

**Report by Peter McAusland, Detective Inspector,
Edinburgh City Police,
on the Zeppelin Air Raid, 2-3 April 1916**

National Records of Scotland, HH31/21/8 fols.27-49

[page 1] EDINBURGH CITY POLICE.

5th March [April] 1916

REPORT BY Peter McAusland, Detective Inspector

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT

Air Raid on Edinburgh

At 7 pm on Sunday 2nd April 1916 a telephone message was received from the Post Office – as prearranged with the Military authorities in the event of a threatened Air Raid – to be prepared to take action.

At 9.05 pm the order from the Military to “Take Air Raid Action” was received. Immediately on receipt of this order the Electric Light Department was notified to lower all lights, all traffic was stopped and the lights on vehicles were extinguished.

The Central Fire Station and the Red

Cross were also notified.

The Police Headquarters stations were informed and all men then off duty of the Regular and Special Force were turned out.

At 11.50 pm the first reports of bombs exploding were heard in the direction of Leith and from that time until about 12.25am Monday 3rd April 24 bombs were dropped in the City of Edinburgh -

Incendiary 6

High Explosive 18

1. The first bomb which fell within the city was a high explosive one and landed at 11.50 pm in a vacant piece of ground at Bellevue Terrace – the north eastern part of/
of the City – no person was injured by this explosion and damage to property consisted of windows being smashed in 7 adjoining streets.
2. The second bomb dropped in Edinburgh was an incendiary one and fell on the

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roadway in the Mound about 400 yards from Edinburgh Castle and almost due south from Bellevue Terrace.

3. The third was a high explosive bomb and fell on the roof of dwelling house at 39 Lauriston Place occupied by Dr John McLaren wrecking the roof, ceiling and inner wall dividing this house from No. 41.

Although both premises were occupied none of the inmates were injured. A man who was on the street in Graham Street about 80 yards west was however injured by a portion of the bomb and has since died.

4. An explosive bomb fell in the grounds of George Watson's College, about 150 yards due south of 39 Lauriston Place. No person injured.

5. An incendiary bomb fell in the Meadows.

6. About 11.55 pm a high explosive bomb fell on the tenement 82 Marchmont Crescent exploded/

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exploded on striking, a large portion of the shell travelling downwards through the ceilings and flooring of three flats and

landed on the floor of ground flat house
No. 80 Marchmont Crescent.
No person was injured here.

7. A high explosive bomb fell on the tenement 183 Causewayside which consists of single and double room houses. Six persons were injured and the building practically wrecked.
8. At 31 Hatton Place an incendiary bomb fell in the garden in rear of this villa doing no damage.
9. An incendiary bomb fell in the garden in rear of villa 28 Blacket Place doing no damage.
10. An incendiary bomb was dropped in the grounds of the Royal Infirmary.
11. A high explosive bomb fell on the pavement in Grassmarket immediately in front of the "White Hart" Hotel, No. 34, injuring 4 people – one of whom has since died.
12. A high explosive bomb fell on the

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Castle/

Castle Rock, south west corner.

13. A high explosive bomb fell on the County Hotel, 21 Lothian Road, injuring very slightly one inmate. The roof and interior of the building were badly damaged.
14. An explosive bomb fell in the valley of the Water of Leith opposite Coltbridge Gardens.
15. An explosive bomb fell in the valley of the Water of Leith near the Mill Lade.
16. An explosive bomb fell in the valley of the Water of Leith near to Donaldson's Hospital School.
17. In Marshall Street, a working class tenement, an explosive bomb fell on the pavement opposite No. 16 about 12.40am from which six persons were killed and seven injured.
18. At Haddon's Court, Nicolson Street an explosive bomb was dropped and three persons injured.

19. An explosive bomb fell on the tenement
69 St Leonard's Hill killing a child and
injuring two people.

20/

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20. In the King's Park, southern portion, an
incendiary bomb was dropped.

