

In Search of the Zeppelin War

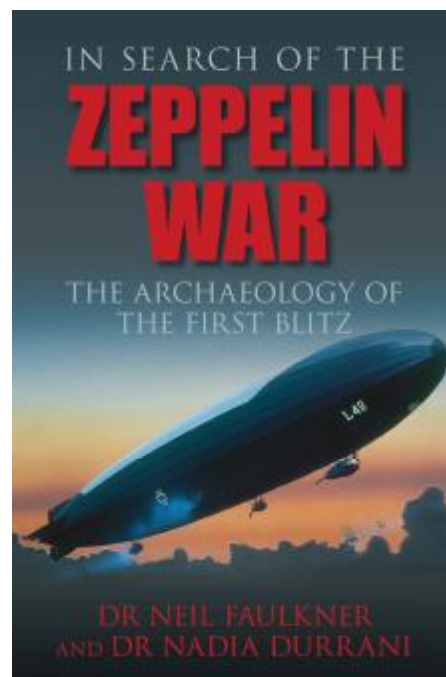
The Archaeology of the First Blitz

Dr Neil Faulkner & Dr Nadia Durrani

By 2.30 a.m. on 17 June 1917, the German Zeppelin L48, flying north along the coast beyond Harwich, was in trouble. The mission had been doomed from the start; Zeppelin L48 crashed in a field at Theberton Hall Farm. After weeks of official salvage, the souvenir-hunters moved in to pick over the site for any micro-debris that had been missed. By late summer, Theberton's 'Zeppelin Field' was reduced to a vivid memory and a set of grainy photos. Of L48 itself - some 200 metres of girders, wires, and fabric - nothing whatsoever remained. Or so it seemed.

...The Zeppelin War over Britain in 1915-18 is sometimes overlooked as the first Battle of Britain. This book comprises a full introduction to the history and archaeology of the first strategic bombing campaign in history – the Zeppelin raids – based on pioneering new excavations and archive research. This is the story of the first Blitz, featuring a full account of the preliminary Zeppelin crash site excavation and also covering airfields, gun sites, searchlights and radio listening posts. The book features contemporary accounts and archive photographs, alongside the reports and photographs from the excavations. Written in collaboration between academic archaeologists and aviation enthusiasts plus metal detectorists, this fascinating project is also the subject of a BBC2 *Timewatch* documentary.

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...Dr Neil Faulkner was educated at King's College, Cambridge, and the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. He has written extensively on archaeology, and his books include *The Sedgeford Hoard* and *The Decline and Fall of Roman Britain*. He is the editor of the magazine *Current Archaeology*, and is involved in excavating an Anglo-Saxon village

Dr Nadia Durrani studied Archaeology and Anthropology at Cambridge and took a PhD in Arabian Archaeology at University College London. She is editor of Britain's best-selling world archaeology magazine, *Current World Archaeology*, and continues to contribute to a raft of books, magazines and scholarly journals. She has travelled widely throughout the world, covering diverse archaeological sites in a professional capacity. They are both involved in the Great War Archaeology Group, which seeks to understand more of the archaeology of the First World War.