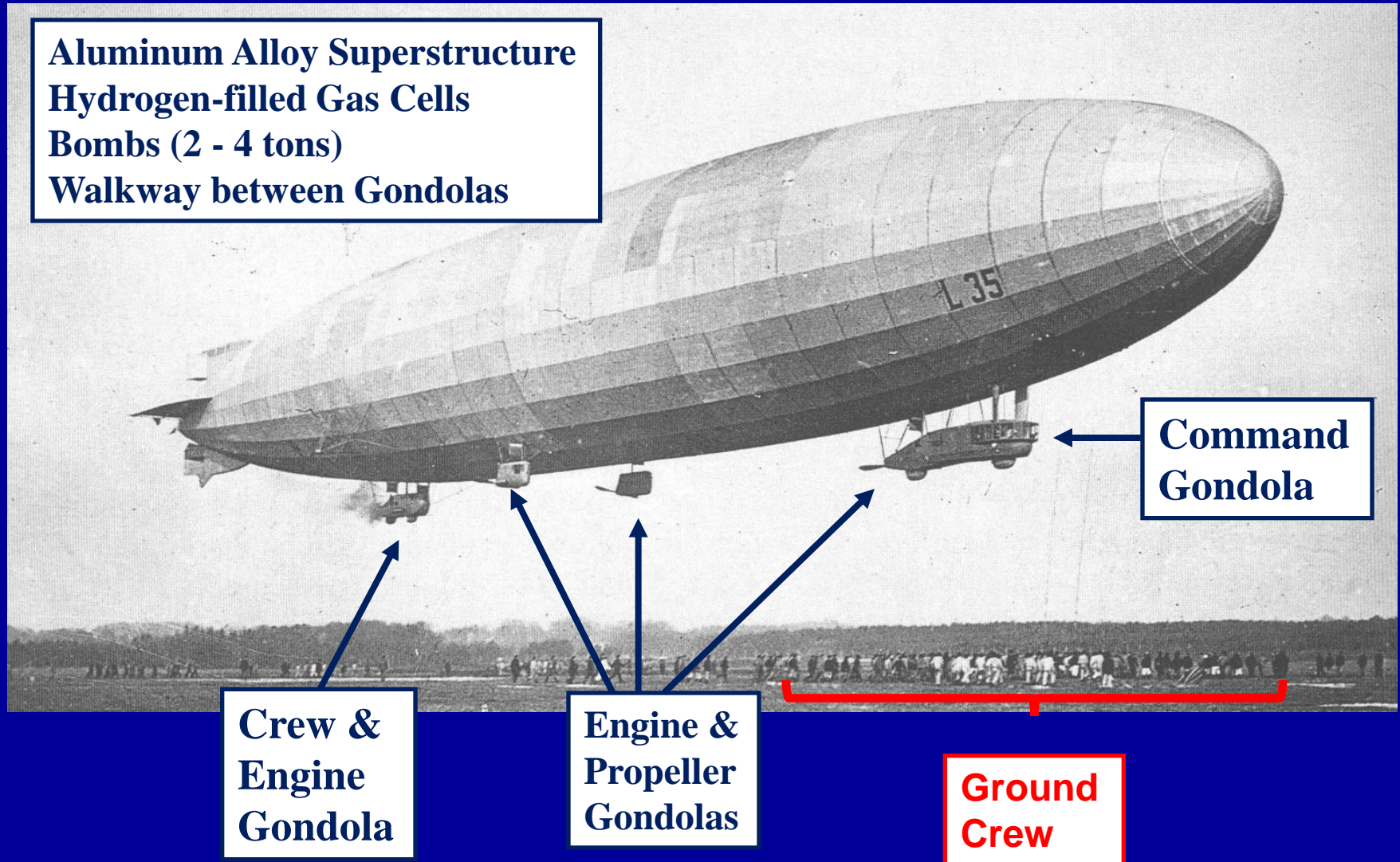
# Zeppelin 101 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester

- Commercial airline service in Germany (1910-1914) made German airship crews the most experienced in the world
- Zeppelins, unlike blimps, had an aluminium superstructure



# Zeppelins in WWI

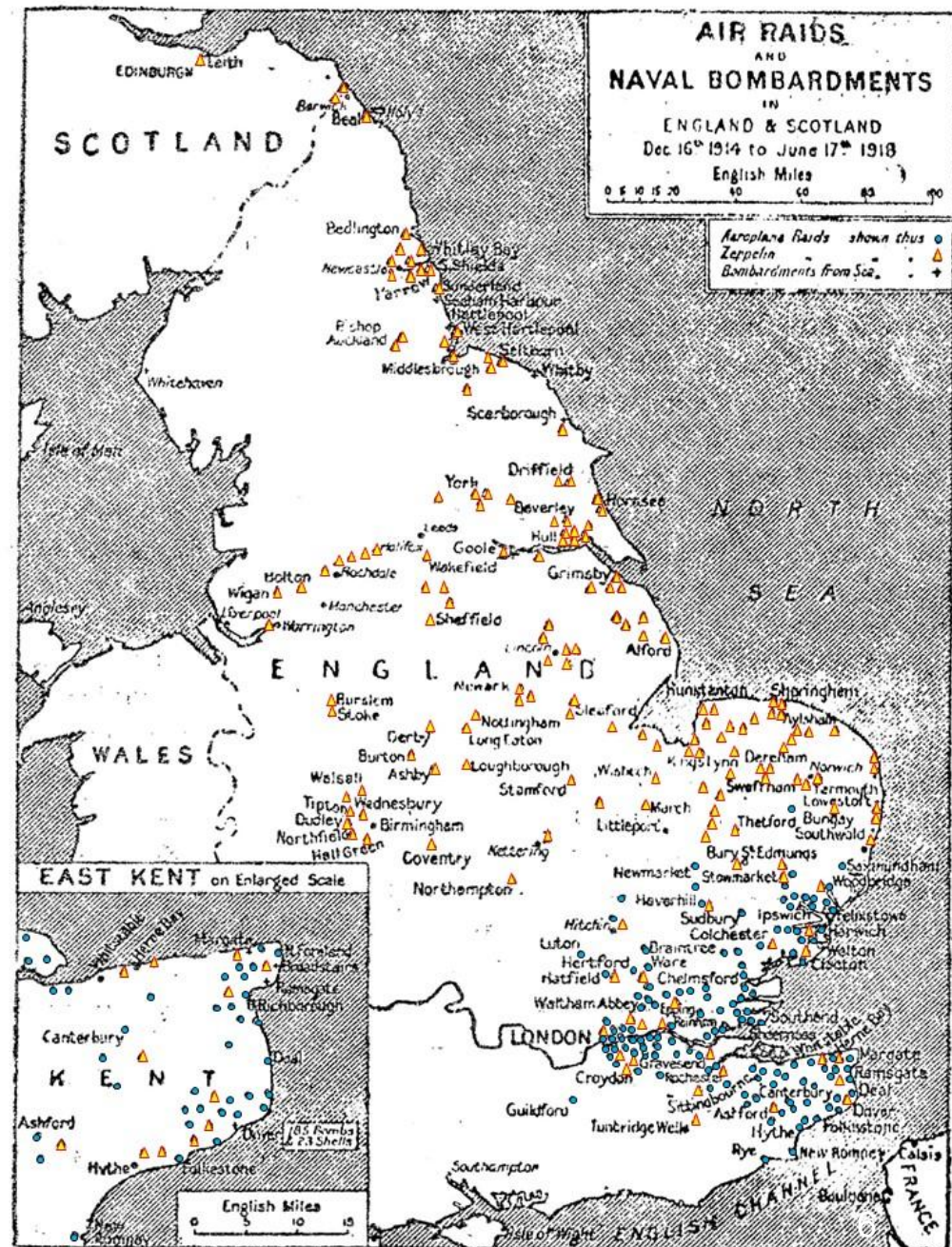
Aluminum Alloy Superstructure  
Hydrogen-filled Gas Cells  
Bombs (2 - 4 tons)  
Walkway between Gondolas