21. In King's Park, southern portion, an explosive
bomb was dropped, damaging the boundary wall.

22. In King's Park, southern portion, an explosive
bomb was dropped.

23. In King's Park, southern portion, an explosive
bomb was dropped.

24. In the grounds of Prestonfield House,
Priestfield Road an incendiary bomb was
dropped.

The following is a list of casualties.

1. Nil

2. Nil

3. David Robertson (27) Discharged soldier, residing at 4 Graham Street – struck in abdomen by piece of metal from a bomb and died in the Royal Infirmary.
4. Nil
5. Nil
6. Nil
7. (1) Rose Fairley or Porteous, 183 Causewayside – Injury to right foot – detained in Royal Infirmary – not serious.
(2) Private Thomas Porteous (17) 183 Causewayside – on furlough
Cuts and burns on head and face, detained in Royal Infirmary/
[page 6] Infirmary – injuries not serious.
(3) William Porteous (13) 183 Causewayside - cuts on head – not serious.
(4) Jessie Hyndman or Halkett (25) 183 Causewayside cuts on head, face, left hand and shock, detained in Royal Infirmary – not serious.
(5) William Halkett (30) Carter, 183 Causewayside cut hand – allowed home – injury slight
(6) Beatrice Pinkerton, 2 months, 183 Causewayside slight shock.

8. Nil

9. Nil

10. Nil

11. William Breakey (45) Carter, Crown Exchange Buildings
Grassmarket. Struck on right breast by
fragment of bomb and died in Royal Infirmary.

Injured

(1) Michael King (48) Labourer, 5 Castle Wynd, Grassmarket
seriously injured on right shoulder and left leg
detained in Royal Infirmary.

(2) Catherine Cavennagh or O'Donnell (36) 26 Grassmarket
injured on right forearm by broken glass, injury

(3) Robert Aitchison (44) Hawker, 2 Castle Wynd
injured by broken glass falling, flesh wound
on back, legs, left forearm and throat.

12. Nil

13/

[page 7] 13. Isabella Tough Officer or Ross (40) County Hotel,
21 Lothian Road – slight cut on right cheek
by broken glass.

14. Nil

15. Nil

16. Nil

17. Killed

(1) William Smith (15) Waiter, 16 Marshall Street

(2) John Smith (41) Tinsmith, 16 Marshall Street

(3) Henry George Rumble (17) 16 Marshall Street

(4) David Thomas Graham (5) 16 Marshall Street

(5) William Ewing (23) Hairdresser, 33 Marshall Street

(6) Victor McFarlane Hotel Waiter, 16 Marshall Street

Injured

(1) Margaret Hopetown or Bell (38) 10 Marshall Street,
cut on head – injury slight

(2) Jessie Hossack or Dryden (42) 33 Marshall Street,
cut on face – injury slight

(3) Janet Paton or Todd (70) 12 Marshall Street
Cut on face – not serious

(4) Eveline Todd (3 years), shock – detained in Royal
Infirmary.

(5) William Rumble (40) 16 Marshall Street,
one eye destroyed – detained in Infirmary.

(6) James Smith (12) 16 Marshall Street, cut
on leg – injury slight.

(7) Private Thomas Donoghue (24) $\frac{3}{4}$ Royal Scots,
stationed at Loanhead, severe injuries
to abdomen, slight wound right leg, small

wound/
[page 8] wound on head – detained in Royal Infirmary.

18. Injured

(1) Edward Arbuthnot (34) Slater, 112 Nicolson Street
wound right leg – detained in royal Infirmary
injury not serious.

(2) James Farquhar (74) 122 Nicolson Street,
slight injuries to right leg and thigh.

(3) Helen Mason or Brown (63) 16 Marshall Street,
cut on chin – slight.

19. Killed

Cora Edmond Bell, 4 years, 69 St Leonard's Hill

Injured

(1) Isabella Bertram or Bell (360 69 St Leonard's Hill,
right hand injured & suffering from shock
detained in Royal Infirmary.

20. Nil

21. Nil

22. Nil

23. Nil

24. Nil

Damage to property is as follows.

