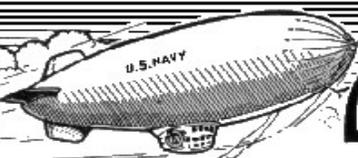


THE AIRSHIP



Navy Lakehurst Historical Society

P.O. Box 328 Lakehurst, NJ 08733

<http://www.nlhs.com>

Sept - Oct 2014

Werner Franz, Last Survivor of Hindenburg's Crew, Dies at age 92

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Cabin boy who survived Hindenburg disaster "without a scratch" dies

BERLIN —Werner Franz, believed to be the last surviving crew member of the German airship Hindenburg that crashed 77 years ago, has died. He was 92.

Franz was a 14-year-old cabin boy when the hydrogen-filled Zeppelin caught fire and crashed in Lakehurst, New Jersey, on May 6, 1937. The disaster was captured by waiting photographers, film crews and a radio broadcaster on the ground, making it one of history's most iconic air accidents.

Luck and quick thinking meant Franz was able to jump out of the Hindenburg as it fell burning to the ground, said historian John Provan, a longtime friend.

"Werner survived the crash without a scratch on him," Provan said.

Franz returned to Germany and served as an aircraft technician during World War II. He spoke freely about his experience, said Carl Jablonski, president of the Navy Lakehurst Historical Society, who last met Franz at an event commemorating the 70th anniversary of the disaster that killed 35 of the 97 people on board and a Navy crewman on the ground.

Provan confirmed a report by German news agency dpa, quoting his widow, Annerose, that Franz died of heart failure Aug. 13 in his hometown of Frankfurt.

Franz came to be on the Hindenburg by chance, Provan told The Associated Press.

"His older brother worked at a fancy hotel in Frankfurt where the passengers and the captain stayed overnight before the airship took off early in the morning," he said. "One of the captains said they were looking for a cabin boy and (his brother) heard about it."

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Franz completed three journeys to South America and one to North America before the disaster.

The huge airship – as long as three football fields and 15 stories tall – was considered the most luxurious means to cross the Atlantic at the time. Its loss – widely attributed to static electricity that ignited leaking hydrogen – was a heavy blow to the image of a resurgent Germany that the Nazis wanted to project to the world.

"Werner was most fortunate because he was in the officers' mess cleaning up," said Provan. "Above him was a large tank of water that burst open and drenched him, which protected him a bit from the flames and the heat."

Franz was able to jump out of a cloth supply hatch onto the ground below and made the wise decision to run into the wind.

"He didn't make the mistake of going in the other direction or the flames would have caught him," Provan said.

How True

When the President calls 911, the aircraft carriers answer!

When the aircraft carriers call 911, Lakehurst answers!

Jablonski said three other survivors of the disaster are believed to be still alive today. Werner Doehner and Horst Schirmer, who were both passengers aboard the Hindenburg, and Robert Buchanan, a member of the ground crew that was waiting to moor the ship.

View from the Top Presidents Message

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Werner Franz, 92, last surviving crewman of the Hindenburg. Werner, a 14 year old cabin boy went on to have a very full and interesting life. I was honored to meet him at our 70th Anniversary Observance. Werner kept in touch with us, shared photos, stories and signed many autographs. Our entire NLHS family will miss him dearly. We extend our sympathy and condolences to his wife Annerose, son Andreus and all Werner's children and grandchildren.

Meeting Notice

Our next general membership meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 8, 2014 at 7 PM at our usual location - Bldg 484 Joint Base Lakehurst Galley conference Room. Our Guest Speaker will be Timothy G Hart, Ocean County Historian and Director Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission. Mr. Hart's topic will be "Battle at Cedar Bridge" considered to be the last skirmish of the Revolutionary War, definitely the last battle of the "civil" war that raged in New Jersey during the Revolution.

A special thank you to "Patriot Pirate Tales of Plunder and Privateers of Coastal New Jersey" for their assistance in making this program available. All members and guests are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served. See attendance coupon in this newsletter for admission, if you don't have a military ID.

Officers Meeting

Officers & Trustees Meeting are scheduled for Saturday, Nov 15, 2014 and Saturday Dec 20, 2014 at 9:30am in our usual location - conference room Bldg 150.

Volunteer Hours

Volunteer hours for June, July & Aug 2014 for the NLHC and Ready Room, tours, work projects and outside speaking engagements totaled over 1750 hours. Many thanks to our volunteers for your support: Don Adams, Carl Larsen, Rick Zitarosa, Frank Dennis, Nick Rakoncza, Stephanie Phillips, Ron Montgomery, Charlie Bish, Ron Stryshak, Frank Smith, Kevin Mulligan, Pete Lovering, Pete Murphy, Kevin Pace, Howie Sjursen, Elizabeth Rossell, John & Jane Niedzwiecki, Peter Larkin, Susan K. Koller, Roger Jordan, Jim Morano, Heidi Martin and Carl Jablonski.

