

CHAPTER III - OPERATIONS - C. Northern Air Group. (Continued)

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

ZNP's K-10, K-12, K-14, K-38, K-69, K-9.

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 (2transmitters), 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.)

This squadron is under the operational control of the Commander Northern Air Group. For all matters pertaining to administration, personnel, training, logistics, etc., ZP-11 Squadron's (Blimpron 11's) next higher in echelon of command is Fairshipwing-one of Fairshipslant, which, in turn, operates under Cinclant.

The blimps were again active during the month with the following escort missions: eleven convoys, 12 naval movements, five merchant men. Three special missions in addition to the sub searches in Chapter II were handled.

ZP-11 reported an unusual situation on December 24. The blimp K-9 on an escort mission had both its envelope and propellers iced up even though the temperature was at and below 0° F. The pilot was experienced and after an all night escort, there was still ice on the propellers.

2. Patrols Maintained.

Effective immediately, December 10, 1943, heavier-than-air patrol areas, heretofore in force, are temporarily discontinued; and the following new heavier-than-air patrol areas are established:

BAR HARBOR

<u>A-5</u>	<u>A-6</u>
(a) NAAF Bar Harbor	(a) NAAF Bar Harbor
(b) 43-58 68-08	(b) 43-58 68-08
(c) 43-25 68-13	(c) 43-25 68-13
(d) 43-43 67-06	(d) 43-43 67-06
(f) 44-30 67-06	(e) 44-02 67-06
(g) 44-13 67-41	(a) NAAF Bar Harbor
(a) NAAF Bar Harbor	