



As the *Hindenburg* airship burns in a massive fire, at Lakehurst Naval Air Station, Navy Chief Petty Officer Frederick J. "Bull" Tobin realizes people need help.

In charge of the U.S. Navy's landing crew, he cries-out:

*Navy men, stand fast!*

As others run from the wreckage, sailors run toward it.

Who was Tobin? The U.S. Naval Institute provides [information about him](#):

*Tobin was an enlisted airship pilot and highly experienced airshipman who was in charge of the Navy landing party.*

*As the ship began to crash and people on the ground ran for their lives, Tobin, realizing there were people aboard the ship who would need help, cried out to his sailors: "Navy men, Stand fast!"*

*Tobin had survived the crash of USS *Shenandoah* [an American airship], and he was not about to abandon those in peril on an airship, even if it meant his own life. And his sailors agreed.*

*Films of the disaster show sailors running toward the burning ship, while others ran away, to rescue survivors.*

The death toll could have been even worse than it was. Sixty-two people survived while thirty-five passengers/crew and one member of the ground crew died.

The U.S. Navy and and Marine Corps has honored Tobin for the heroic actions he took to help the injured.

**“NAVY MEN . . . STAND FAST!”**



The Museum's plaque quotes another part of Tobin's order:

*We've got to get those people out of there!*

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Media Stream

## Bull Tobin and His Men Help the Hindenburg Survivors

The U.S. Navy and Marine Corps Museum honors the heroic efforts of Navy Chief Petty Officer Frederick J. "Bull" Tobin with a plaque for actions which he took on May 6, 1937.

As the *Hindenburg* was quickly consumed by a massive fire, Tobin ordered his men to "stand fast" and help the injured.

While others ran away from the disaster, to save their own lives, Tobin and his sailors ran toward the conflagration.

The plaque was issued on the anniversary of the disaster in 1988. [The Museum's curators tell us why:](#)

*On May 6, 1937, the German rigid airship Hindenburg crashed in flames at Naval Air Station (NAS) Lakehurst, New Jersey, with Navy ground personnel led by the stirring words of Aviation Chief Rigger Frederick J. "Bull" Tobin heroically standing fast in the face of the flames in order to rescue survivors.*

*The plaque quotes Tobin:*

*We've got to get those people out of there!*

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