

## The Goole Zeppelin Raid Walking Route

### INTRO

On the 9th August 1915 approximately 60 bombs were dropped on the Town and Port of Goole, killing sixteen civilians and causing much damage to property and industry. The Zeppelin Raid lasted only five minutes but would not be forgotten in the town.

The below route follows the path of Zeppelin L9 as it passed across the town and dropped its bombs. The walk covers a distance of approximately four miles from start to finish, with a further two mile walk back to your starting point.

### Start

The starting point for the tour is the Goole Cemetery, Hook Road. Limited parking is available in the Cemetery and there is roadside parking along Hook Road.



### Point 1 - Interpretation Board

Adjacent to the car park is a heritage board erected in commemoration of the Raid. Take your time to read the information and look at the photos. *Nb. Since the erection of the sign it is now known that sixteen people died in the raid and the 17<sup>th</sup> victim was Alice Smith, who was visiting the Acasters.*



## Point 2 – Zeppelin Victims’ Memorial

*Walk through the Cemetery towards the centre circle which is the resting place of the victims of the Air Raid.*

*This was the route of the funeral procession of the Victims’ Cemetery on the 12th August 1915 and during the unveiling of the Zeppelin Memorial in February 1922.*



The memorial is located over the mass grave of fifteen of the Zeppelin Raid victims. Alice Smith, named on the memorial, is buried in Hook Parish Church. The Memorial was the first to be erected of three known memorials which list the Civilian victims of Zeppelin Air Raids, during the First World War, and was funded by public subscription. The Memorial was restored in 2015 to mark the Centenary Commemorations of the Raid.

## Point 3 – Goole-Skelton Railway Bridge

*Leave the Cemetery by the Riverbank entrance and turn left and walk along the Riverbank towards the Goole-Skelton Railway Bridge.*

*On the opposite side of the river is the small hamlet of Skelton.*



After circling the East Coast for several hours at 11.15pm on the 9th August 1915 the sentries on the Bridge heard Zeppelin L9 approaching Goole. The Zeppelin had been led to Goole from the Brough area by a Goods Train travelling along the railway line from Hull. Three bombs dropped in the fields on the Skelton side of the bridge, failing to explode, followed by two more in the River.

## Point 4 – Hook Road

*Leave the Riverbank using the foot path on your left, just before the bridge, back onto Hook Road and head left towards Goole. Between Hawthorne Terrace and Salisbury Avenue the area was still largely open fields.*



After dropping its first bombs the Zeppelin flew towards the town. Bombs were dropped in the Barley Field at Kingsway End and in the fields at Jessie's Back and Kelsey's Garden.

## Point 5 – Shuffleton

*Keep walking along Hook Road until you reach Fountayne Street. The area on your right is the later development of Shuffleton and is still populated by Victorian terraces and early Edwardian detached and semi-detached houses.*



The Zeppelin continued to fly over Fountayne Street, Salisbury Avenue and Marshfield Road. Witnesses tell how the town was lit by bright search lights.

## Point 6 - Axholme Street

*Carry on walking along Hook Road until you reach Axholme Street on your right. Cross the road and start walking along the street.*

*Axholme Street is one of the few surviving smaller working-class Victorian terraces of the town.*



The first bomb to score a direct hit was in Axholme Street, where an incendiary bomb passed through the roof of a house and set light. No casualties were caused.

## Point 7 – Sotheron Street

*At the end of Axholme Street turn right and walk along the back lane. Then turn left onto Carlisle Street and left again onto Sotheron Street.*



The Zeppelin begun dropping incendiary bombs around Shuffleton in the area of Back Hook Road and Sotheron Street. Shuffleton was described as being ablaze.

## Point 8 – 2 Sotheron Street

*Walk towards the end of Sotheron Street and stop by the stone clad house, which is No.2 Sotheron Street.*

*The property was the home and Fish & Chip Shop of the Acaster Family.*



Eating a late supper were Sarah Acaster, her two daughters Sarah and Kezia, and their friend Alice Smith. Reports tell how one, or two, incendiary bombs fell through the roof of the building quickly setting it on fire. Sarah, her daughters and Alice were all killed.

## Point 9 – Victoria Street

*Turn to face towards Victoria Street, with the Shopping Precinct in the background.*

*The street was once one of Goole's main shopping streets.*



The next bomb fell opposite the Acaster's house cutting through the flagstone and being forced into the earth. A further bomb then fell through the roof of No.29 Victoria Street where the Ellis' were asleep. The elderly Mr and Mrs Ellis escaped injury and were later rescued. Further incendiaries then fell onto the town in the area of Back Bell Vue Terrace, causing fires.

