

## 1. "Flood the lowlands!"

Background: With strategic key parts of the Dutch and Belgium territory lying below average sealevel, dikes played an important role to stop fast forward moving German forces. Especially the Netherlands considered the controlled destruction of its own dikes to flood major areas to make them unpassable for the German infantry. This did not happen in the Netherlands as they were not attacked, however, it was done in WW2 when Germany occupied the Netherlands.

In Belgium they actually did it. On the 29.10.1914 the Belgium Forces could no longer stop the German approach and decided to open the dikes. A vast area in vicinity of Nieuwpoort and Diksmuide was flooded. It turned into mudland and was therefore no longer usable for a further approach. This did slow down the German Schlieffenplan, however, it caused significant damage to the Belgium infrastructure with seawater flooding across the farmland making it unusable for many years to come.

An overwhelming German Offensive was unstoppable, but at least could be delayed to buy some more time for the Entente countries to prepare for defense.



Idea: Entente can choose in the event when first German units cross the border to Belgium it they want to flood the country to slow down the German offensive. (This could make the capture of France more challenging). But it must come at a high price for the entente to have a difficult decision.

a) Flood Belgium: Leads to significant industrial damage as critical infrastructure is destroyed. Also leads to a moral dilemma as the Entente decides to 'destroy itself'. Population did not like the idea.

Effect (What do you think?):

- Cost: 30PP (!?) As some Farmland was destroyed.
- Moral decrease of France and Belgium (5-10%?) As Entente 'destroys itself'
- Loose one Railway Strategic Movement? As some railroads were flooded as well?
- But: Few areas in Belgium become Mudland for 2 turns and can only be attacked with huge losses (Like the heavy rain event on Balkans and in France later)
- Belgium "Nieuwpoort" turns into a fortress (in real life Germany could no longer capture it, it was surrounded by water)
- Any ideas? I actually like the difficult choice to make.

## 2. The Zeppelin Disaster Lz37 (Luftfahrzeug Nummer 37)

Background: Germans tried to use Zeppelins for first time in history to add another dimension to warfare. First Bombing raids on UK to follow soon (You already got Gott strafe England event with zeppelins), however, what happens if Entente shoots down a zeppelin? They should also get a boost as they proved to be able to stop these events from happening. This happened 1915 when Lz37 was shot down by a British fighter pilot near the Belgium city of Ghent on her return from a bombardment on Calais. Many UK artists captured the moment when the zeppelin exploded in the air. It was a heroic moment for the royal airforce and lead to a moral boost. (Could be the opposite of the Gott strafe England event, just to rebalance the morale blow)

Effect: + 5 Moral for France and UK when first German zeppelin was shot down.

Any other ideas? I just like the event to be honest. It was well used in UK propaganda.

All crewmembers died but one. One man fall out of the zeppelin into a bed (!) and survived with injuries. 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday I guess. Just some random pictures found on google to capture the story. Most of them made by British artists I think.