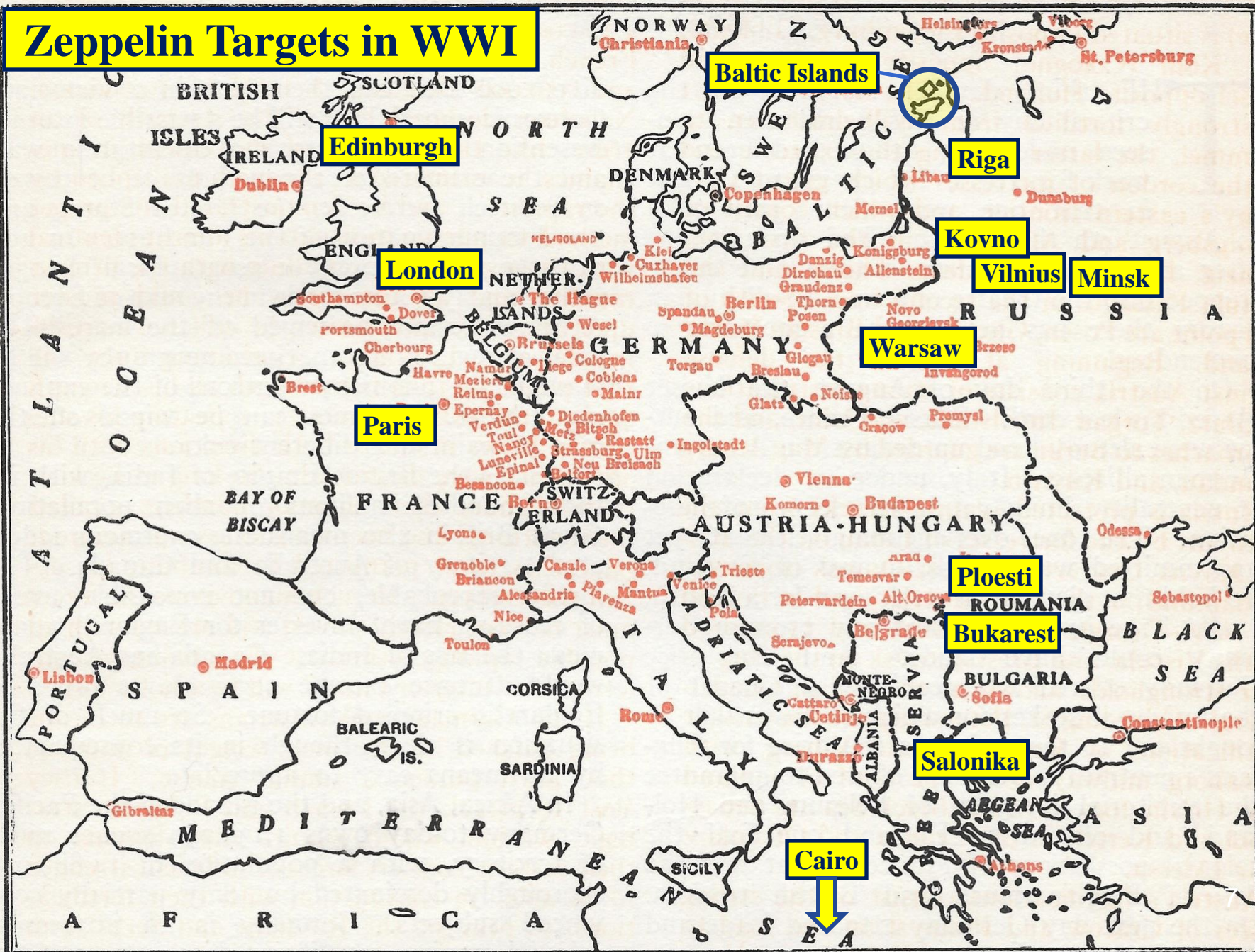
# Zeppelins in WWI

- **Zeppelins widely used as strategic night bombers**
- **Vulnerable to anti-aircraft guns and night fighters**
- **Easily thwarted by blackouts & weather**





# Zeppelin Targets in WWI





# German Postcards - Propaganda



I hope that, with God's help, we will wield the sword in such a way that we can return it to the sheath with honor.

1 August 1914 Wilhelm II

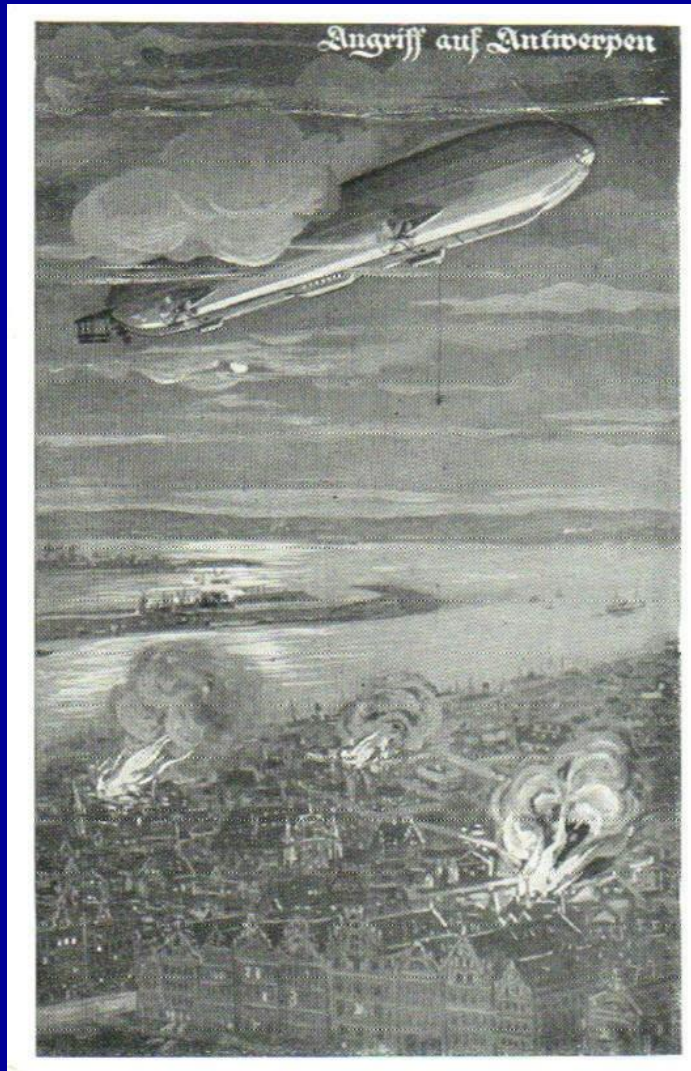
[Red rubber stamp on the bottom: War Collection of Peter Möller]



# German Postcards – National Pride

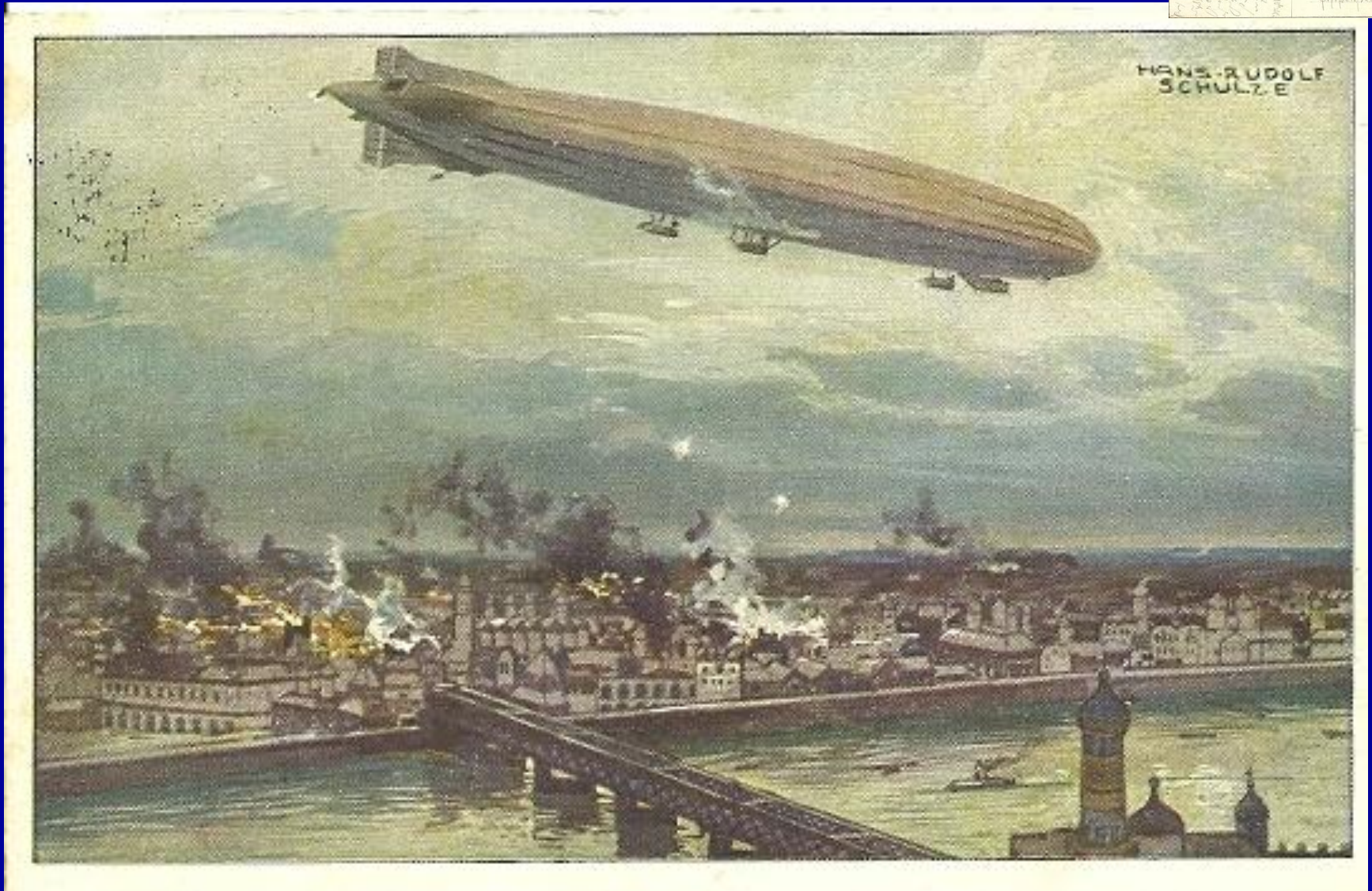
## Zeppelins Over Antwerp

Raids on  
24/25 AUG  
& late  
Sept. 1914





# German – National Pride



**Schutte-Lanz Airship Over Warsaw**



**Deutscher Luftflotten-Verein**  
für Schaffung einer starken deutschen Luftflotte  
und Förderung der Luftfahrerschule!  
Jahresbeitrag: einschl. Vereinszeitschrift  
„Die Luftflotte“ nach Selbsteinschätzung  
mindestens 3,— Mk. Berlin W 57,  
Frobenstraße 27.