Tours

Our tours continue to be a very popular attraction. Don Adams, Nick Rakoncza, Frank Dennis, Carl Larsen, Ron Montgomery, Carl Jablonski, Kevin Mulligan, Elizabeth Rossell, Susan K. Koller and Rick Zitarosa continue to serve as tour guides. Starting Nov 2014 through March 2015, tours will be given every Wednesday and every 2nd Saturday of the month from 10am to 1 pm. Except noted here: Not open Nov 26, Dec 24 and Dec 31, 2014. The same schedule applies to our Gift Shop.

The Gift Shop will also be open for Christmas Gift purchases Wednesday Dec 17 and Thursday Dec 18 from 10 AM to 1 PM. As always, members receive a 10% discount

Member updates

If your address or phone number have changed please let us know. Also if you can and want to receive your newsletter by PDF let us know. This will save our postage expenses.

New Members

We welcome the following new members who have joined NLHS over the last several months:

M Ernest Marshall Lynchburg, VA

Members Honor Roll

This month, NLHS proudly salutes the following members for their outstanding contributions to NLHS.

Stephanie Philips - Stephanie, now in her 25th year as an employee at Joint Base Lakehurst, has been a long time NLHS member. She has served as an Assistant Treasurer and graciously sees that our meetings have the best refreshment, coffee, cake, etc.. Stephanie also assists at the Gift Shop and handles our mail order requests.

Carl Larsen - Carl spearheaded our Gondola restoration and has contributed his talents to many of our work projects and displays. He assists Stephanie at our membership meetings and does on the spot tours. He has served as an NLHS officer and is a licensed pilot as well.

2014 NLHS Picnic

A sincere thank you to the 50 plus members who attended our picnic on Sat Aug 23, 2014 at Freedom Park, Joint Base Lakehurst. The weather was just beautiful and the food was great. Special thanks to all who brought covered dishes and desserts. As always a special thanks to our chef Max Frei and our shopper Kevin Pace. We look forward to continuing this event in 2015.



Visit our New & Updated Web Site

Thanks to Tara Cunningham for your talents as Web Master and grant coordinator. Thanks to Margaret Burgess and her husband Dave who set up our previous website and who still do a great job in printing our newsletter.

Family Appreciation Nite

Thursday Nov 13, 2014 from 5-7PM at JB Lakehurst Gym. NLHS will participate with an informational display.

Join Us

We encourage all of our members to join in our many activities, tours, displays, work projects...etc. For info call Carl at 732-244-8861

Speakers Bureau

We get many requests for outside speaking engagements. If you are interested in this program call Carl at 732-244-8861

Luckiest Man Alive 100th Birthday



'I was the luckiest guy in the world': Trenton man reflects on his life as 100th birthday nears

The world was on the brink of the first World War and in America, the industrial revolution was in full swing. A lot has happened since 1914, and Lester Goldberg has been here to see it all.

With his 100th birthday just two months away, the lifelong Trenton resident took some time to reflect on how the past century has affected the city, the world and himself.

Mostly, he focused on how it put him in the service during World War II, an experience that a dwindling number of veterans are able to speak about firsthand.

"There's not too many of us left," he said. "It was really tough."

The events may have happened decades ago, but Goldberg can recall the names, dates and details as if they happened yesterday, along with following current events and keeping track of everyone in his large extended family.

Witty and able to quickly crack a joke, the nonagenarian still has enough hair to poke out from under his dark blue U.S. Navy hat, enough strength to rake his yard and enough energy to play with his 4-year-old dog, Peanut, a foxwire terrier who is always zipping around the house.

Goldberg's path to the Navy was a unique one.

Able to secure a rare stable job as a pharmacy manager right out of high school — in the midst of the Great Depression — Goldberg was eventually able to save enough to invest in a bar and liquor store with his father, the Chestnut Street establishment "Lester's." The foray into the industry was enough for Goldberg to defer his initial drafting into the service for a full year, as a business owner.

Still, the draft caught up to him in 1942, and by age 26, he had completed Navy bootcamp, graduating at the top of his class.

His aptitude for the naval tests along with his business skills and past experience working in an auto shop owned by his older brother opened up a different path for Goldberg than most other recruits.

After a short period serving a desk job in Florida, where he dolled out pay to pilots for making certain flights, he was shipped down to Brazil and named a crew captain in the Navy's "lighter than air" unit, which sent blimps from their Amazonian base to seek out and track the paths of submarines in the Atlantic.