## Point 10 – Belle Vue Terrace

*Turn around and walk along Victoria Street until you reach Hook Road. Turn right and follow the road around until you reach the position of Belle ue Terrace. The area you have walked past on your right was once the Back streets of North Street and Belle Vue Terrace.*



At no.1 Belle Vue Terrace an incendiary bomb fell through the roof of the Harrison house. Beatrice and her oldest daughter Mary were downstairs, and escaped injury. Her youngest daughters Alice and Florence had been put to bed. The sisters were badly burnt by the incendiary bomb but were rescued from the house by a neighbour. Alice and Florence later died of their injuries on the 11th August 1915.

## Point 11 – Bromley's Yard and Back North Street

*Cross over the road and you will see the Peacock Hotel. The Hotel is the remaining section of this part of the Aire & Calder Company Town. Walk further along North Street until you reach Burlington House. To the front of North Street was shops and houses. Behind the main street was several small back streets and yards, consisting of enclosed areas of small cottages. The rear of Burlington House roughly marks where Bromley's Yard stood and a little further back was the site of Back North Street.*



Upon reaching North Street and George Street the Zeppelin started to drop high explosive bombs. In Bromley's Yard a high explosive bomb scored a direct hit on two houses in the small cluster of cottages. At No.3 were Agnes Pratt and her baby daughter Margaret, and at No.5 Grace Woodall and her young daughter Alice. Agnes, Mary and Annie died instantly of their wounds, and Grace died of her wounds a few hours later.

A high explosive bomb next fell onto No.6 Back North Street where the Carroll family were at home, asleep. James and Mary Carroll and their daughters Alice (4) and Gladys (3) died instantly of their wounds in the rubble of their house. Three of the neighbouring properties had their back walls blown in. At No.4 Back North Street Violet Stainton, visiting her Granny, was rescued from the rubble of the collapsed house but later died of her wounds in Bartholomew Hospital. Violet's Grandmother Hannah Goodall died instantly of her wounds.



### Point 12 – Ouse Street

*Walk along North Street until you reach the Job Centre and turn left and walk towards Goole Leisure Centre. You are now in the area of George Street and Ouse Street. The area was a mix of cottages, houses and shops.*



A heavy explosive next fell onto Back Ouse Street, near TK Willson's Bakery, making a hole in the wall. The floors were all blown down into the cellar, furniture reduced to rubble and pictures hanging akimbo. Another High Explosive was dropped in the area of 45 & 47 George Street, causing extensive damage to nos.41 to 51. A scene of devastation lay ahead for the rescuers.

### Point 13 – Chapel Street

*Continue walking across the car park towards Petty's Garage, on your right, and head towards Chapel Street. You will now see the old RAOB Club which was the Goole Exchange Building in 1915.*

*The building was also Goole's first Chapel.*



An incendiary bomb next fell onto the Exchange Building but did not light. The first reports of the raid out of Goole were issued from this building at 11.21pm.

### Point 14 – The Dock Wall

*Walk towards the end of Chapel Street and turn right onto Adam Street. Then walk towards the Docks on Aire Street and stop opposite the Lowther Hotel. Turn back to look at the Hotel and along Aire Street.*



Roughly opposite the Lowther Hotel the biggest bomb of the raid was dropped. The bomb, described as 'a beast', was either an aerial mine or 200kg bomb. The bomb dropped onto the Quay Wall roughly opposite Adam Street. The explosion lifted the stone blocks off the wall and wrecked nearby railway wagons. The hydraulic pipes powering the Coal Hoist in Ouse Dock were broken. The damage to property was extensive with the Lowther Hotel and all of the properties along Aire Street and the Goole Steam Shipping Offices on Church Street having their windows blown in. Thankfully there was no loss of life but if the bomb had dropped several metres in either direction it would have either destroyed Goole's most prestigious buildings or significantly damaged Goole's Coal Shipping Industry.



### Point 15 – The Docks

*By walking across the Lowther Hotel Bridge you can enter Goole Docks. Keep walking to the end of the Bridge and approximately 10 metres to the corner of Bond Island and look back across the Docks. In this view you will see the Pal Line Building where the Hamburg Shed stood. Behind this is the Goole Steam Shipping Offices and the Parish Church; these buildings surround Aldham Dock. To your left is the Gutway which leads towards Railway Dock, which you will see to your far left, with the Tanet Coal Hoist in the distance, and towards the top of Railway Dock is Stanhope Dock.*