Zustichiff „Schütte-Lanz“ Warichen vom'ardierend.  
Nach einem Gemälde von Prof. Hans Rudolf Schulze, Berlin.

# Postkarte



A green 10 Pfennig postage stamp featuring a landscape scene, cancelled with a circular postmark from Leipzig, Saxony, dated June 15, 1914. The stamp is partially obscured by the postmark.

hier

2016/07/23 65



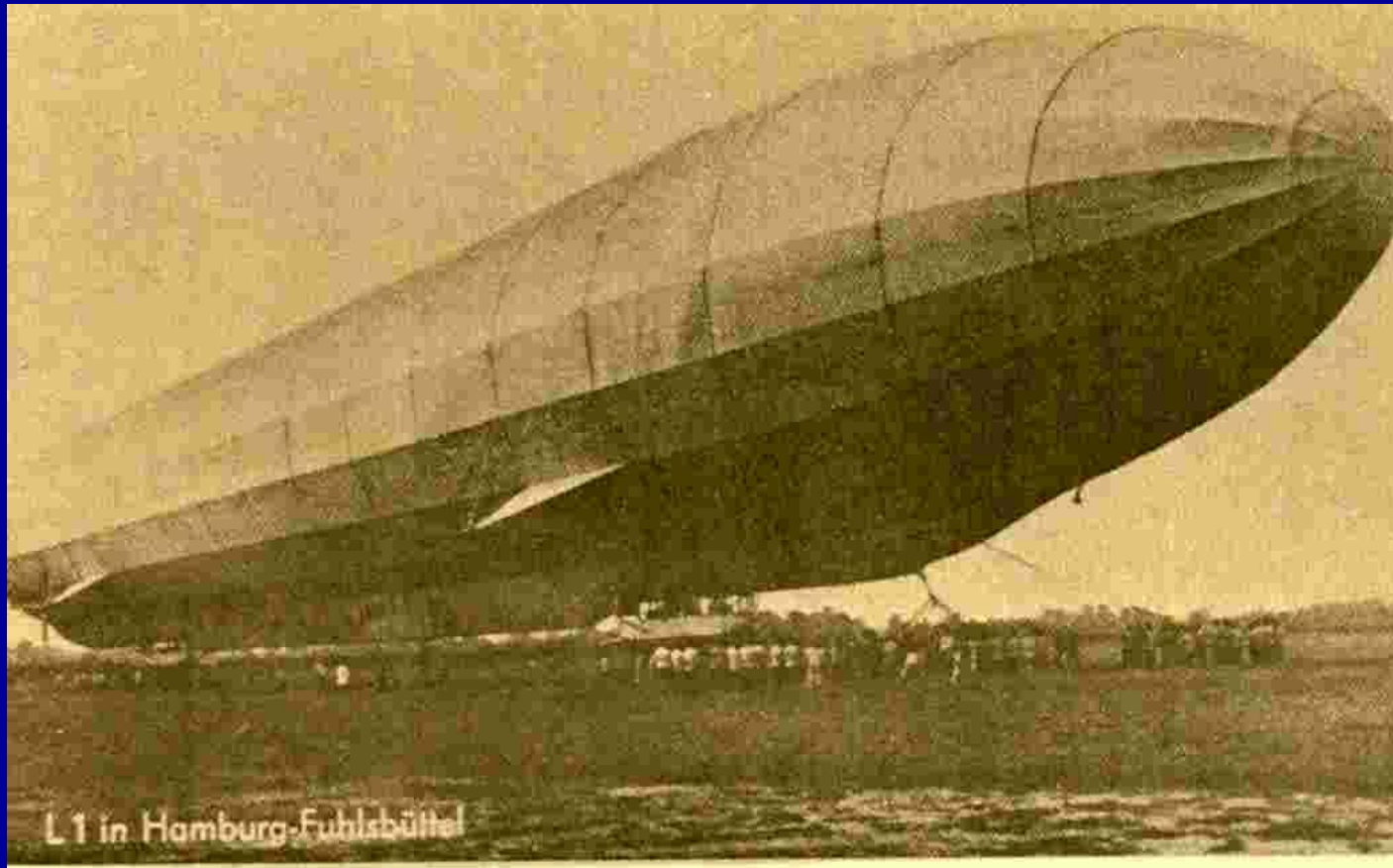
# German Postcards – National Pride



**Zeppelin & Naval Attack on Venice – TRUE???**



# German Postcards – National Pride



**Prewar  
Naval  
Zeppelin *L1***

**(Probably  
reprint)**

# German Postcards – National Pride

**Sanke Card #574:**

***Kptlt Franz Stabbert***

***(Zeppelins L20 & L44)***

*From Aviation, Vol.1, Balloons & Airships:  
A Portrait in Old Picture Postcards,  
by David B. Leeder, 1991, p.54*



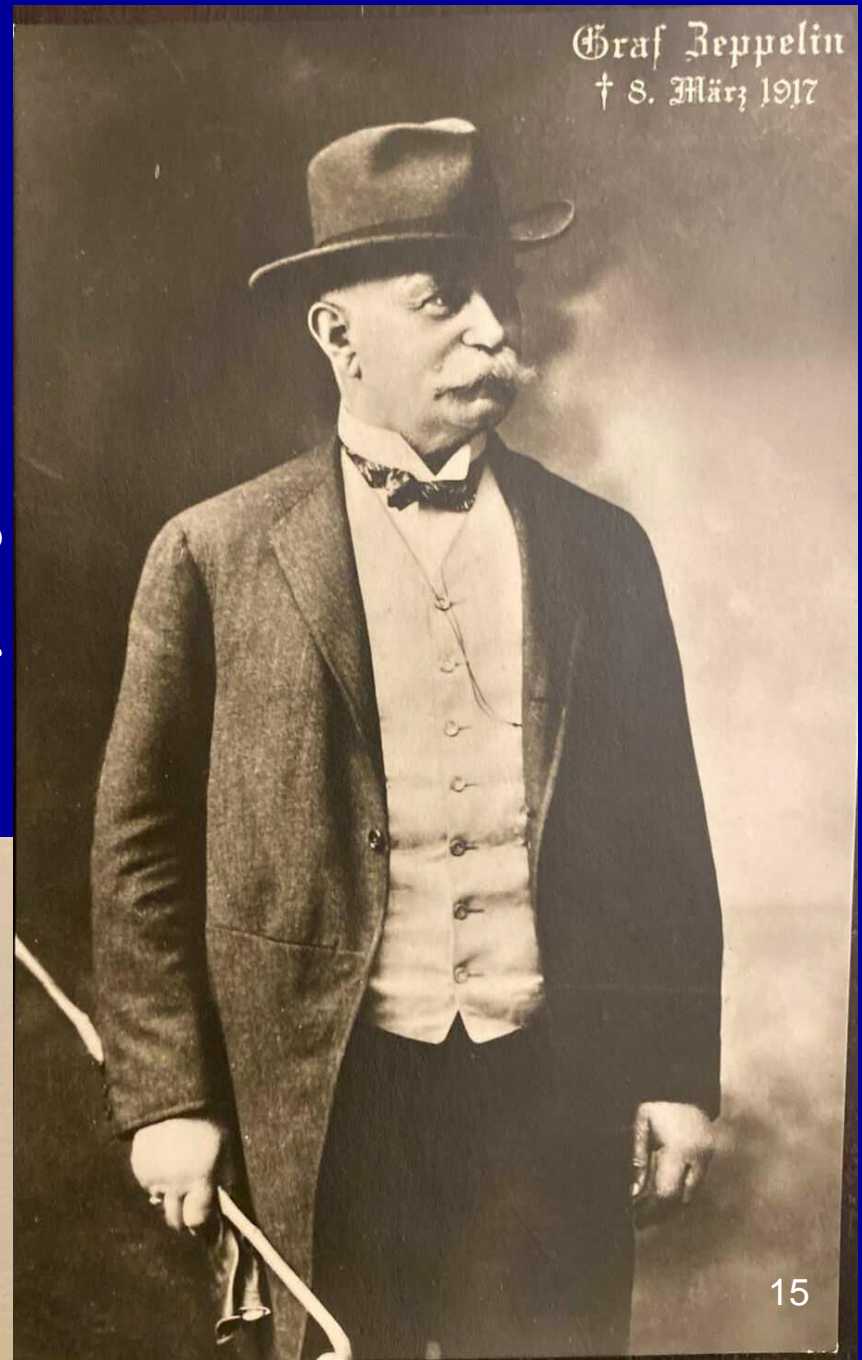


# German Postcards – National Pride

Mourning the Death of  
Count von Zeppelin –  
3 March 1917

(Back)

eBay Image



Postkarte – Carte Postale  
Weltpostverein – Union postale universelle  
Levelező-Lap – Correspondenzkarte – Dopisnice  
Karta korespondencyjna – Korespondenčni listek  
Briefkaart – Cartolina postale – Post card – Brefkort  
Открытое-письмо – Дописна Карта  
TARJETA POSTAL  
Korrespondenz

