

Robert W. Klopfer
90 Edbert Drive
Holyoke, Mass. 01040

January 12, 1980

Mr. Robert Meyer
c/o National Air and Space Museum
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C. 20560

Dear Mr. Meyer:

I am a collector of Zeppelin flight covers and other memorabilia. One item I have is a piece of alum. propeller which was given to a friend of mine by a Mr. Hodgdon. That name should be familiar to you. Besides being a pilot he worked, years ago, at Hamilton Standard as a salesman. The piece of propeller was reportedly tested by H.S. It is said to have been on the Hindenburg. There is another piece in the United Aircraft Corp. Corporate Library museum in Hartford with the same title.

After talking with Mr. Lippincott of the library and Dr. Robinson, and after correspondence with the Zeppelin museum in Friedrichshaven, it has come to our attention that the piece of propeller was not from the Hindenburg but perhaps from the Macon. Mr. Lippincott mentioned that the Macon did experiment with alum. propellers made by Hamilton Standard. If there is any information you have on this subject I would be very much interested in hearing from you.

With kindest regards,

Robert W. Klopfer

NATIONAL AIR MUSEUM CATALOG CARD

SOURCE

Navy Department, U.S. Naval Air Station
Lakehurst, New Jersey

GIFT ☐
LOAN ☐
TRANSFER ☒
PURCHASE ☐
OTHER ☐

DATE RECEIVED June 17, 1936

DESCRIPTION

MANUFACTURER: Hamilton Standard Propeller Co.
Hartford, Conn.

MEASUREMENTS: Length of Blade 7'9 $\frac{1}{4}$ " Max. Blade Width 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
Hub: I.D. O.D. Thickness

MARKINGS: On blades: "Hamilton" emblem; sticker with data about prop
On hub: "CONT-NO-27865" "Dwg No. 3127-16'0" "1-25-33" "Blade end 3"
"L326" "130143"

NO. BLADES: 3

MAT'L & FINISH: Metal

PITCH: Adjustable

Three blades numbered "N-43622" "N-43620" "N-43623"

Airship "Macon" Propeller

NO. BOLT HOLES:

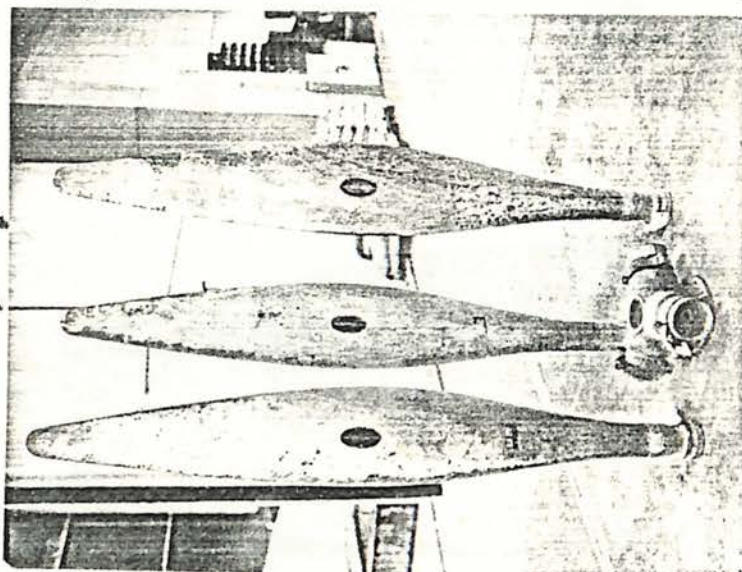
COLOR: Silver

LOCATION

DATE

E - 6

RRNT-18124



1936-50

REFERENCE

*See: Propulsion, Components - Airships &
Early Propellers*

CODE NO.

STORAGE

CATEGORY

ENGINE, Comp.

Hamilton Std., Airship "Macon" NAM 382

1936-50

NATIONAL AIR MUSEUM CATALOG CARD

SOURCE

NAVY DEPARTMENT
U.S. Naval Air Station
Lakehurst, N.J.

