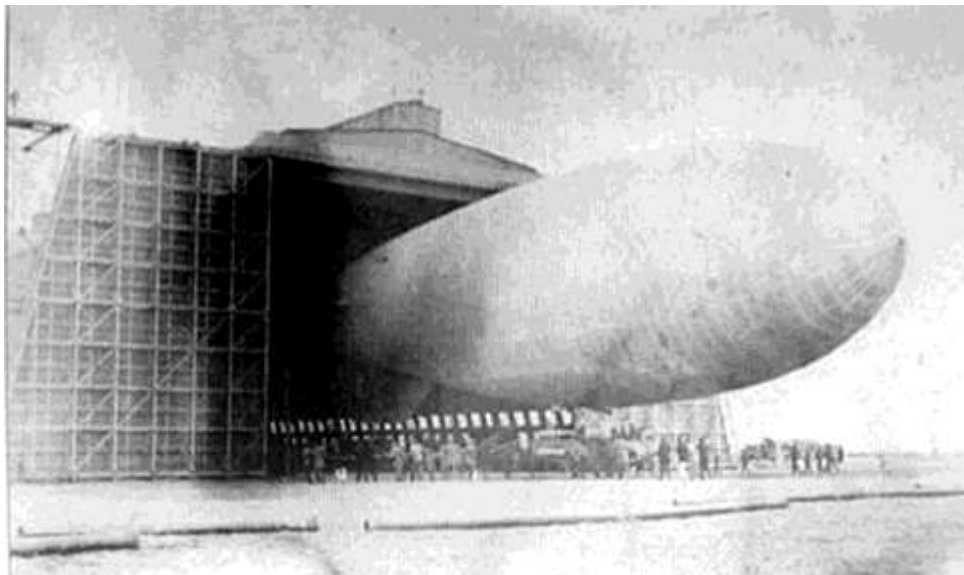


## US Navy O-1 Semi-Rigid Airship

In January of 1919 the US Navy ordered the O-1 airship from the Stabilimento Costruzioni Dirigibili ed Aerostati of Ciampino, Italy. The airship first flew in Ciampino on March 27, 1919. It was shipped from Genoa to Philadelphia by boat, transferred to Akron for review. From Akron it was shipped to Cape May, New Jersey for erection. Its first flight in the United States took place on September 16, 1919.



*Aerial view of the Camp May NJ*



*A Navy airship exiting the hangar at Camp May Naval Air Station*



*The La Plata, an Argentine Navy O-class airship, similar in design to the US Navy's O-1*

After just three years in service, the O-1 was scrapped in late 1921 or early 1922.

The O-1's specifications were:

- **Length:** 178 ft (54 m)
- **Diameter:** 35 ft (10.5 m)
- **Volume:** 127,000 cu ft (3,600 m<sup>3</sup>)
- **Empty weight:** 5,850 lbs (2,650 kg)
- **Gross lift:** 9,125 lbs (4,140 kg)
- **Payload:** 3,290 lbs ( 1,490 kg)
- **Power plant:** 2 Colombo, 125 hp (93 kW/h) each
- **Keel:** Articulated steel
- **Crew:** 3

The hangar at Cape May was lengthened to accommodate rigid airships, however it was never used for these. The airship hangar was demolished in 1938.



*The Cape May NJ airship hangar being torn down in 1938*