# German Postcards



'Our Fallen Zeppelin Heroes'. A 1916 German postcard pays tribute to Peterson, Schramm and Matby, killed over England on active service.  
*Churchill Library*

**“Our Fallen Zeppelin Heroes”**

From *Zeppelin!* by Ray Rimell, 1984, p.148 <sub>16</sub>



# The Only American Zepp Postcard I've Ever Seen







# French Postcards



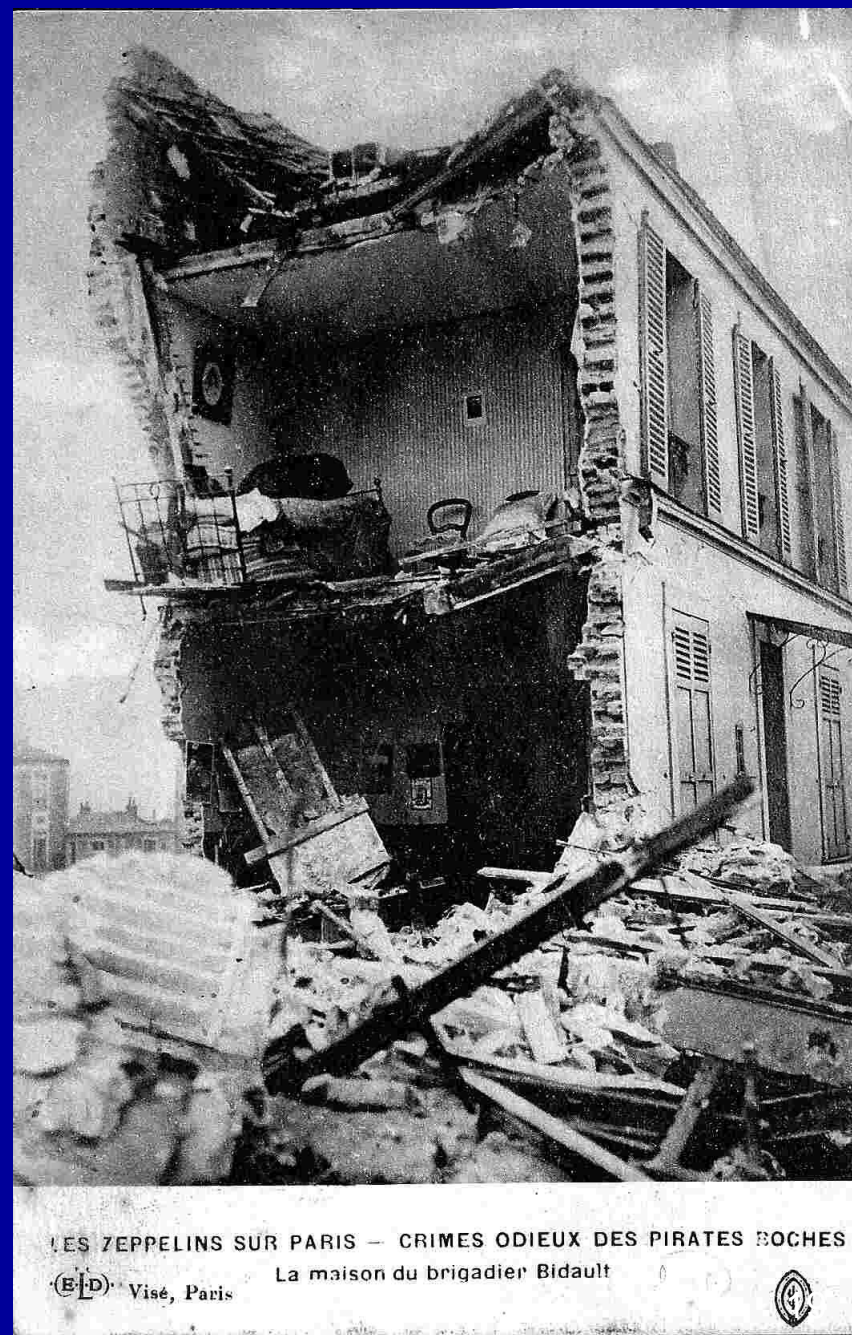
From *French Postcards: An Album of Vintage Erotica*,  
by Martin Stevens



# French Postcards - Outrage

***Zeppelins LZ77 & LZ79  
bombed Paris on  
29/30 January 1916:  
M. Bidault & his mother-in-  
law Mme. Priteux were killed;  
Mme. Bidault wounded.  
(23 killed total)***

***The only other Zepp raid on  
Paris was 20/21 March 1915.***



LES ZEPPELINS SUR PARIS — CRIMES ODIEUX DES PIRATES BOCHES  
(E.D.) Visé, Paris La maison du brigadier Bidault



# French Postcards - Outrage



(E|D)

Visé, Paris

LES ZEPPELINS SUR PARIS — CRIMES ODIEUX DES PIRATES BOCHES  
La voûte du Métropolitain





# French Postcards - Outrage



Also 2<sup>nd</sup> Raid – 29/30 JAN 1916

(Reprint) 21



# French Postcards - Outrage





# French Postcards – Just Desserts





# French Postcards – Just Desserts (Reverse)

## CARTE POSTALE

CORRESPONDANCE

ADRESSE

cher petit homme j'en ai  
a ta belle petite lettre qui  
m'a fait bien plaisir d'avoir  
de ta petite souris et que tu  
écoute bien sagement je te dis  
que j'ai bien parti et sois toujours  
bien sage avec petit mer  
et travaille un petit peu pour  
le mariage pour élever petite  
mer tousse m'a fait bien  
plaisir petit per t'en con  
pense ma dissonance

je compte sur  
mon petit  
bien petit  
per et moi  
ton petit  
bien fort sur le  
jeu de ton  
petit per  
tous les deux  
mer des  
Duchess

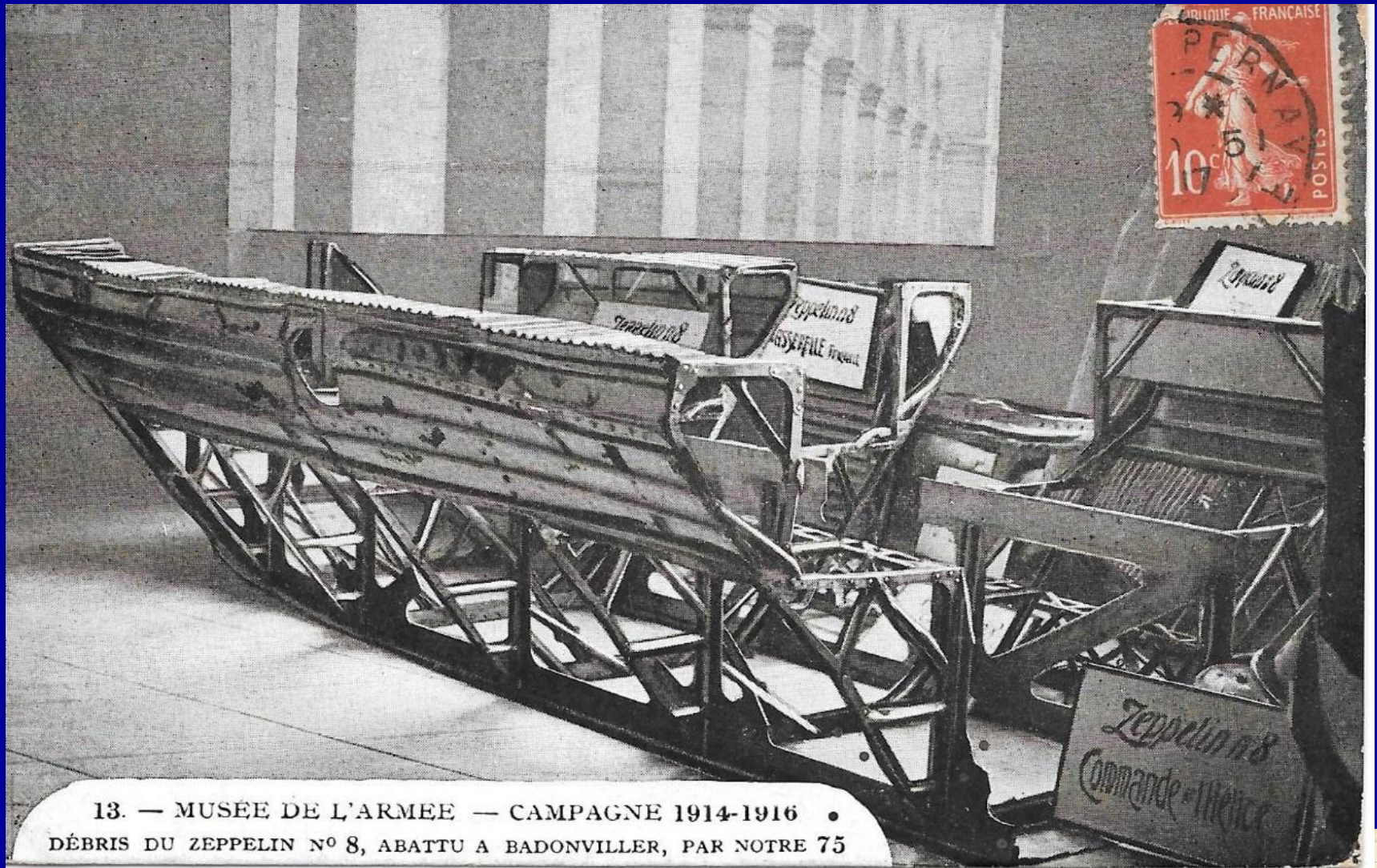


# French Postcards – Just Desserts





# French Postcards – Just Desserts



Army Zepp Z.VIII shot down 21 or 23 August 1914





# French Postcards – Just Desserts (Reverse)

Epervay le 19 Mai 1917

CARTE POSTALE



CORRESPONDANCE

ADRESSE

Mon cher Petit

Grand mère vient d'expédier pour  
son petit cheri pour lui faire  
deux compliments Grand père rentre  
à l'instant et revient avec le  
colis l'on ne peut espérer  
argut mercredi la barbe mon petit  
cheri est toujours bien diable il fait  
courir Maman. Zette dans les pires  
c'est un petit diable embrasse pour grand père  
et grand mère Maman Zette papa Anton  
chétouaine et toi mon cher petit nous t'embrassons bien  
fort et de tout cœur