GIFT

LOAN

TRANSFER

PURCHASE

OTHER

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☐

DATE
RECEIVED

6/15/36

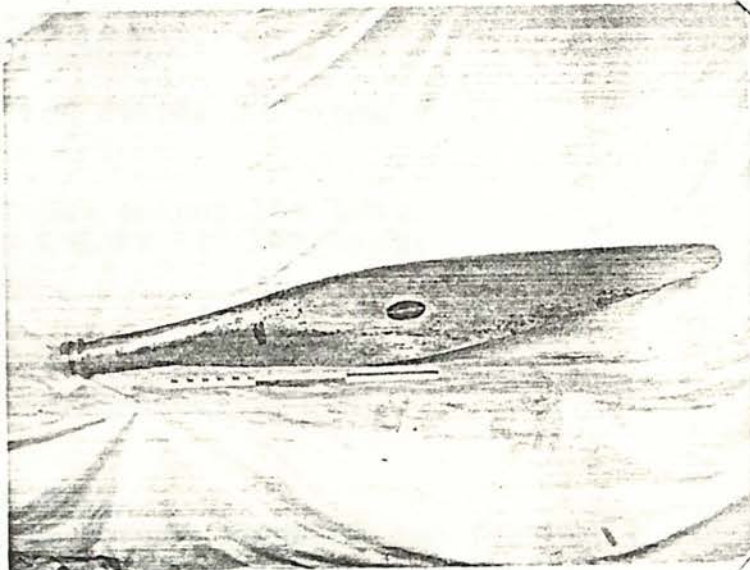
DESCRIPTION

A three-bladed adjustable metal propeller and a swivel reduction gear from the U.S. Naval Airship "Macon."

LOCATION

DATE

RRNT-18124



REFERENCE

*See: Propulsion, Components - Propellers
"Hamilton"*

CODE NO.

STORAGE

CATEGORY

ENGINES, Comp.

Prop. & Reduction Gear "Macon"

ACC. NO.

NAM 382

CAT. NO.

1936-50&51

4/F23

37952

ACCESSION

U. S. NAVAL AIR STATION

LAKEHURST, N. J.

14 February 1936.

Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, D.C.

FEB 18 1936
FOR B. B. C.

NAM 382

Subject: U.S.S. MACON - Propeller.

Gentlemen:

In accordance with your request, a three-bladed metal propeller and swiveling reduction gear head will shortly go forward to you from this station.

Enclosed photograph is forwarded showing the general relation of the propeller to the side of the ship's hull.

The following data may be of interest in whole or in part for the name plate:

SPARE PROPELLER FROM U.S.S. MACON

Manufactured by Hamilton Standard Propeller Co.,
Hartford, Conn.
Diameter, 16 feet.
Chrome Vanadium Steel Hub weighs 134 lbs.
Aluminum Alloy Blades weight 117 lbs. each.
Mounted as a tractor.

SWIVEL REDUCTION GEAR

Manufactured by Allison Engineering Co.,
Indianapolis, Ind.
Weight 700-lbs.
Reduction ratio about 2:1.
Propeller and gear head rotate downward and forward through 90° to give vertical thrust for take-off or landing.
Reversing is accomplished in the engine rather than in the gear.

Very truly yours,

F. W. Reichelderfer

F. W. Reichelderfer
Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy
Commanding.

Rec'd 2-20-36



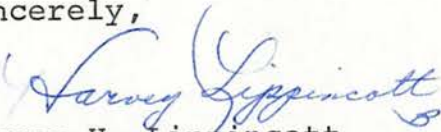
November 15, 1977

Mr. Robert Klopfer
c/o Tie & Bond
50 Payson Avenue
East Hampton, Ma. 01027

Dear Mr. Klopfer:

