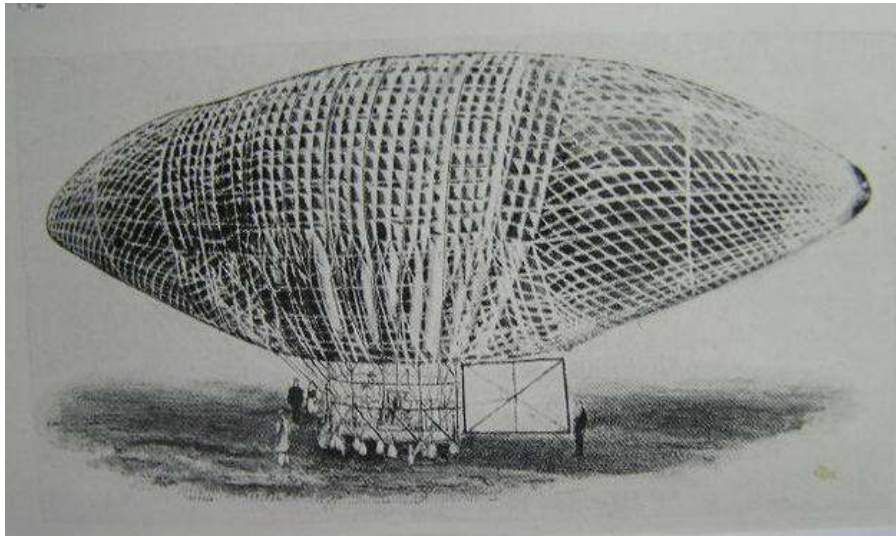


## Wölfert's Airship "Deutschland"

Dr Karl Wölfert, a Lutheran minister with an interest in flight, experimented with balloons and then went on to design and build airships powered by internal combustion engines. After his first two designs had marginal success, he built his third and largest airship, the *Deutschland*".

The non-rigid dirigible, with an 800 m<sup>3</sup> (28,250 cu. ft.) was powered by a single cylinder, 8 hp Daimler internal combustion engine. During a demonstration flight at Berlin's Templehof field, in front of German dignitaries, the airship caught fire as hydrogen being vented from the envelope was ignited by the open-flame engine. Dr. Wölfert and his mechanic, Robert Knabe were both killed as the burning airship plunged to the ground.



*Wölfert's airship "Deutschland"*



*Period depiction of the accident*