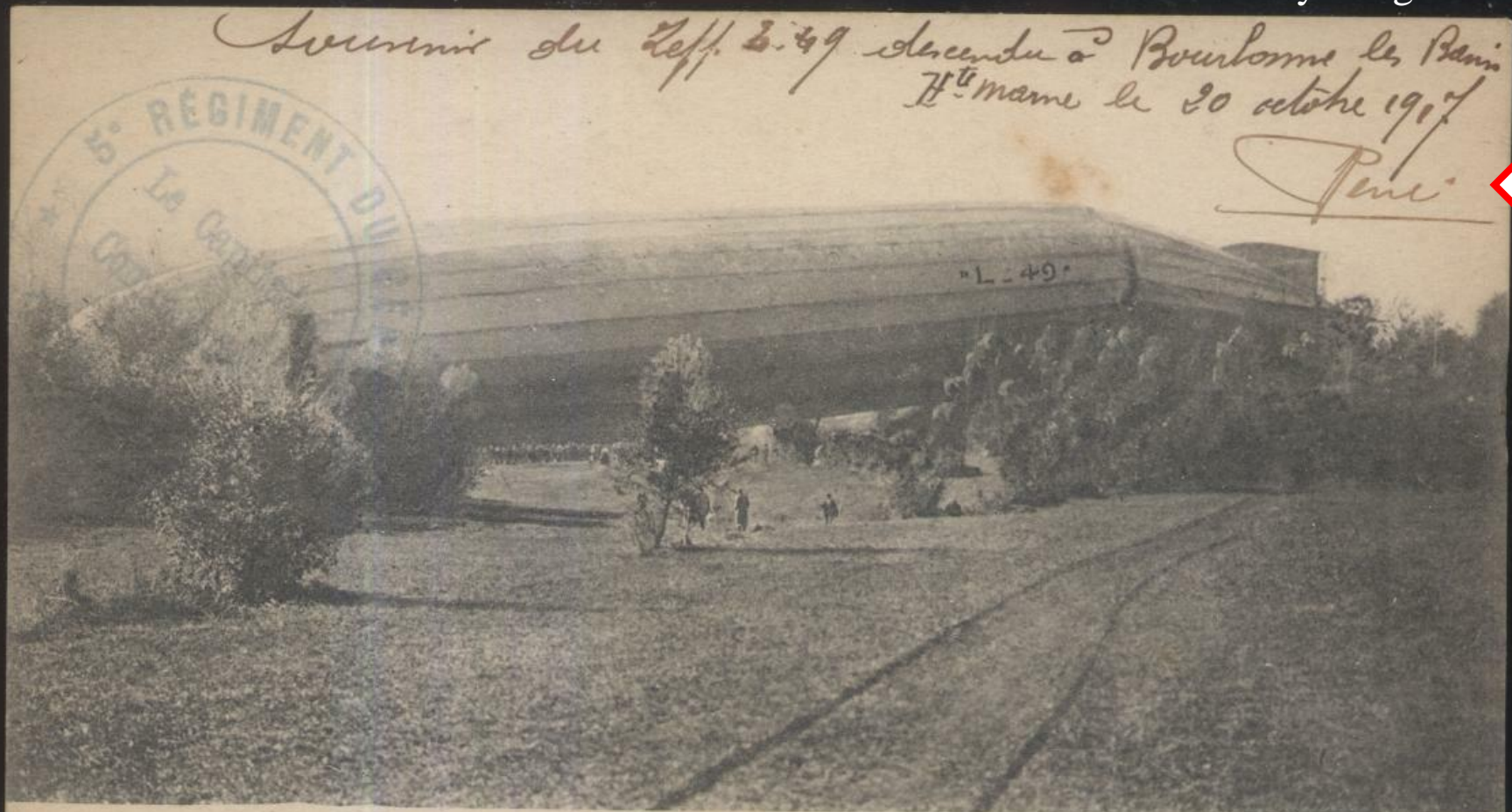
Monsieur  
Henri Chopet  
dans sa famille à  
Belfort

Grand mère  
Engeline



# French Postcards – Just Desserts

eBay Image



## UNE BELLE DÉBACLE DE ZEPPELINS

Du 19 au 21 Octobre 1917, sur environ 11 appareils partis pour bombarder l'Angleterre, 7 ont atterri soit abattus, soit désemparés, 1 reste intact en notre possession; les autres sont disparus.



Viaé, Paris



# French Postcards – Just Desserts (Reverse)

eBay Image

## CARTE POSTALE

Correspondance

18 Novembre 1917

Adresse

Mignonne Petite Mimi

Malgré qu'on soit aujourd'hui dimanche  
et que de plus je suis de garde au bureau  
je n'ai pu le temps de t'écrire. C'est... téléphone  
n.m. laisse pas une minute si seulement  
j'aurais la communication Paris-Mimi, je serais  
heureux, mais je crains que le ligne est coupée.  
Ce soir je dine en ville. Je te raconterai  
tout cela demain. Ce promet d'être amusant.  
Ma plus douce tendresse et mes meilleurs

Caricatures de Guy de Maupassant

E. Le Deley, imp.-édit. 127, Boulevard de Sébastopol, Paris.



# French Postcards – Just Desserts



## UNE BELLE DÉBACLE DE ZEPPELINS

Du 19 au 21 Octobre 1917, sur environ 11 appareils partis pour bombarder l'Angleterre, 7 ont atterri soit abattus, soit désemparés, 1 reste intact en notre possession; les autres sont disparus.

Visé, Paris



## eBay Image

## Correspondance

Madame  
Young  
3 rue de la Harpe  
Paris

by Henry C. W.  
I. 49. ~~John~~ Libelline  
et Huelles hemis  
Houces covered.  
from H.

*John H. Hume*





# French Postcards – Rare Humor



# French Postcards – Rare Humor



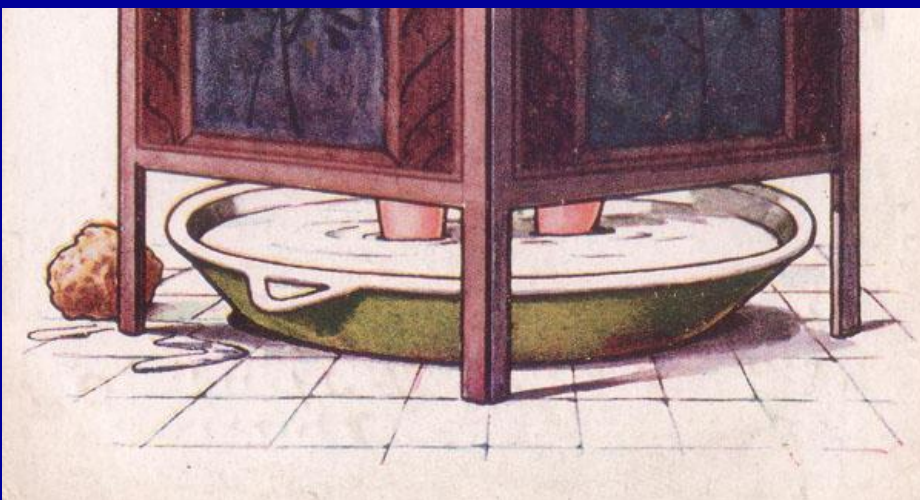
**Damn those Zeppelins !**

From Icare #137, *Zeppelin* Vol.2, 1991, p.118





## British Postcards



# British Postcards - Outrage



"Post The Past" postcards  
No.27 Humberside in the First World War  
( ISBN 1 870001 11 7 )  
Local History Archives Unit