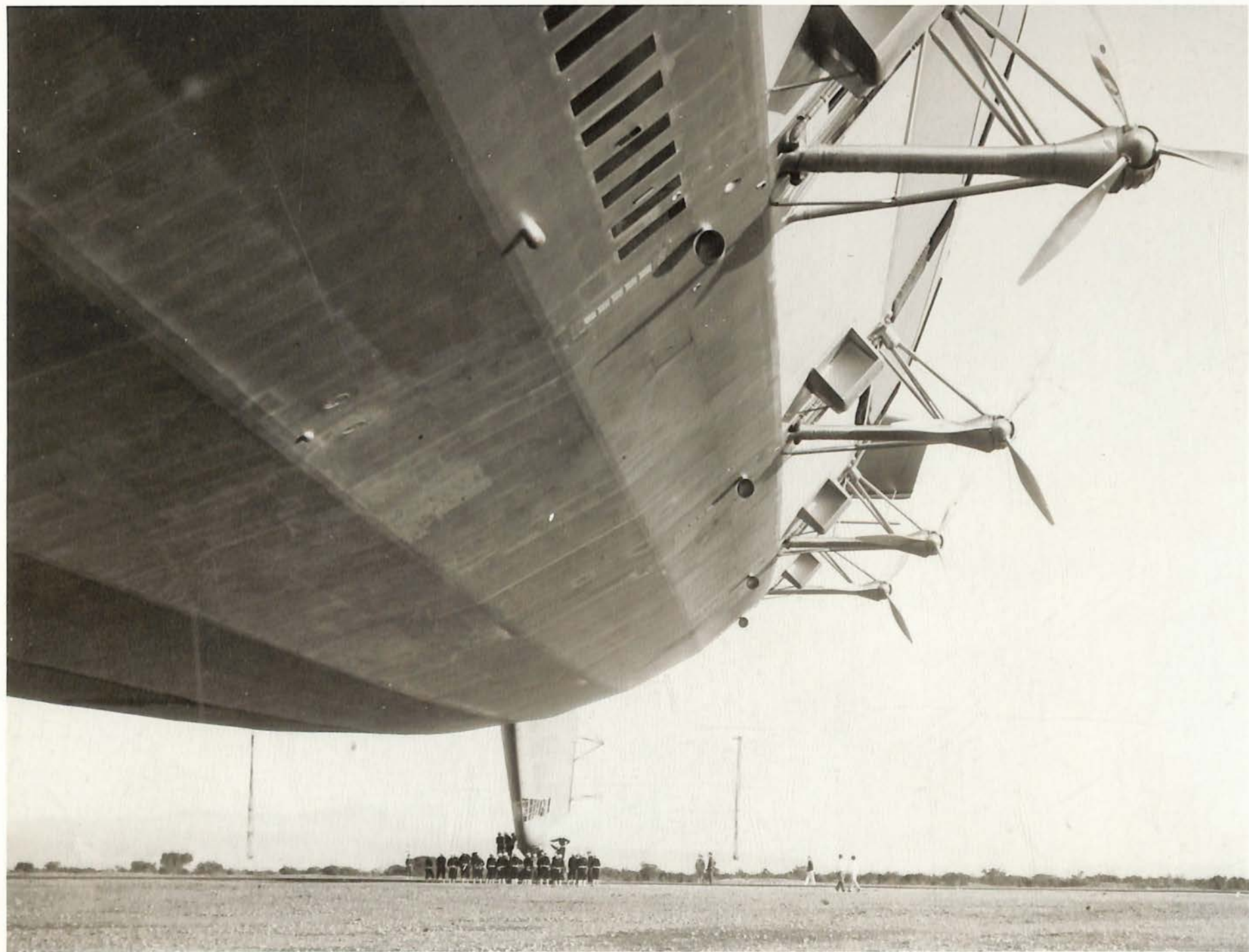
In response to your several calls, this is to reassure you that I am still attempting to get more information concerning the testing done on aluminum blades from the Hindenburg at Hamilton Standard Division. As soon as I am able to get a more complete story, I shall be in touch with you.

