

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

The amphibian aircraft are normally based and operated from Beverly Airport, Beverly, Massachusetts, a Naval Auxiliary Air Facility of Naval Air Station, Squantum, Massachusetts.

In addition to its routine patrols this Squadron completed seventeen escort missions and four special missions. All flights were cancelled because of weather conditions on 5 days: June 19, 20, 21, 24, and 25.

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

Ships available during the month were:

K-9
K-14 Ferried to South Weymouth from Lakehurst 4 June.
K-15
K-25 Ferried from Lakehurst to South Weymouth 22 June.
K-34 Ferried to South Weymouth from Lakehurst 12 June.
K-38 Ferried to Lakehurst 30 June.
K-69

Blimp Squadron ELEVEN operates from NAS South Weymouth, under Commander Task Group 02.1.3 (Commander Northern Air Group), Commander Task Group 02.1 (Commander Northern Group) and Commander Task Force 02 (Commander Eastern Sea Frontier). This Blimp Squadron 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.)

Poor flying conditions made it necessary to cancel all operations on 5 days: June 19, 20, 21, 24, and 25.

The blimps made a total of 95 flights. They were as follows:

Patrol	21
Patrol & escort	2
Night escort	5
Escort	15

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Escort & search	1
Patrol & search	8
Search	9
Night Search	7
Night search & patrol	1
Experimental	3
Training	17
Ferry	4
Check	1
Test	1
Total	<u>95</u>

During the month when 1001 hours were spent in the air, 792 hours at sea, and 633 hours on mission; some 94 vessels were escorted. A total of 38,046 miles was flown, of these 33,453 miles were flown over water.

The following ammunition was expended for training and operational purposes:

<u>.50 cal. M/G</u>	<u>Smoke Floats</u>	<u>Bronze Slicks</u>
3500 rds.	109	99
<u>MK23 Miniature Bombs</u>		<u>MK17 Depth Charges</u>
185		34
<u>Very Signal</u>		<u>2 Star Cartridge</u>
2		1