

CHAPTER III - OPERATIONS OF TASK UNITS. b) Salem Coast Guard (Cont'd).

United States Department of the Interior and Lt. Comdr. Shumway, ACNAG as passengers.

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

Ships available during the month were:

K-9 Assigned to AsDevlant 15 January 1944 in substitution for K-12.

K-10

K-11 Ferried from Lakehurst 28 January.

K-12 Ferried to Elizabeth City 17 January, for major overhaul.

K-14

K-15 Ferried from Lakehurst 30 January.

K-38

K-42 Ferried from Lakehurst 22 January.

K-69

G-7 Ferried from Lakehurst 31 January.

L-1

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.)

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 Fairshipwingone of Fairshipslant, which, in turn, operates under Cinclant.

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The blimps were particularly active during the month even though there were seven days when all operations were cancelled: January 3, 4, 6, 7, 14, 23, and 26. In all there were eighty-nine flights. These included day and night patrol, escort, experimental, training, search, photographic, and ferrying missions. During this period when 759 hours were spent in the air, 505 hours at sea, and 489 hours on mission, some fifty-six vessels were escorted. In all a total of 24328 miles was flown; of these 20037 were flown over water.

Ammunition expended in training was as follows:

<u>Depth charges</u>	<u>Miniature bombs</u>
34	59
<u>Smoke Floats</u>	<u>Bronze Slicks</u>
42	36

On January 24 the K-38 was sent on a special photographic mission for the Officer-in-Charge of the Fleet Torpron Training. This was in connection with the live torpedo exercises carried out by VT-4 at Bald Porcupine Island just off the Section Base on Mount Desert Island.

A report from ZP-11 on January 10 that K-10 had dropped a depth charge that didn't detonate impelled Captain Herbster to seek an explanation for such activity when an important movement was in the area. The Executive Officer at the South Weymouth Base advised the cancellation of all gunnery training flights until after a conference on the subject.

About the middle of the month Captain Baker, of CESF, requested information on the blimps available at the base. The Executive Officer of ZP-11 advised him that two were detached for work with Buord, one was to go to Bar Harbor, one to Newport, one to Comasdevlant, and one to Florida on January 18 for major check-up; leaving only two for operational work.

Captain Baker stated that ZP-11 was giving the blimp to AsDevlant under dispatch of October 091511 which assigned the blimp for one week only. Northern Group, however, is to have priority on the blimp so that it will go on its mission January 18, only if it is not needed for operational work.

Comdr. Payne of CESF notified Northern Group that if our operations interfere with the request of AsDevlant for the use of the blimp, CESF could help out with a PBY from Quonset.

Attention was also called to the dispatch which instructed that air coverage be minimized when no enemy subs were estimated in the vicinity.