Caius WW1 War Dead

At this stage of the war no one any longer believed that it would soon be over. The first New Year of the war started with both sides committed to the deadlock of the trenches. 1915 was not a good year for the Allies and one in which the Germans undoubtedly had the advantage. The major fighting early in the year took place in Artois and Champagne and, fortunately, few Caians died during this period.

Meanwhile, back at home, January 19th -20th 1915 saw the first Zeppelin attacks. Apparently the Kaiser initially forbade raids on London as he was so closely related to the Royal Family. On the morning of the 19th two Zeppelins, the L3 and L4, took off from Fuhlsbüttel in Germany and reached the Norfolk coast. One turned north and one south to drop their bombs and incendiaries. Great Yarmouth, King’s Lynn and Dereham were targeted, killing 9 people and causing damage to property.

The population believed an invasion was imminent and morale was low since the airships were silent, appearing without warning. Attacks continued throughout the year ending when the RFC started to use incendiary bullets to ignite the hydrogen gas of the balloons. In an infamous event in 1916, a Zeppelin was shot down over the North Sea. The fishing vessel, the King Stephen, came upon the crew clinging to the wreckage and declined to rescue them. Reputedly, they feared that they would be taken over and forced to sail for Germany. The Germans all drowned.

Dereham in 1915 after the Zeppelin Raid.