"I was the luckiest guy in the world," Goldberg said, paging through numerous photo albums depicting him and his fellow crew members climbing Sugarloaf Mountain in Rio and fooling around on base. Several pictures showed the pet monkey and parrot he bought from locals

around the base.

"Five dollars each," he said of the pets. "And that parrot got me in a lot of trouble. It would crow at the crack of dawn every day, and all the boys would cuss at it."

He found himself in much worse trouble several times during his service, including multiple occasions when the blimp or plane he was flying in experienced a malfunction mid-air. Luckily, he and his crew were able to stay calm and deal with the situation, and in every case, they were able to avert disaster and safely land the aircraft.

"Those are things I'll never forget," he said of the dangerous experiences. "It scared me to death. But it's all about teamwork."

Nowadays, the team Goldberg's most interested in is his family. After coming home from the war — and just barely missing a deadline to fight in Japan before the country surrendered in August of 1945 — Goldberg was able to catch up with his older siblings and his many nieces and nephews, eventually getting married himself and having a son.

Retired for more than a decade now — he ran "Lester's" well into his 80s — he tries to see those family members as much as possible. With more vigor than he showed the pictures of himself in the war, he pulled out pictures of his nieces' and nephews' children and grandchildren, many of whom have joined the armed forces or graduated from medical school.

"I'm so proud of these people I could bust," he said. "They're all college graduates and doctors. And they still look at me for advice. Me, who never went further than a high school degree."

They will be coming from all over the country to join Goldberg in Trenton on his 100th birthday in January. It's a milestone he said he's "a little excited about," and one he's not quite sure how he got to, he said.

"To me, it's all about the genes," he said. "You're put together so you can ward things off, and you keep doing that until, unknowingly, you survive."

Navy Ball

Help celebrate the 239th Birthday of the US Navy. Join your fellow members by attending this year's event at Caesars Atlantic City. See flyer enclosed.

Calendar of Events

Oct 4 - Yom Kippur

Oct 8 – Members meeting 7PM at our usual location - Bldg 484 Joint Base Lakehurst Galley conference Room

Oct 13 – Columbus Day Holiday

Oct 31 - Halloween

Nov 11 - Veterans Day

Nov 11 - Special Birthday greetings to the Love of My Life, my Dearest Edna

Nov 15 – Officers & Trustees Meeting

Nov 27 - Thanksgiving Day

Dec 7 – Pearl Harbor Anniversary

Dec 16 – Hanukkah

Dec 20 - Officers & Trustees Meeting

Dec 25 – Christmas

Dec 26 - Kwanzaa

Jan 1 - Happy 2015

Jan 14 – 1st Membership meeting and elections

PDF Newsletter

As mentioned before the NLHS website has been moved to a new server and updated. You will again receive notices if you signed up for the pdf newsletter.

NLHS January Meeting Attendance Coupon Wednesday, Oct 8, 2014 7PM
Meeting Location: The Galley Conference meeting room located in Bldg. #484

FULL NAME in following format: *(please print) Make copies for each person attending*

Last Name _____ **First name** _____

Full Middle Name *(not maiden name)* _____

Drivers License #: _____ **State:** _____

PHONE (with area code): _____

MAIL TO: Navy Lakehurst Historical Society P.O. Box 328 Lakehurst, NJ 08733
Or e-mail information to : NAVLAKE@PRODIGY.net

ATTN: October Meeting

DEADLINE: Oct 3, 2014 by 12 noon

**You must fill out this coupon if you plan on attending the meeting
 and don't have a pass for the base.**

NOTE: Your NLHS Membership card IS NOT a base pass.