Sincerely,


Harvey H. Lippincott
Corporate Archivist

HHL:b1

H. H. LIPPINCOTT
UTC ARCHIVES-AIRPORT ANNEX
400 MAIN ST.
EAST HARTFORD, CT. 06108



NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20560

February 15, 1980

Mr. Robert W. Klopfer
90 Edbert Drive
Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040

Dear Mr. Klopfer:

Thank you for your letter of January 12, 1980, regarding your airship propeller section thought to have come from the Macon.

Enclosed are copies of our Accession File, NASM 382, and Catalog Cards 1936-50 & 51 depicting a Hamilton Standard 3-blade aluminum propeller that was used on the Macon. Also enclosed is a photograph duplicated in the Photographic Collections, which shows how the propellers were mounted on the Macon.

I apologize for not having replied sooner, and hope that the enclosed data will end your long search to suitably document your propeller section.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Meyer
Curator of Aero Propulsion
Aeronautics

Enclosures

Permanized
PLOVER BOND
25% COTTON FIBER
U.S.A.



Das Zeppelin-Museum in Friedrichshafen

Zeugnis einer glanzvollen Epoche der Luftfahrt



Das Zeppelin-Museum in Friedrichshafen

Zeugnis einer glanzvollen Epoche der Luftfahrt

Stadt Friedrichshafen

Zeppelin-Museum

· Stadtverwaltung · Postfach 24 40 · 7990 Friedrichshafen 1 · Adenauerplatz 1

Herrn
Robert W. Klopfer
90 Edbert
Holyoke, Mass. 01040
U.S.A.

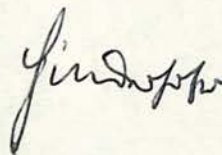
Anlagen	Ihr Zeichen, Ihr Schreiben vom	Unser Zeichen	☎ (07541)	Tag
1 Prospekt	10.8.1977	Mu 361-49 Bu/Fe	203-223	1.9.1977
Betreff	Luftschiff LZ 129 "Hindenburg"			
			oder 203-1	

Sehr geehrter Herr Klopfer!

Die Luftschrauben des Luftschiffs "Hindenburg" waren aus Holz. Sie wurden von der Firma Heine in Berlin hergestellt.

Den gewünschten Prospekt über unser Museum erhalten Sie anbei. Unser Museum ist täglich außer montags von 10.00 bis 12.00 Uhr und von 14.00 bis 17.00 Uhr geöffnet.

Mit freundlichem Gruß



Hinderhofer

DOUGLAS H. ROBINSON. M. D.
BOX 254 B
R. R. 1. PENNINGTON, N. J. 08534

April 15, 1978

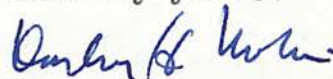
Mr. Robert W. Klopfer
90 Edbert
Holyoke, MA 01040

Dear Mr. Klopfer,

Your problem with the aluminum propeller blade section illustrates the pitfalls of authenticating relics, particularly if they have passed through several hands. I have a cross section of the propeller of the German naval airship L 42, showing the alternating layers of walnut and mahogany and an outer covering of walnut veneer, but it was given me by her former commanding officer, Oberst Martin Dietrich, when I visited him in Hamburg years ago. The Hamilton Standard man may have told Mr. Hodgdon that the aluminum blade piece was from the "Hindenburg," but I have to agree with Herr Hinderhofer of the Zeppelin Museum that the propellers of the "Hindenburg" were made of wood, laminated and with brass tips and partial leading edges.

The only Zeppelin airship to be fitted with metal propellers was the "Hindenburg's" sister ship, LZ 130 "Graf Zeppelin II." All photos of this ship show her with three and four blade metal propellers, ground adjustable, with different combinations at different times on the four tractor engines. I know that when LZ 130 was dismantled in Frankfurt in the spring of 1940, quite a few pieces were appropriated as souvenirs and I have seen many of these in private hands, though no propeller pieces that I recall. Your piece may be from the LZ 130: the propellers are like those made by Hamilton-Standard in the U.S. at that time, and may well have been made by that firm or by a German firm manufacturing them under license.

Sincerely yours,



Douglas H. Robinson M. D.