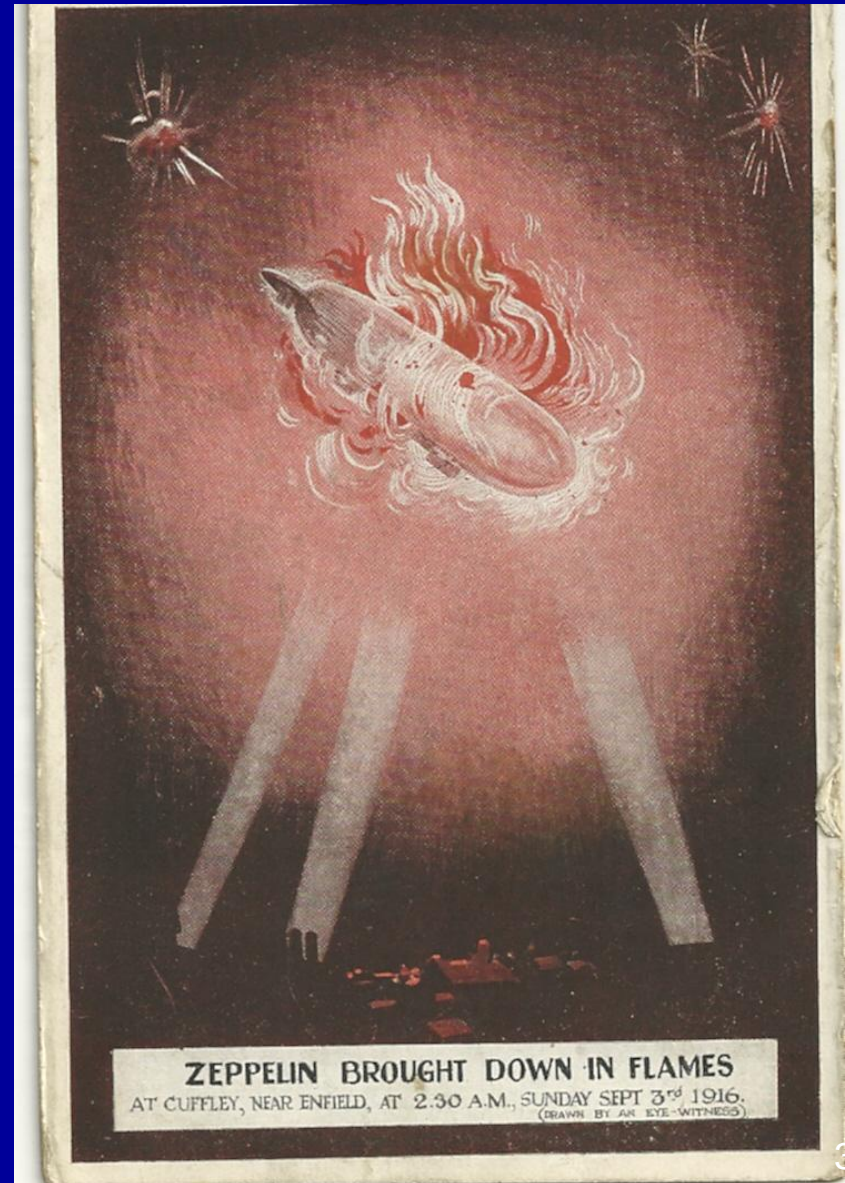
BOMB DAMAGE, QUEEN STREET, HULL  
FOLLOWING ZEPPELIN RAID ON 6TH JUNE 1915

Postcard reproduced by permission  
of Museum of Army Transport,  
Beverley, accession no LECMT 2448.  
(Original photograph by Barnard, Hull  
Copy print by Ted Tuxworth).

(Reprint)



# British Postcards – Fiery Revenge



# British Postcards – Fiery Revenge





# British Postcards – Fiery Revenge

*Passed for publication by the Press Bureau on the 10th Feb. 1917.*

POST CARD

Lieutenant W. L. ROBINSON, V.C., Royal Flying Corps. On Sept. 3rd, 1916, he flew up to tackle a Zeppelin single handed and succeeded in bringing it down in a mass of flames, near Cuffley in Hertfordshire.

ADDRESS  
THIS SIDE

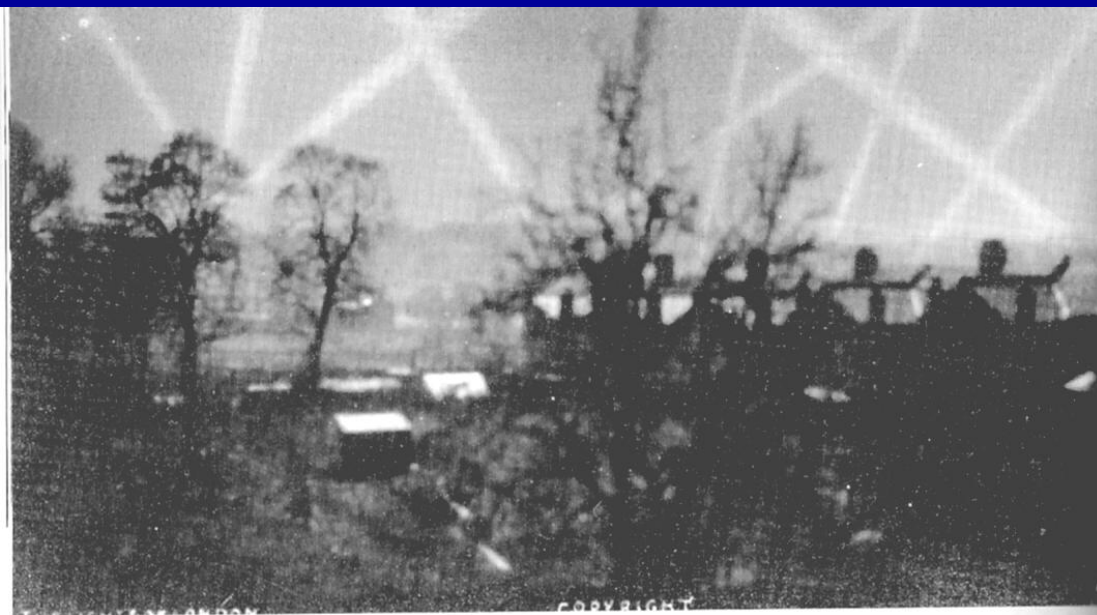
“Passed for publication by the Press  
Bureau on the 10th Feb. 1917”



ISSUED BY WALKER HARRISON & GARTHWAITES, LTD., LONDON, BISCUIT MANUFACTURERS

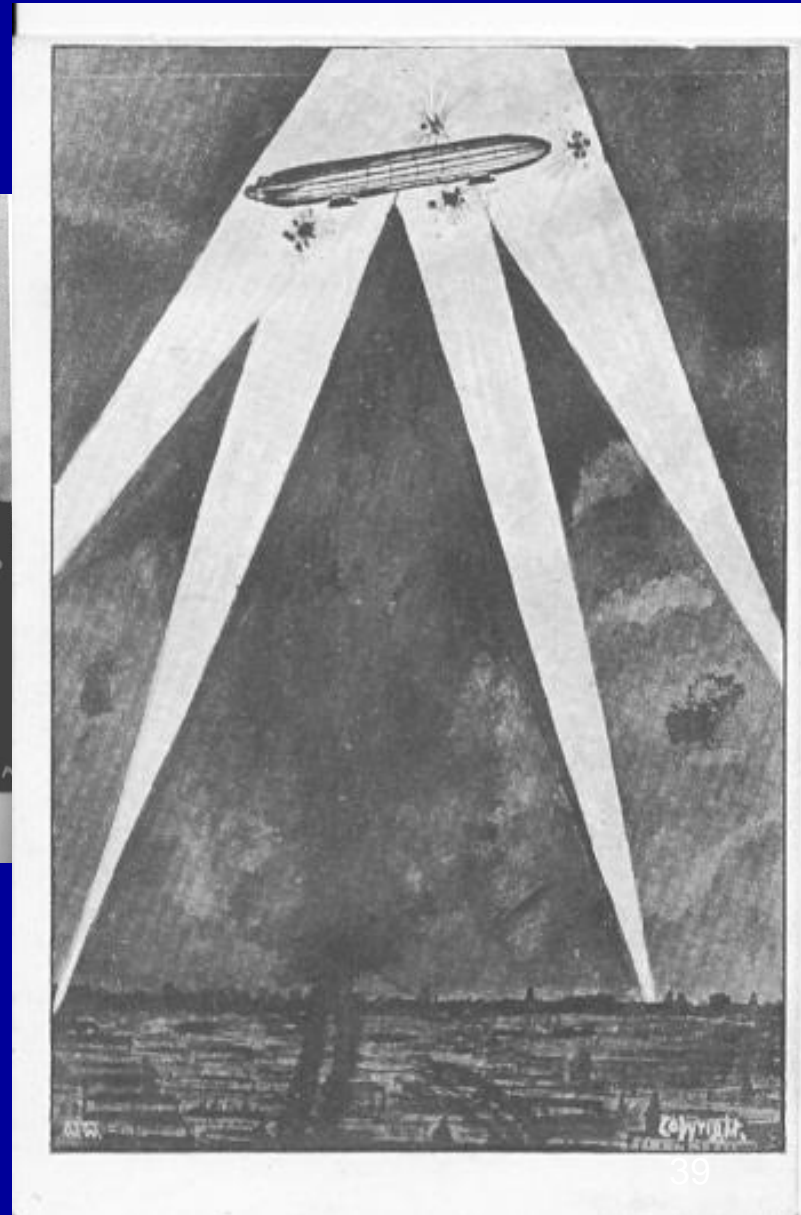


# British Postcards – Fascination



London by night – the view from Hendon.

