

CHAPTER III - 2. Planes and Blimps Attached. (Continued)

c) ZP-11 Squadron.

(1) Blimps attached - armament and equipment.

One to four ZNP's. (K-type, non-rigid, 250 ft. in length.)

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 lb. 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.)

(2) Operations.

These blimps are flown from NAS Lakehurst, N.J., to NAS South Weymouth, Mass., from which base they are operated for approximately one week, then flown back to Lakehurst and exchanged for another. While at South Weymouth they are used extensively for escort and search missions, and when assigned routine patrol duties, usually fly the extended Love Patrol designated on the chart which was included as Annex A (No. 1) of the January '43 War Diary.

This squadron is under the operational control of the Commander Northern Air Patrol. For all matters pertaining to administration, personnel, training, logistics, etc., ZP-11 Squadron's next higher in echelon of command is (fleet) Airship Group One of (fleet) Airshipwing 30, which, in turn, operates under CinClant.

* Not all of the blimps are Radar equipped as yet.