



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

LZ 129 *Hindenburg* Disaster Letter

Jessamyn Lloyd

2022

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	LZ 129 <i>Hindenburg</i> Disaster Letter
Date:	1937
Identifier:	NASM.2022.0013
Creator:	Laws, Roger
Extent:	0.01 Cubic feet (1 folder)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection consists of one letter, dated May 7, 1937, from Roger Laws to his wife Mildred Laws describing his experience guarding the Zeppelin LZ 129 <i>Hindenburg</i> crash site at Lakehurst Naval Air Station in New Jersey. The collection also contains a photograph of Roger Laws, in uniform, and a photograph of Mildred Laws, both taken in the 1930s and both measuring 4 by 6 inches.
Digital Content:	Image(s): LZ 129 Hindenburg Disaster Letter

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Daniel Bacigalupo, Gift, 2022, NASM.2022.0013, donated in honor of John Roger Laws-Bacigalupo.

Processing Information

Arranged, described, and encoded by Jessamyn Lloyd, 2022.

Preferred Citation

LZ 129 *Hindenburg* Disaster Letter, NASM.2022.0013, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

The Zeppelin LZ 129 *Hindenburg* belonged to the longest class of flying machines and was one of the largest airships by envelope volume. It was able to carry 50 passengers plus crew members and made many transatlantic flights which took two to three days. The Zeppelin LZ 129 *Hindenburg* flew from March 1936 until May 6, 1937 when a fire at Lakehurst Naval Air Station in Manchester Township, New Jersey, destroyed the airship and killed 36 people. Roger Laws was stationed aboard the USS *Antares* in Philadelphia at the time of the disaster. Laws was rushed along with other personnel to Lakehurst Naval Air Station to act as a guard to prevent looters from combing over the crash site.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of one letter, dated May 7, 1937, from Roger Laws to his wife Mildred Laws describing his experience guarding the Zeppelin LZ 129 *Hindenburg* crash site at Lakehurst Naval Air Station in New Jersey. The collection also contains a photograph of Roger Laws, in uniform, and a photograph of Mildred Laws, both taken in the 1930s and both measuring 4 by 6 inches.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged by type of material.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Zeppelin LZ 129 Hindenburg

Types of Materials:

- Correspondence
- Photographic prints