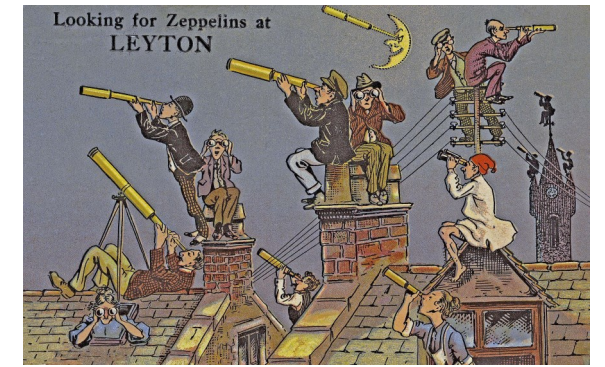




# Leytonstone and the Bombers

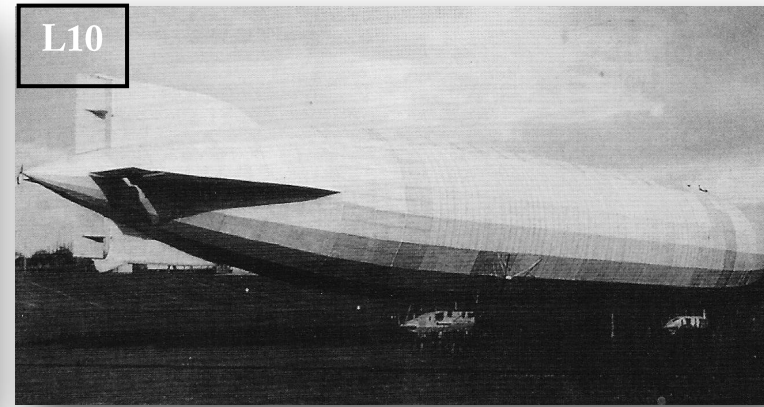
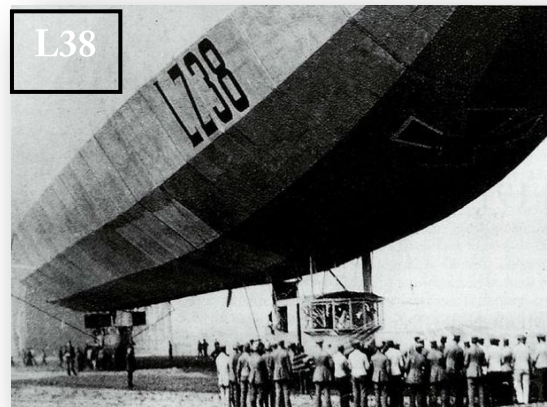
The deliberate bombing of civilians was an attempt to undermine the resolve of the British people and to boost German morale. It was not going to be a 'war winning' campaign in itself, but these attacks required that ten squadrons of fighters and many personnel were retained in defence of the UK and not sent to France. That was significant.



Contemporary Postcard



Though fearsome, the Zeppelin was not a particularly effective weapon and eventually attacks were made by the far more lethal Gotha Bombers.



Headteachers in schools were given guidance as to their actions during an attack but one School Log reads, 'Several boys absent owing to their houses being demolished in the Zeppelin raid of Tuesday'.

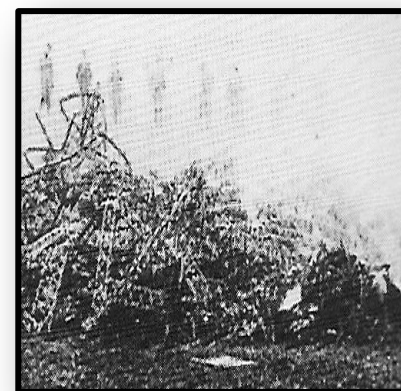
**31st. May 1915** Erich Linnarz captained the first Zeppelin to attack London. His bombing started in Stoke -Newington and ended over Wanstead Flats. No one was seriously hurt in Leytonstone but overall the attack killed 7 and injured 35. This craft took part in five raids but the following June it was destroyed by British aircraft while parked at its airfield.

**17th. August 1915** It is no consolation to those who died that Captain Fredrich Wenke thought he was bombing central London . His bombs actually fell between Lloyd Park Walthamstow and Southwell Grove Road causing 10 deaths and 48 injuries. One man died in Leytonstone. This craft was destroyed by lightning the following September.

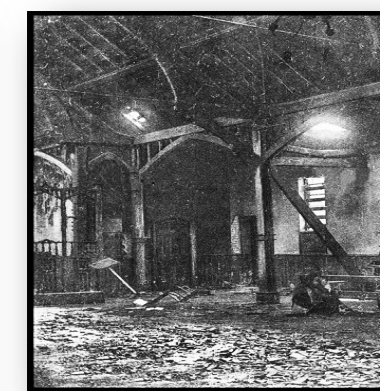
The grim statistics for Leyton and Leytonstone was that during the bombing, 18 people were killed, 82 injured and 1300 houses damaged or destroyed. St. Augustine's Church in Leytonstone (see below) was bombed as was the Midland Road Station. This obviously caused Leytonstone people severe concerns and a significant number of people were treated for shock and fear of Zeppelin raids.



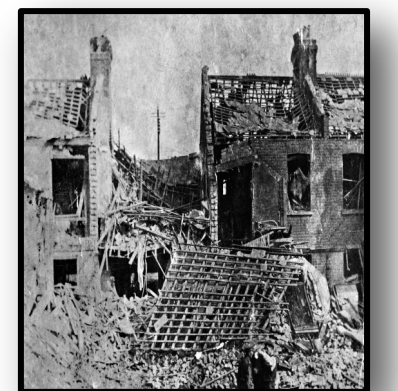
**23rd. September** Leytonstone escaped the bombing of this craft but not from the fear and disruption it provoked. Thinking he was over Chelsea, Heinrich Mathy dropped his bombs on Leyton, killing 8 and injuring 31 people. This Zeppelin was shot down by a British fighter near Potters Bar on 1/2 October.



Wreckage of L31



St. Augustine



Bomb damage

