

When Germany's rigid airships were able to travel long distances, the *Hindenburg* became the first trans-Atlantic "airline." It was 1936, during her first full year of service.

If the *Hindenburg* traveled to America, where would she land? Only a few air stations were equipped to recover (when she arrived) and launch (when she departed) the great Zeppelin.

Lakehurst Air Naval Station, in New Jersey, was a natural fit. Crews based at Lakehurst were experts at launching and recovering aircraft. (They still are.)

But ... the German airship needed a huge hangar and required elaborate, special procedures to land. Why was that? Because she was pulled to the ground by mooring lines. The ground crew alone exceeded 200 men.

This historical footage, from the U.S. National Archives, shows the *Hindenburg* making a successful landing at Lakehurst Air Naval Station during 1936. This was the procedure that Lakehurst's ground crew was about to use when the *Hindenburg* fatally exploded on the evening of May 6, 1937.

Credits:

Historical footage, described above, online via the U.S. National Archives.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Hindenburg-Successful-Recovery-Procedures-0>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

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