

0. THE GREAT ZEPPELINS - Story Preface

1. THE GREAT ZEPPELINS

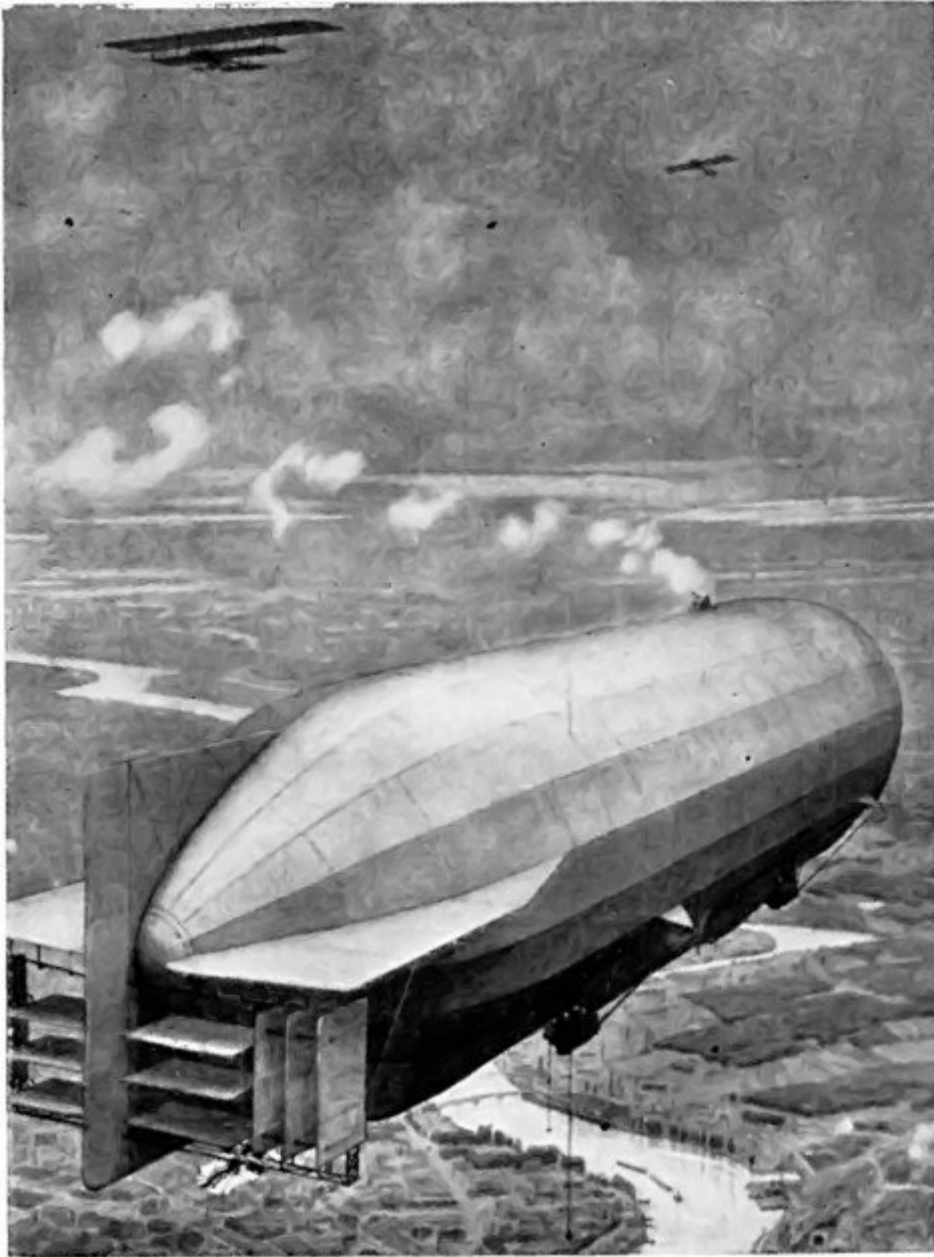
2. THE HINDENBURG

3. HINDENBURG: FIRST TRANS-ATLANTIC FLIGHTS

4. HINDENBURG DISASTER

5. WHAT HAPPENED?

6. WHAT CAUSED IT?



Germany used this Zeppelin to shoot-down enemy aircraft during World War I. A similar airship was positioned near the Kaiser's apartment in Coblenz. (The Illustrated War News, November 18, 1914, at page 4). PD

Who invented the rigid airship? Did people really think they were safe for passenger travel?

By the turn of the century, Count [Ferdinand von Zeppelin](#) had a dream. Before the Wright Brothers flew at Kitty Hawk, Zeppelin wanted to build a great [airship](#) that would rise and stay aloft because it was filled with lighter-than-air gas.

With the help of Theodor Kober, Count Zeppelin carried on at [Friedrichshafen](#) (in the southern part of Germany)

despite enormous criticism. Many folks thought he was crazy. By the summer of 1900, however, the first rigid air ship (*LZ 1*) was ready for a test flight.

To help maneuver his monstrous creation, Count Zeppelin ordered his crew to prepare a floating hanger on Lake Constance (also known as the Bodensee). On July 2, 1900 the airship lifted from its moorings and stayed aloft 18 minutes. Even sceptics could imagine its potential commercial and military value.

By World War I, both Germany and England used rigid airships in their military efforts. Count Zeppelin, who lived long enough to see dirigibles mass-produced, died on March 8, 1917.

He never knew the Treaty of Versailles would temporarily halt Germany's production of "his" airships.

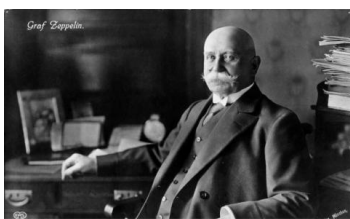
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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-GREAT-ZEPPELINS-Hindenburg>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

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Media Stream



Ferdinand von Zeppelin - Inventor of Rigid Airships

Image online, courtesy the Federal Archives of Germany (*Das Bundesarchiv*).

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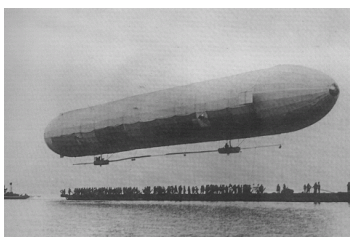
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Map Depicting Friedrichshafen

Image online, courtesy the aircraft-charter-world.com website.

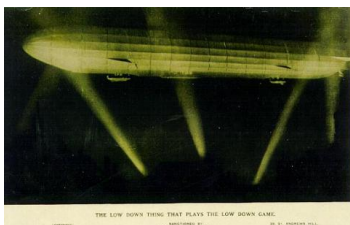
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First Airship - Zeppelin LZ 1 Aloft

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

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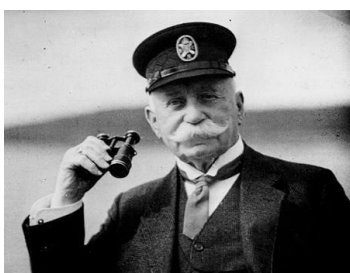


Airships - Zeppelins Used by Germany in World War I

Image, circa 1915-16, online courtesy Imperial War Museum.

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Count Zeppelin

Image online, courtesy the [century-of-flight.net](http://www.century-of-flight.net) website.

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Count Zeppelin's Funeral Procession

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