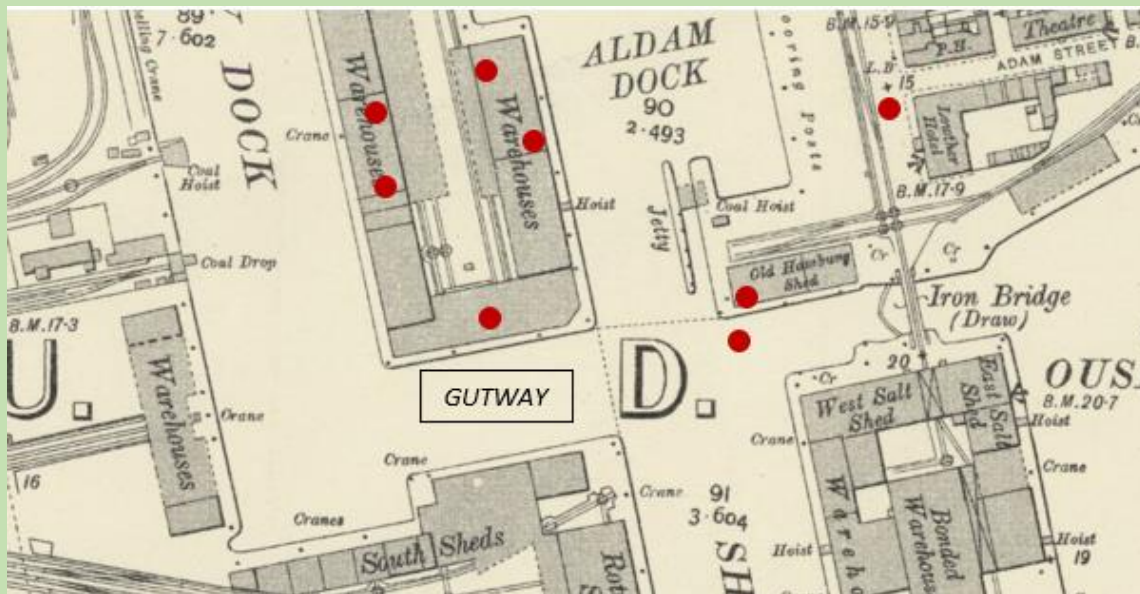


Zeppelin L9 next stopped and paused over Stanhope dock, before then dropping two incendiary bombs. One of which fell onto the Old Hamburg Shed. The shed smouldered for several hours before bursting into flames. Moving across the docks the Zeppelin dropped a high explosive bomb onto a wooden shed and blew it up. An incendiary bomb then dropped onto the east side of Aldam Dock Warehouse.



Goole Zeppelin Raid Walk

Two more bombs then dropped onto the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway warehouse on the east side of Railway Dock. A high explosive then fell onto the woodsheds on the north side of the Gutway, demolishing practically all of the western half of the sheds and badly damaging the remainder.



BOMBS DROPPED ON SHEDS WHERE CROSSES ARE.

## Point 16 – Barge Dock Side

*Keep walking across the docks along the marked route and you will pass over Ocean Lock Gates and enter South Street. Before leaving the Docks you will see Barge Dock, and to the left of this was formerly a row of Houses and Pubs, known as Barge Dock Side.*



Many more bombs were dropped onto Goole Docks. One was reported as dropping into a Tom Pudding moored up in Barge Dock. Thankfully all of the ships moored in Goole Docks escaped being hit. A bomb reported as dropping into one of the loaded Tom Puddings was later found only to be a false alarm. In 1925 a dredger pulled up one of the unexploded bombs.

## Point 17 - Bridge Street

*Leave the docks and turn right onto South Street. Walk along the street and turn right onto Bridge Street. Keep walking until you reach the Goole Mariner's Club on your right. In front of you on your right is the west side of Railway Dock. On the opposite side of the road was the location of the Lancashire and York Railway Goods Yards and Coal Sidings. Just before this was the location of New Victoria Street. Bridge Street itself was once a residential street with houses, shops and pubs lining both sides of the road.*

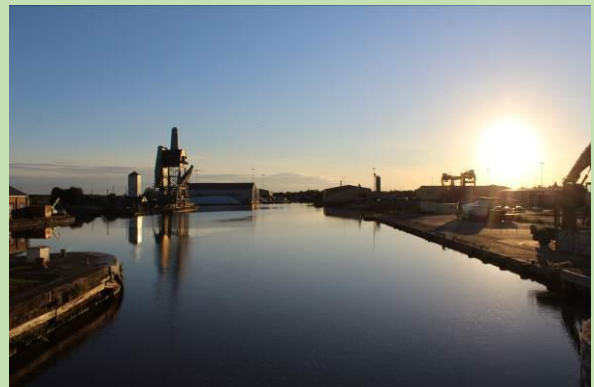


After dropping bombs on the docks Zeppelin L9 dropped a high explosive bomb onto the Coal Sidings. The bomb caused damage to the windows along New Victoria Street and Bridge Street. The explosion left a large crater; the force moving a 14 ton coal truck and breaking and bending the railway lines. An NER Railway Truck was blown into fragments and a Goole Steam Shipping van smashed into pieces.