David Bilton, *The Home Front in the Great War*, 2003, p.76





# British Postcards – Fascination



# British Postcards – Hero Worship



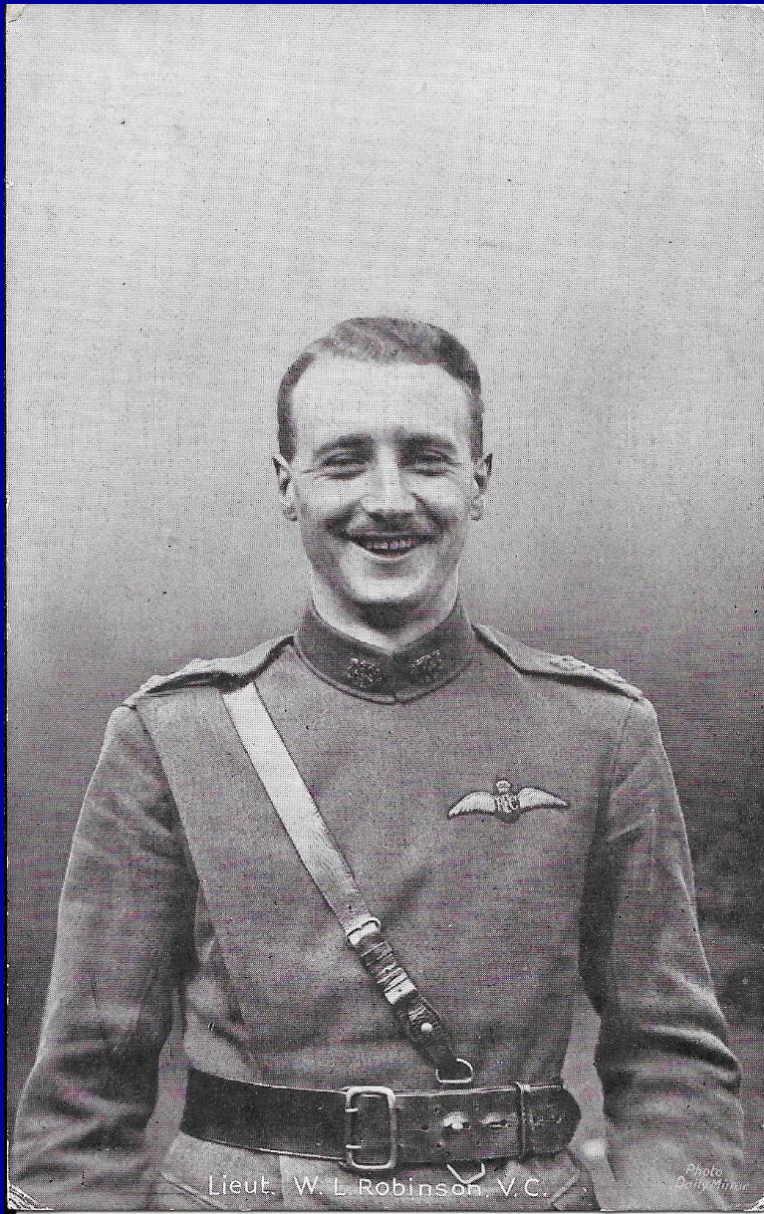
**Lt. William Leefe Robinson, V.C.**

**From *Zeppelin!* by Ray Rimell, 1984, pp.103,105**





# British Postcards – Hero Worship & Humour

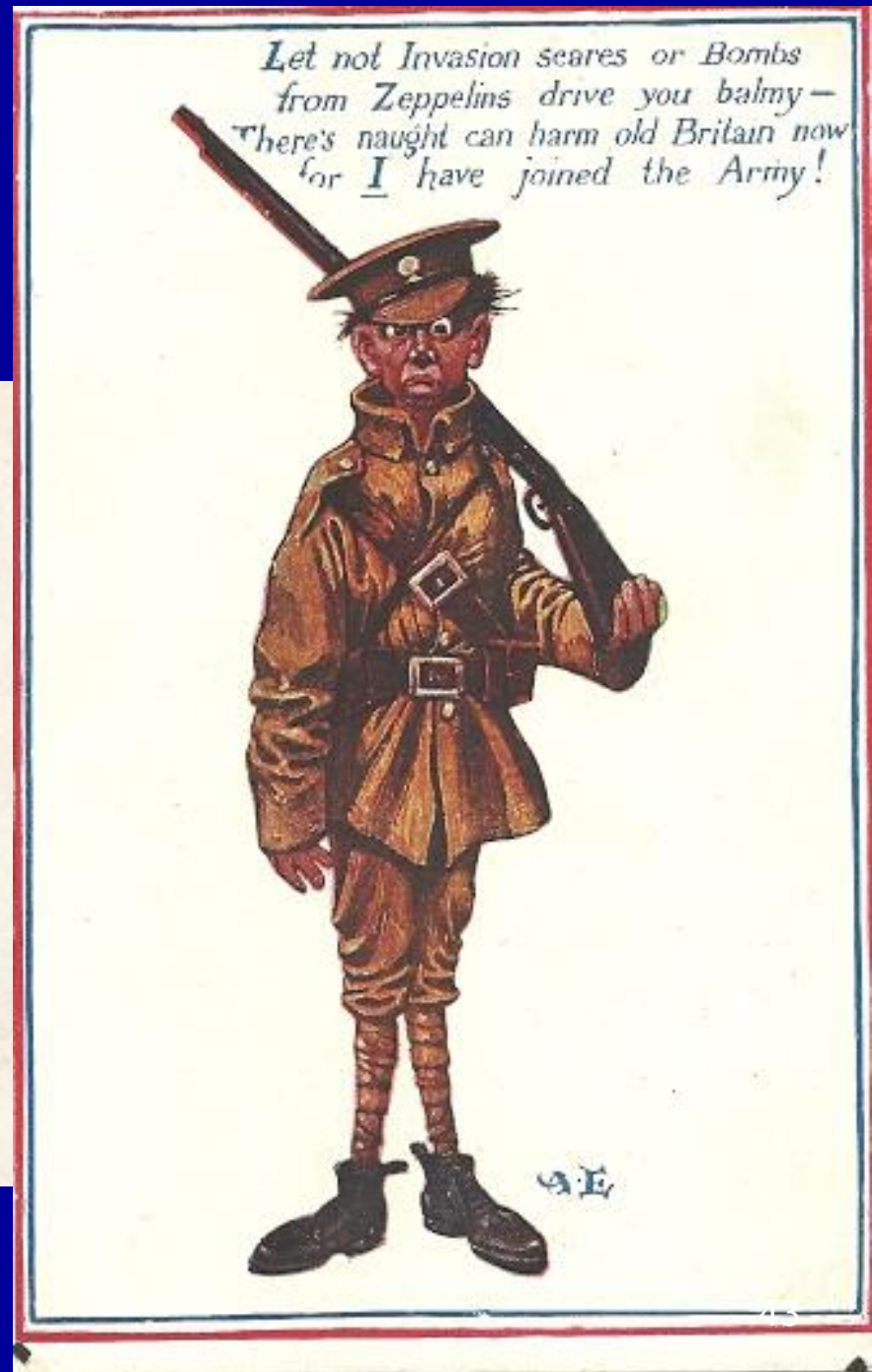


# British Postcards – British Humour



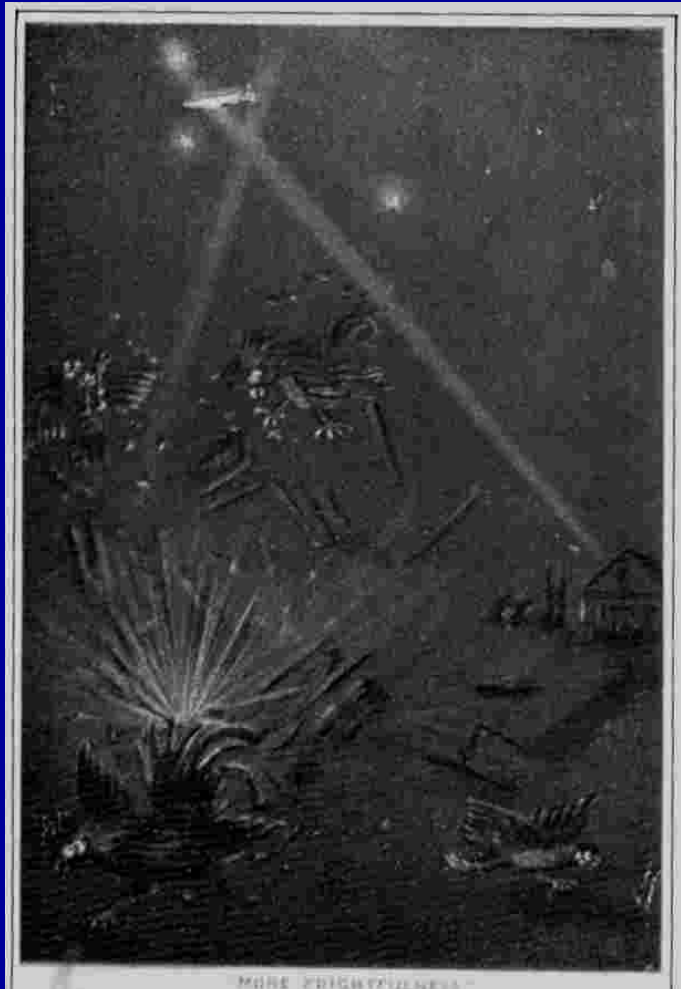
WHO BROKE THAT PLATE, MARY?  
I DON'T KNOW MUM. IT MUST HAVE BEEN ONE OF THEY ZEPPERLINS!

