

182 Heligoland to Keeling Island

"Squadron-Commander D. A. Spenser Grey, R.N., reports that, as authorised, he carried out, with Lieutenant R. L. G. Marix and Lieutenant S. V. Sippe, a successful attack on the Düsseldorf airship shed.

"Lieutenant Marix's bombs, dropped from 500 feet, hit the shed, went through the roof, and destroyed a Zeppelin. Flames were observed 500 feet high, the result of igniting the gas of an airship. All three officers are safe, but their aeroplanes have been lost.

"The feat would appear to be in every respect remarkable, having regard to the distance—over 100 miles—penetrated into country held by the enemy, and to the fact that a previous attack had put the enemy on their guard and enabled them to mount anti-aircraft guns."

The achievement was of high military importance. Germany could ill spare a battleship of the air, for she had already suffered some losses, and had not many large rigid dirigibles left, whatever the number she may have had under construction. Moreover, she counted greatly on the advantages which her airships would confer on her. The German people had been led to attach very great importance to the work which the Zeppelins, in particular, would do in the course of the war, and the destruction of one of these vessels, while still in Germany, had a notable effect on the population.

They believed each Zeppelin to be a potential agent of destruction against this country, bridging the North Sea, which confers on us immunity from the horrors of the war that is devastating a large part of Central Europe. Their airships