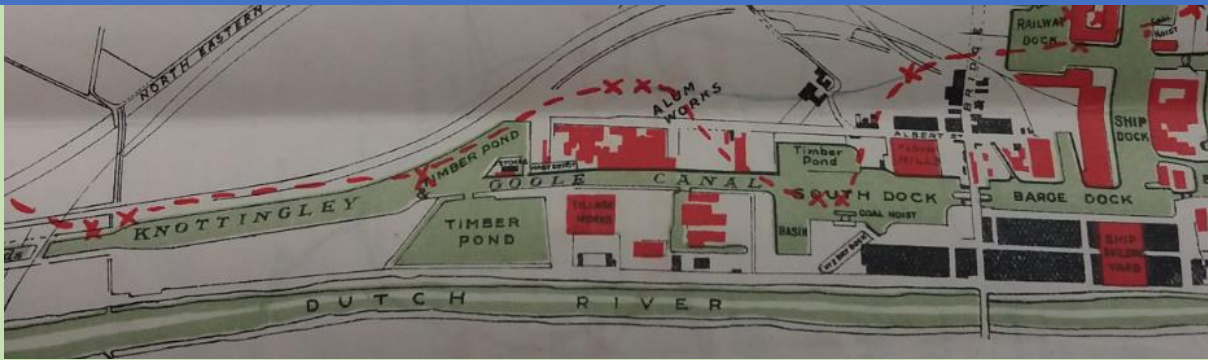


### Point 18 – South Dock & Alum Works

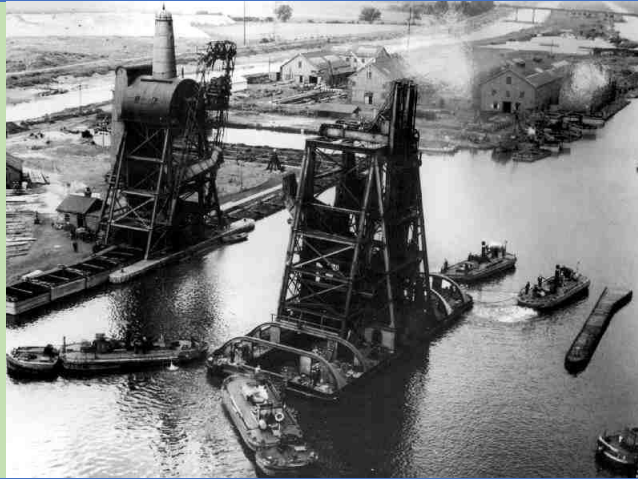
*Turn around and walk back towards Old Goole. When you reach the Dutch River Bridge cross the road and look across the Docks. The stretch of water you can see is South Dock and roughly where the barges are moored is the Aire and Calder Navigation (Goole-Knottingley Canal). In front of where the barges are moored was the old Timber Pond and beyond the barges on your right was the location of the Goole Alum Works.*



Zeppelin L9 next dropped two incendiary bombs into the fields to the north of the Alum Works and further bombs were noted as dropping in the Timber Pond and along the canal. No damage was caused by the bombs.



Section of Aire & Calder Navigation Bomb Map (©West Yorkshire Archives)



### Point 19 – The Railway Sidings

Turn to your right and walk towards the junction of Normandy Way. Up to the 1960s the site of Normandy Way was a mass of railway lines and junctions, as shown on the map in Point 17.



The last act of Zeppelin L9 was to scatter bombs in the Railway Sides –

*“At about 11.20pm Lieutenant Walton was on his way to visit the Dutch River Bridge Guard, in the area of the Coal Sidings, when he heard the Airship pass over him. When he was about 150 to 200 yards away from the Bridge, passing wagons standing in the siding, Lt. Walton heard several loud explosions, to his rear, over Goole in a North East direction. He did not know what the bombs were but heard the whirring of an engine over his head and more explosions. Several bombs dropped from*

### Goole Zeppelin Raid Walk

*50 to 100 yards away along the embankment of the Doncaster line and several fires broke out in the grass and on the line, creating several craters, but causing little damage."*

In total 16 Bombs were dropped between the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway sidings and North Eastern Railway Pass Line, in the area of the Alum Works.

### End

Once the bombs had finished dropping, the buzzer sounded. A witness of the raid describing the buzzer as "A useless and apparently ironical proceeding, as the inhabitants of the town were by the time fully aware of the explosion of bombs and crash of damaged property."

Zeppelin L9 only flew for around five minutes over Goole, with the devastation extending beyond this small period of time. L9 then flew towards Selby, later dropping bombs at Hotham, and leaving the East Coast at just past midnight.

*Re-trace your route back to your starting point, or walk in a straight line until you reach Stanhope Street. Then turn right onto Stanhope Street, at the Clock Tower roundabout take the second right onto North Street. Follow North Street around onto Hook Road and then keep walking until you return to Goole Cemetery.*