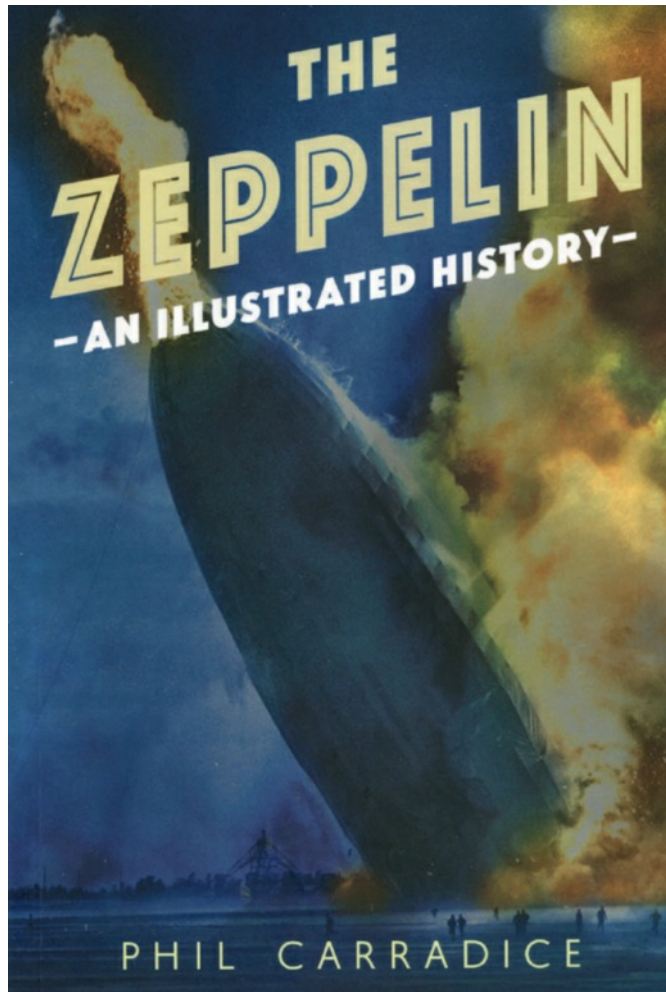


Book Review.



Prolific writer, author and former pupil Phil Carradice has recently had another book published.

This recent book tells the story of the history of airships starting with the humble beginnings with hot air balloons at the end of the nineteenth century and taking us through the development of airships proper up to their demise, spelled by the Hindenburg disaster in 1937. On the way, the use of Zeppelins in World War 1 is detailed and how cities and towns near the East Coast of the UK were for the first time subject to attack from the air and how the vulnerability of airships was exposed.



Sub Lt Warnford destroys Zeppelin LZ37

In 1915 by dropping bombs on it.

Apart from being subject to the vagaries of the weather, being filled with highly flammable hydrogen they were extremely vulnerable to fire. Given this, it seems incredible that in this day of global travel by jet airliner that airships could have been developed for transatlantic commercial purposes, but this is indeed what happened after World War 1. It also seems incredible that people would choose to cross the Atlantic suspended beneath a gigantic bag full of dangerous hydrogen, but this they did.



Advertising the commercial use of flight suspended beneath a large bag of hydrogen!

Lavishly illustrated, the book gives a vivid impression of the huge dimensions of these craft and their use in both war and peace from an artist's impression the first destruction of a Zeppelin by a British aircraft in World War 1 to the almost uncanny sight of the Hindenburg, its tail emblazoned with swastikas, flying over New York in 1937.



The Hindenburg over New York

Written in the author's typical eminently readable style, this book gives a fascinating insight into a piece of 20th century history.

Roger MacCallum, October 2017.