



Fairlop's Zeppelin Hero, comparative documents

Extract from the Essex and County Standard, 30th September 1916 (page 6)

“I got out of bed,” states the cottager, “and there was the airship right overhead. It seemed to be going on, but all at once it turned, and I saw it coming down at the back of my cottage. No, I didn’t go out; but I saw the men getting out of the airship, and then I heard a loud explosion. ..”

Then the Germans seem to have come in a body and banged away at the door and side of the cottage. Those inside gave no sign of hearing them. ..

The labourer pushed his wife and children into a back room and hid himself; and the Germans trudged across the field to the roadway...

It has been rumoured very freely that one of the crew, said to be the one detailed to “blow up” or fire the airship, was killed in so doing, and that his remains were still beneath the ship.

There is no confirmation of this report.

Ref: ERO X119/14



**Extract from a letter written by Rose Luard of Little
Wigborough vicarage**

“What apparently actually happened was that the engine began to fail at Tiptree as a Tiptree man told me this morning...

And it (the Zeppelin) had to come down in the very rural reaches of Little Wigborough, only missing a cottage by 40 yards. It looks as if it only missed it by a hairs breadth. Then they set fire to it themselves, which is what we saw. One man was burnt to death, but 21 men weren't hurt. Imagine the feelings of the Cottage woman.

She apparently relieved them by making tea for the whole crew! Whether at the point of the bayonet, or the nose of a revolver history doesn't say, but tea they had. Then the 21 Germans wandered disconsolately along the road til they found a Special Constable, & to him they surrendered!!!”



Extract from an Admiralty Daily Report

DAILY AERONAUTICAL REPORT.

(D.A.R.,No. 196, dated 24th September 1916.)

II. – OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUES.

Air Raid. – 14 or 15 airships participated in the attack on Great Britain last Night...Two of the raiders were brought down in Essex. They were both large Airships of a new pattern. One of the raiders fell in flames, and was destroyed, together with the crew. The crew of 22 officers and men of the second were captured....

Ref: Admiralty: Index to Daily Aeronautical Reports, No's 1 to 250, Vol. 21