

VS-31 Detachment, Brunswick, Maine.

From 3 December to 23 December when this detachment was based at Brunswick, there were between 2 and 5 planes attached to the Unit.

December	3	-	4 planes
	7	-	5 planes
	21	-	2 planes
	23	-	none

During daylight hours these planes made a total of 35 coastal sweeps from Portsmouth to Eastport along the 50 fathom curve and in addition escorted one naval vessel. Flights took off daily at 0730, 1100 and 1440 except on the 12th and 19th when bad weather forced the cancellation of all patrols.

During this period 1520 rounds of .50 cal. ammunition were expended.

NAAF Beverly, Mass.

During December 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	46	Coast Guard Aircraft
Serviced	5	Fleet Aircraft
Serviced	7	Station Aircraft
Serviced	2	Army Aircraft

Repaired 1 fleet aircraft requiring $1\frac{1}{2}$ man hours.

Field used by 12 aircraft of VB-32 bounce drill.

(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-70
K-19	K-76
K-69	K-89
K-61	deflated 14 Dec. and sent to Lakehurst 27 Dec.
K-50	received from Lakehurst 18 December.

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

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 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 11 days: December 1, 8, 12, 13, 16, 19, 25, 26, 28, 29, and 31.

This Squadron made a total of 66 flights which were subdivided as follows:

Escort	7
Night Escort	4
Patrol	36
Night Patrol	2
Training	9
Others	8
Total	66

During the month when 675 hours were spent in the air, 542 at sea, and 465 hours on mission; 98 vessels were escorted. A total of 27,926 miles were flown; of these 22,895 were flown over water.

The following ammunition was expended for training and operational purposes:

<u>.50 cal.</u>	<u>.30 cal.</u>	<u>Smoke Floats</u>	<u>Bronze Slicks</u>
540 rds.	200 rds.	31	55
<u>Miniature Bombs</u>	<u>MK-17 DC's</u>	<u>MK-47 DC's</u>	<u>MK-15 DC's</u>
4	8	6	2