1. The windows of about 20 houses in Bellevue Terrace, in front and rear were blown out.

Almost/

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almost all the windows, front and rear, of dwelling houses in tenements 48 and 58 Rodney Street were blown out and in many cases the framework was damaged.

The plaster of ceiling in common stair 48 Rodney Street fell. The windows of 9 shops in this street were broken, also 30 windows of Canonmills School and 6 of Neil's Printing Works.

The windows of twenty one tenements in Heriothill Terrace were broken.

Bellevue Crescent – the windows of five tenements and that of five maindoor houses in this crescent were smashed and 7 windows broken in Bellevue Parish Church.

Cornwallis Place – the glass of two tenements, a house and a shop were broken.

Summer Place – the glass of houses

in one tenement was broken.

The roof of a corrugated iron shed belonging to the City of Edinburgh Fortress Engineers – which is situated near the spot where the bomb dropped – was knocked off and sides damaged.

2. No damage
3. Roof, ceiling and wall of houses 39 and 41 Lauriston Place seriously damaged, windows blown out, also windows of houses in Lauriston Place and Archibald Place broken.
4. Windows of George Watson's College broken and/
and damage done to stonework on steps there. The windows in rear of houses in Chalmers Street were also blown in as were the windows in portion of the Royal Infirmary.
5. No damage.
6. Roof of tenement 82 Marchmont Crescent destroyed – ceilings and floors of three flats smashed also inside wall – ceiling of main door house No. 80 destroyed.

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7. 183 Causewayside – a 5 flat tenement with two stairs leading to the houses – front outer wall cracked and seriously damaged, the first flat ceiling and stairs displaced and in danger of falling. 4 houses on ground flat practically wrecked and whole building in a dangerous condition. Wall of adjoining stone blown down.
8. No damage
9. No damage
10. No damage
11. Considerable damage done to the “White Hart” Hotel 34 Grassmarket – windows of premises on north side of Grassmarket smashed, also windows smashed in West Bow and West Port.
12. Windows smashed in Castle Terrace, Grindlay Street and Spittal Street.
13. Roof of County Hotel 21 Lothian Road destroyed, rear wall damaged as also 18 rooms of the Hotel. Roof and

gable wall of adjoining Hotel No. 31 destroyed
and/

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and doors and furniture of 3 rooms smashed.

14. Dove cot demolished, part of the embankment of Water of Leith carried away, glass of windows of all dwelling houses in Coltbridge Gardens, 8 in number, totally shattered.
15. Glass in windows of a stable and houses in Belford Park shattered.
16. 28 windows in the Chapel of Donaldson's Hospital broken and windows of houses in Belford Place, Belford Park, Douglas Crescent and Magdala crescent smashed.
17. The staircase and houses on 1st flat at 16 Marshall Street totally wrecked – windows in vicinity smashed – cellars underneath 16 Marshall Street also destroyed.
18. New premises of D & J McCallum, Spirit Merchants in Haddow's Court, Nicolson Street knocked down by explosion and windows in the Court and Nicolson Street smashed as also in Simon Square.

19. Staircase at 69 St Leonard's Hill wrecked and building seriously damaged. Windows in vicinity smashed.
20. Portion of boundary wall knocked down.
21. Slight damage caused to roof of bonded stores adjoining King's park – 341 panes of glass smashed in this store.
22. No damage
23. No damage
24. No damage

A/

[page 12] A full report of the damage and estimate of the cost is to be submitted by the Burgh Engineer – together with a map giving the location of the different explosions.

As it has not been possible to obtain the exact time that the different bombs were dropped it is difficult to say how the airship travelled. It is also stated by Mrs Lawson of Prestonfield Lodge

that she distinctly observed two airships at 12.15 am, one a little higher than the other in the King's park when the bombs were dropped there.

She also says that a strong blinding light was exhibited by one of the airships which then returned towards the centre of the City.

Portions of the bombs which were picked up at various parts have been handed over to the Military authorities for examination.

Peter McAusland
Detective Inspector