NLHS STORE ITEMS – See Website for pictures of items www.nlhs.com

Item #	Category	Description	Price	Notes
511	Patches	Lakehurst Decal	\$2.50	Ship incl
706	Patches	NAS Lakehurst Patch or Naval Support Activity Patch	\$7.50	Ship incl
708	Patches	ZP-1 Patch	\$7.50	Ship incl
701	Patches	Airship Squadron Two Patch	\$7.50	Ship incl
703	Patches	Blimp Squadron 12 Patch	\$7.50	Ship incl
709	Patches	ZP-14 Patch	\$7.50	Ship incl
702	Patches	Bayou Bomber Patch	\$7.50	Ship incl
704	Patches	Lambda Tau Alpha Patch	\$7.50	Ship incl
711	Patches	ZW-1 Patch: Early Warning Squadron Patch	\$7.50	Ship incl
710	Patches	ZP-3 Patch	\$7.50	Ship incl
801	Patches	Navy Lakehurst 90th Anniversary Patch	\$7.50	Ship incl
96	Ballcaps	NAS Lakehurst ballcap	\$23.00	Ship incl
97	Ballcaps	USS Macon (ZRS-5) ballcap	\$23.00	Ship incl
98	Ballcaps	Hindenburg (D-LZ129) ballcap	\$23.00	Ship incl
99	Ballcaps	USS Shenandoah (ZR-1) ballcap	\$23.00	Ship incl
100	Ballcaps	USS Akron (ZRS-4) ballcap	\$23.00	Ship incl
101	Ballcaps	USS Los Angeles (ZR-3) ballcap	\$23.00	Ship incl
10	Books	Inside the Hindenburg	\$12.00	\$5 shipping
11	Books	Fleet Angels of Lakehurst	\$15.00	\$5 shipping
95	Books	Guide to over 900 Aircraft Museums – USA and Canada	\$20.00	Ship incl
205	Books	Images of America: Naval Air Station Lakehurst	\$22.00	\$5 shipping
209	Books	The Airship Experience	\$23.00	\$5 shipping
213	Books	US Navy Airships 1915-1962	\$23.00	\$5 shipping
212	Books	US Army Airships 1908-1942	\$23.00	\$5 shipping
208	Books	Snafu	\$20.00	\$5 shipping
201	Books	American Airship Bases and Facilities	\$25.00	\$5 shipping
216	Books	Aweigh and Up	\$25.00	\$5 shipping
217	Books	The Van Dyk Collection of LTA Plans & Drawings	\$25.00	\$5 shipping
218	Books	Airships vs Submarines	\$28.00	\$5 shipping
404	Lithographs	USS Shenandoah ZR-1 (Daughter of the Stars)	\$30.00	\$5 shipping
406	Lithographs	Hindenburg Final Moments (color)	\$30.00	\$5 shipping
510	Mugs	Hindenburg Coffee Mug	\$10.00	Ship incl
85	Mugs	Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Mug	\$10.00	Ship incl
106	Shirts	Navy Lakehurst T-shirt (Blue) Sm – XL (2XL -3XL-\$22)	\$20.00	Ship incl
102	Shirts	Navy Lakehurst Golf Shirt (Dk Blue) Med – XL (2XL -3XL-\$31)	\$26.00	Ship incl
103	Shirts	Navy Lakehurst Crew Neck Sweatshirt (Navy Blue) M – XL (2XL-3XL-\$32)	\$29.00	Ship incl
104	Shirts	Navy Lakehurst Hooded Sweatshirt (Navy Blue) M – XL (2XL - 3XL-\$38)	\$35.00	Ship incl
105	Shirts	Blimp T-shirt (grey) specify K, L or G Blimp image - M-XL (2XL - 3XL-\$22)	\$20.00	Ship incl
301	DVD	The Blimp Goes to War Again (color)	\$35.00	Ship incl
308	DVD	Airships Fight a Cold War (color)	\$35.00	Ship incl
302	DVD	Airship Handling (B&W)	\$25.00	Ship incl
303	DVD	LS-129 Hindenburg (B&W)	\$25.00	Ship incl
699	Special Order	Hindenburg Display Model (44 1/4 inches long and 9inch diameter)	\$349.00	plus ship
698	Special Order	Hindenburg Display Model (65 inches long and 14 1/4 inch diameter)	\$599.00	plus ship
697	Special Order	Graf Zeppelin Kit	\$99.95	plus ship
696	Special Order	USS Macon Display Model	\$199.00	plus ship
800	Military Posters	6 different choices see website for information	\$12.00	\$5 shipping
307	Sculpture	Hangar One Wood Sculpture	\$17.00	\$5 shipping
306	Sculpture	Hindenburg Wood Sculpture	\$24.00	\$5 shipping



2014 Anniversary Ball

You are Invited to
The 239th NJ Navy Birthday Ball

Friday, 10 October 2014

At Caesar's Palace in Atlantic City

1800 for Cocktails

1900 -2400 for Dinner, Program and Fun

**VIP - Tommy
Lasorda!**

FREE Parking

**Over \$3K In
Door Prizes**

E-7 And Above	\$75
E-6	\$50
E-5	\$30
E-4	\$20
E-3 and Below	\$10
Civilians/Guests	\$60

**Philadelphia
Orchestra Quintet**

Attire: O4 and above Mess Dress / O3 and Below Dress Blues with Medals

Formal wear for Civilians.

Rooms starting at \$129

Call (609) 348-4411 & Mention Navy Ball (code SC10NB4.)

NLHS Members should contact NLHS President Carl Jablonski, at 732-244-8861 or 732-600-8055 for tickets.

NLHS has a reserved table.

Menu Selection: Beef, chicken or Fish.