

Hindenburg Glossary

Ballast: Water stored in tanks inside a zeppelin that could be dropped if the zeppelin needed to be made lighter. A lighter airship would rise more quickly or descend more slowly.

Blimp: An airship that gets its shape from the lifting gas that fills it. Blimps have no internal frame and they will collapse like balloons if they are not inflated.

Bow: The front of an airship.

Catwalk: The narrow metal walkway extending the entire length of a zeppelin's frame. The keel catwalk allowed crew members to travel the full length of the bottom of the airship. The axial catwalk passed through the middle of the zeppelin and allowed crewmembers to reach the higher parts of the zeppelin's gas cells and framework.

Dope: A liquid painted onto a zeppelin's fabric outer cover. Dope made the fabric waterproof, and stretched it more tightly over the airship's frame. The silver-colored aluminum particles in the Hindenburg's dope also helped to reflect the sun's heat.

Duralumin: The lightweight metal used to construct the Hindenburg's frame. The Duralumin framework was painted with a bright blue coating to make it corrosion-proof.

Gangway: The stairs leading from the ground to the inside of a zeppelin.

Hangar: A large building used for storing a zeppelin when it is not flying.

Helium: The second lightest gas known. Helium is not flammable and is used to inflate today's blimps.

Hydrogen: The lightest gas known. Hydrogen has greater lifting power than any other gas, but is extremely flammable.

Landing Field: The large, level area where an airship can land or take off.

Lighter-than-air: A type of aircraft which relies on lifting gases like helium or hydrogen to keep it airborne. Heavier-than-air craft, like airplanes, need wings and engines to give them enough lift to remain in the sky.

Mess: The room where the officers or the crew of an airship eat their meals.

Nazi: A member of the political party that controlled Germany from 1933-1945. Adolf Hitler was the leader of this party.

Promenade Deck: The long narrow deck on an airship where passengers can go for walks.

Propaganda: Ideas or information that are spread in order to encourage people to support a particular political party.

Stern: The back of an airship.

Swastika: A symbol used by the Nazi party. It is shaped like a cross with an arm attached to each section bending at right angles in a clockwise direction.

Zeppelin: An airship that gets its shape from an internal frame. Inside the frame are gas cells filled with a lighter-than-air gas. Because of its frame, a zeppelin will keep its shape whether its gas cells are inflated or not. The zeppelin was invented in 1900 by Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin.