

Feb 25 1918 10316

From: Chief of Naval Operations (Aviation)
To: All Naval Air Stations, Aviation Detachments,
and Ships Carrying Aircraft.

Subject: Weekly Report - February 9, 1918.

1. Advanced training in Aerial Gunnery is now being received by a detachment of N.R.F.C. at Taliaferro Field No.1, Fort Worth, Texas.

The following officers have reported for duty:

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Ens. R.H. McCann | Ens. T.P. Grosvenor |
| Ens. F.G. Lynch | Ens. P. B. Frothingham |
| Ens. T. H. Chapman | Ens. W. Gaston |
| Ens. J. Crane, Jr. | Ens. G. Shaw |
| Ens. R. A. Griswold | Ens. R. Wetherald |

2. Advanced flying is progressing rapidly at our Stations abroad, one station having reported the following time:

	<u>Flights</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Minutes</u>
January 21, 1918	64	23	
January 29, 1918	137	45	20

3. San Diego: Ensign Charles R. Farmer U.S.N.R.F. reported February 17, 1918 for Aviation duty.

4. Pensacola: The following were appointed Ensigns U.S.N.R.F. on February 7, 1918:

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| F. Boger, Jr. | E. L. Johnson |
| J. W. Hines | I. Paris |

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5. Hours of flying obtained during the past week at Naval Air Stations, together with number of flights, and seaplanes in commission at each Station for week February 9th, 1918:

<u>Station</u>	<u>Flights</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Machines</u>
Akron	1	5 min.	1 Dirigible
Akron	6	11 hr. 35 min.	13 Free Balloons
Bay Shore	0	0	5 Seaplanes
Fort Worth	63	44 hr. 15 min.	Airplanes
Hampton Roads	3	1 hr. 8 min.	25 Seaplanes
Key West	379	236 hr. 24 min.	12 Seaplanes
Lake Charles	162	106 hr. 52 min.	Airplanes
Miami	120	60 hr. 49 min.	12 Seaplanes
Montauk	3	7 hr. 8 min.	2 Dirigibles
Pensacola	<u>1663</u>	<u>1457</u> hr. <u>35</u> min.	59 Seaplanes
Pensacola	72	36 hr. 28 min.	3 Dirigibles
Pensacola	4	8 hr. 54 min.	2 Free Balloons
Pensacola	5	0 hr. 55 min.	4 Kite Balloons
Philadelphia (report for Feb. 9th, 1918 not in).			
Rockaway	1	1 hr. 7 min.	2 Dirigibles
Rockaway	1	29 min.	7 Kite Balloons
San Diego	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	6 Seaplanes
	2483	1973 hr. 44 min.	

Cape May; 5 seaplanes, no flying, bay frozen over.

Rockaway; weather conditions and ice prevented the use of both types of aircraft practically all week.

6. San Diego reports the following personnel.

Naval Aviators	- -	9
Student Naval Aviators	- -	2
Qualified Mechanics, Aviation	- -	14
Student	" "	1604

Total	-	1629

Pensacola:

Naval Aviators	- -	151
Student Naval Aviators	- -	156
Qualified Mechanics, Aviation	- -	305
Student	" "	1400

Total	-	2012

7. It is now planned to assign most of the new H-12 sea-planes to Pensacola and the HS-1 seaplanes to Miami, as they are ready for delivery; with a few of each to Hampton Roads.

Foreign News Notes

Aircraft Locate Mines

1. Recently, aircraft have rendered valuable assistance to surface craft in buoying the position of mines.

2. A mine field was first observed by aircraft and was finally swept about sixteen days later by trawlers. During this period the aircraft patrolled the area and as they located successive mines, led motor launches over the exact position of each mine, directing them where to place each position buoy. This form of co-operation between aircraft and surface craft may result in the saving of much time and unnecessary risk.

Germany's Aircraft

3. A correspondent who professes to be accurately informed reports that Germany now has with her army in the field about 300 squadrons of airplanes numbering about 2500 in all. Of these, 23 are bombing squadrons, 40 are "chasers", 30 are protecting squadrons, 80 are patrol squadrons, and 100 are artillery squadrons. In addition

there are garrison squadrons, training squadrons and the hydro-airplanes of the Navy. Of the 45 Zeppelins which have been built, 27 have been lost, namely: 5 destroyed in Germany, by accidents, etc., 5 in neutral countries adjoining Germany; 15 in England or on their way to or from England; and 2 at sea. Five of the survivors are out of use, 4 are used as training ships, and 9 are still in more or less active service about the North Sea.

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4. Serious Defects Pointed Out By Prisoner;

German Rumpler - 260 h.p. Mercedes Engined Airplane

It is confirmed from the interrogatory of the prisoner-pilot that this airplane is able to develop great speed and great climbing power, but is difficult to pilot and liable to perform a corkscrew-nose dive. The motor is apparently too heavy for the airplane.

5. French Account for 1030 German Aeros.

Records for the ten months ending in October, show that the French destroyed 120 German aeroplanes over the French lines, and 397 over the German lines, which destruction has been fully confirmed. There also were 513 others over the German lines, which probably were destroyed but confirmation of the fact was not obtainable. This makes a grand total of 1,030. Twenty-two German captive balloons also were destroyed.

6. Flies 2000 Miles, Raids Constantinople.

The Admiralty announces that a successful air attack in the vicinity of Constantinople has been carried out by a large British bombing aeroplane of the Handley-Page type, which flew from England to a British base in the Mediterranean in a series of eight flights. The stopping places include Lyons and Rome, and the total distance covered was nearly 2,000 miles.

The machine was actually in the air thirty-one hours. This is believed to be a world's record for a cross-country journey and for the weight carried. During some parts of the flight strong winds and heavy rain storms were experienced and there was one stretch of 200 miles over a mountainous country where it would be impossible for any machine to land.

M. R. [unclear]

By direction