

NORTHERN GROUP

October 1943

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

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

Blimp Squadron ELEVEN airships, during the month of October 1943, made a total of 150 flights for a total of 1255.7 flying hours. There were 101 operational flights for a total of 1073.5 hours covering a total sea mile track of 37,514 miles and successfully escorting 214 surface ships.

On 9 October 1943, non-rigid airship K-69 of this squadron was assigned to Anti-Submarine Development Detachment and this airship made six photographic flights during the remainder of the month under orders from Anti-Submarine Development Detachment. On 18 October, non-rigid airship K-14 entered interim overhaul and was returned to operational status on 28 October. Non-rigid airship K-38 entered interim overhaul on 31 October. On 25 October 1943, non-rigid airship K-13 was detached from this squadron and delivered to Blimp Headquarters Squadron ONE, Detachment FIFTEEN, Glynco, Georgia, at 0110 Queen, 27 October 1943. There were six airships assigned to this squadron during the first twenty-four days of the month and five during the last seven days of the month.

On 10, 17, 26 and 28 October no operations were conducted from South Weymouth due to unfavorable weather conditions. No loss, through hazards of navigation or enemy action occurred to surface ships under escort.

No definite contacts were made with enemy submarines during the month but airships assisted in investigating possible contacts obtained within the area.

2. Planes and Blimps Attached.a) VS-31 Squadron.

- (1) Squantum - 14 OS2U-3's, 1 J4F-2, 1 SNJ-4.
- (2) Brunswick - 5 OS2U-3's.
- (3) Bar Harbor - 5 OS2U-3's.

All planes are equipped as follows: wheels on all OS2U-3's, each equipped with two Mark 17 depth charges, one fixed .30 caliber machine gun with 500 rounds of ammunition, 140 gallons of fuel, cruising speed 100 to 110 knots, radius of operation with bomb load 150 to 200 miles, RU type receiver, GF type transmitter, IFF equipment installed and in use.

b) Salem Coast Guard Squadron.

Six OS2U-3 sea planes.

Fuel capacity, 100 gallons with bomb load. One fixed and one free .30 cal. machine gun, with two 325 pound depth charges.