*Cross & Cockade International*  
Email Newsletter (David  
Marks Collection)



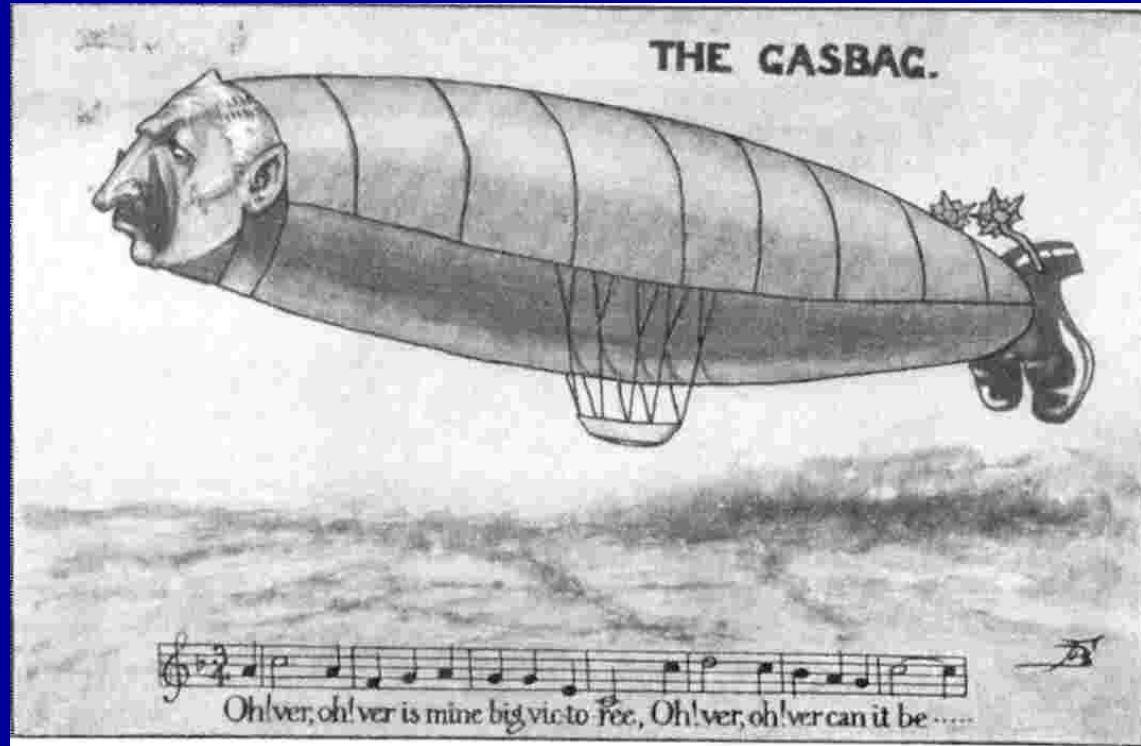


# British Postcards – Mocking the Hun



Leeder, p.54

**“Our gallant airmen successfully  
bombed a huge shell factory”  
- From official German report**



Leeder, p.26

# British Postcards – British Humour



Leeder, p.52

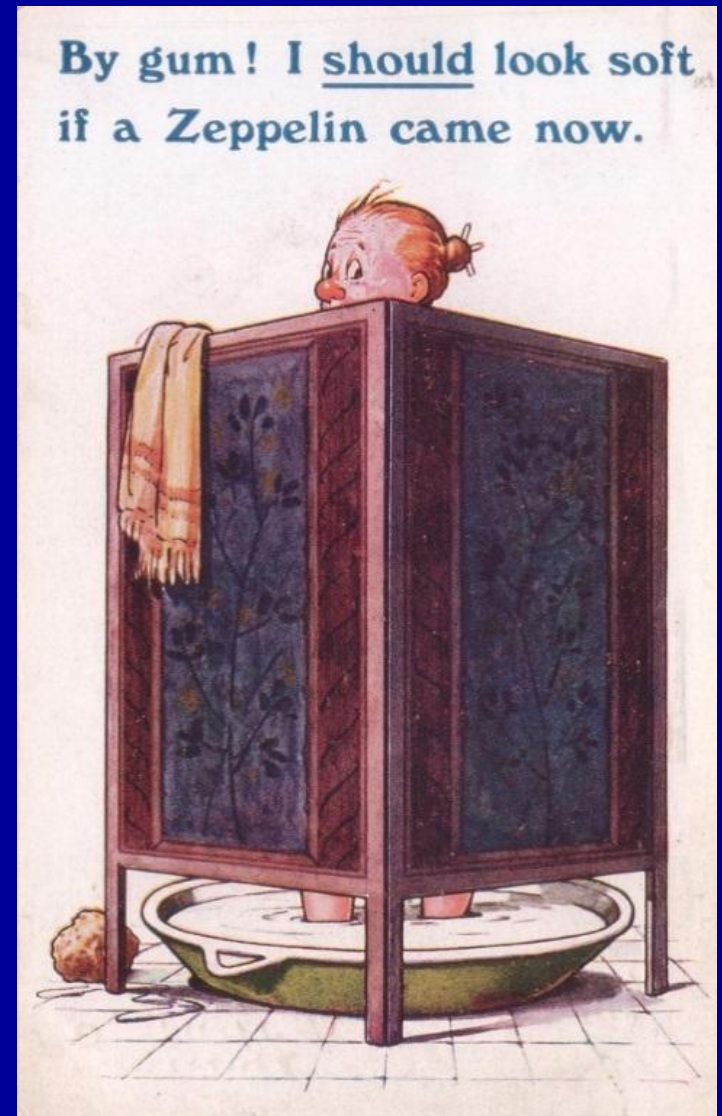


Rimell, p.56

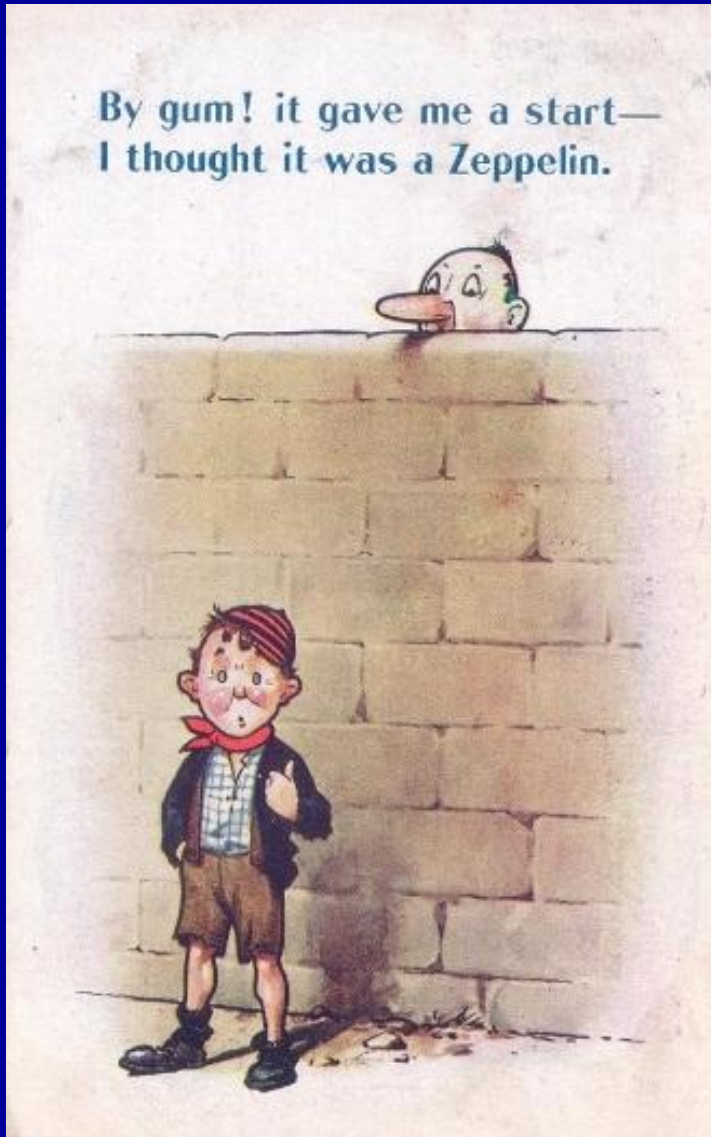


# British Postcards – British Humour

*Cross & Cockade International*  
Email Newsletters (David  
Marks Collection)



# British Postcards – Humour





# Sources

David Bilton, *The Home Front in the Great War*, 2003

Cross & Cockade International  
Email Newsletters (David  
Marks Collection)

Icare #137, *Zeppelin Vol.2*, 1991

Dr. Hans Hildebrandt, *Zeppelin-  
Denkmal für das Deutsche Volk*,  
copyright, undated

David B. Leeder, *Aviation, Vol.1,  
Balloons & Airships: A Portrait in  
Old Picture Postcards*, 1991

Ray Rimell, *Zeppelin!*, 1984

Martin Stevens, *French Postcards: An  
Album of Vintage Erotica*, Undated

Suddaby Collection

