

CHAPTER III - OPERATIONS OF GROUP TASK UNITS. C. Northern Air Group.

The following ammunition was expended for training and operational purposes:

.50 cal. - 3342 rounds.

NAAF Beverly, Mass.

During January the following services were rendered and facilities furnished heavier-than-air units of the Fleet and visiting aircraft generally, in addition to routine patrols of Coast Guard aircraft:

Serviced 109 Coast Guard Aircraft, including
1 helicopter.
Serviced 5 Fleet Aircraft
Serviced 5 Station Aircraft
Serviced 4 Army Aircraft

Completed 30-hour check on 1 Station Aircraft, requiring 9½ man hours.

Field used by 43 miscellaneous Fleet Aircraft.
Field used by 6 Army Aircraft.
Field used by 3 Coast Guard Aircraft - Air/Sea Rescue Missions.
Field used by 148 miscellaneous Navy and Coast Guard Aircraft.

(b) Air/Sea Rescue Task Unit - USCG Air Station, Salem, Mass.

No War Diary received from Salem.

(c) ZP-11 Blimp Squadron, South Weymouth, Mass.

Ships available during the month were:

K-15
K-19
K-69
K-70 - transferred to Blimp Hedron 1 Det. 24 on 10 January.
K-61
K-76 - transferred to NAS Lakehurst 3 January.
K-92 - received from NAS Lakehurst 4 January.
K-89 - transferred to Blimp Hedron 1 Det. 12 on 10 January.

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Blimp Squadron ELEVEN operates from NAS South Weymouth, under Commander Task Group 02.1.3 (Commander Northern Air ^{Unit} Group), Commander Task Group 02.1 (Commander Northern Group) and Commander Task Force 02 (Commander Eastern Sea Frontier). This BlimpRon has no subordinate units, but operates ZNP K-type airships assigned to it by Commander Fleet Airships, ATLANTIC.

Armament and equipment, so far, has varied with the different blimps. In general, they carry two free .30 cal. machine guns, one fore, and one aft, four 325 pounds depth charges set for 50 feet, MAD equipment, Radio (2 transmitters), and Radar. Fuel load usually carried is 600 gallons, the exact volume varying between 500 and 700 gallons, according to the estimated duration of each patrol. Blimps are able to operate for as long as 48 hours if necessary. (For full details on these blimps, see Chapter IV, page 5, "History of Group One Operations" which was included as Annex A (No. 7) of the December '42 War Diary.)

Because of poor weather conditions all flying was secured on 12 days: January 1, 7, 8, 9, 14, 16, 17, 23, 25, 27, 29 and 30.

This Squadron made a total of 67 flights which were subdivided as follows:

Escort	12
Night Escort	5
Escort and Patrol	3
Patrol	18
Night Patrol	3
Training	16
Ferry	3
Others	7
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Total	67

During the month when 579 hours were spent in the air, 449 at sea, and 352 on mission; 192 vessels were escorted. The number of miles flown totalled 20664; of these 17138 were flown over water.

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<u>.50 cal.</u>	<u>.30 cal.</u>	<u>.38 cal.</u>
400 rds.	200 rds.	12 rds.
<u>MK-17 DC's</u>	<u>MK-47 DC's</u>	<u>MK-7 DC's</u>
15	8	8
<u>Bronze Slicks</u>	<u>Float Lights</u>	<u>Miniature Bombs</u>
60	53	21