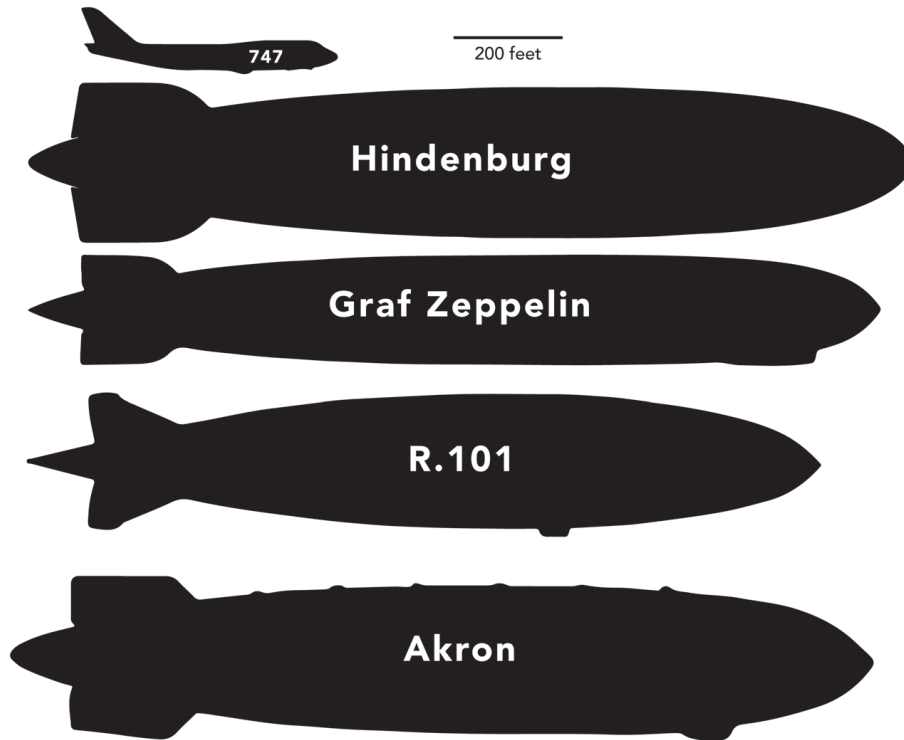


FATAL FLIGHT



Relative Sizes of the Hindenburg, Graf Zeppelin, HMA R.101, and USS Akron

In 1929 R.101 was the largest airship in the world. The Graf Zeppelin (LZ 127), a contemporary of R.101, was forty feet longer but R.101 had a larger cross section and so held 30 percent more hydrogen—4,893,740 cubic feet for R.101 versus 3,707,550 cubic feet for the Graf Zeppelin. The U.S. began construction on the Akron after R.101 crashed. The Akron had a volume of 6,850,000 cubic feet, so was larger than R.101 and the Graf Zeppelin. The Hindenburg was larger than all of these ships, but was not built until 1938.