

OFFICE OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

WASHINGTON

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December 23, 1918. U.S. NAVAL AIR STATION
PENSACOLA, FLA.

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From: Director of Naval Aviation,
To: All Naval Air Stations, Aviation Detachments,
Bureaus and Naval Districts.

SUBJECT: Weekly Report - December 23, 1918.

COMMANDANT'S OFFICE

1. Hours of patrol obtained during the past week at Naval Air Stations, together with the number of flights and seaplanes used for patrol, for week ending December 23, 1918:

PATROLS

<u>Stations</u>	<u>Flights</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Mins.</u>	<u>Aircraft in Commission</u>	<u>Complement at Station</u>
Gape May	12	29-	6	5 seaplanes	12 seaplanes
Chatham	4	10+	31	15 "	12 "
Hampton Roads	40	95-	24	18 "	24 "
"	1	0-	58	1 dirigible	1 dirigible
Rockaway	14	20+	5	11 seaplanes	24 seaplanes
"	3	4-	41	2 dirigibles	2 dirigibles
	<u>74</u>	<u>160-</u>	<u>45</u>		

	<u>Flights</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Mins.</u>
Lighter-than-air total	4	5	39
Seaplanes total	70	155	6

NOTE - The Sign + indicates that the record for the week is greater, the sign - indicates that the record for the week is less than for the preceding week.

Akron dispatch not received in time for this report.

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2. Hours of flying other than patrol obtained during the past week at Naval Air Stations, together with the number of flights and seaplanes in commission and at each station for the week ending December 23, 1918.

<u>Stations</u>	<u>Flights other than patrol.</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Mins.</u>	<u>Aircraft in commission other than patrol.</u>	<u>Complement at station</u>
Anacostia	57	32	13	4 seaplanes	m 9 seaplanes
Cape May	9	7	41	5 "	
Chatham	17	12	32	8 "	
Chatham	2	1	20	1 dirigible	
"	1	0	47	1 kite balloon	
Coco Solo	17	21	45	2 seaplanes	
Great Lakes	3	0	65	2 "	
Halifax	8	4	10		
Hampton Roads	46	33	35	30 seaplanes	m 14 seaplanes
"	4	4	48	1 dirigible	
Key West	782	657	11	24 seaplanes	36 seaplanes
Miami	714	853	15	39 "	114 "
Miami Marines	290	206	51	airplanes	
Pensacola	574	407	30	68 seaplanes	108 "
Pensacola	34	26	40	2 dirigibles	
Rockaway	55	9	20	11 seaplanes	
"	3	2	25	2 dirigibles	
San Diego	710	577	15	22 seaplanes	
	<u>3326</u>	<u>2860</u>	<u>23</u>		

	<u>Flights</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Mins.</u>
Seaplanes	2992	2617	32
Airplanes	290	206	51
Balloons	11	0	47
Dirigibles	43	35	13
	<u>3326</u>	<u>2860</u>	<u>23</u>

GRAND TOTAL FOR FLYING TIME:

	<u>Flights</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Mins.</u>
Patrol	74	160	45
Other than patrol	<u>3326</u>	<u>2860</u>	<u>23</u>
	<u>3400</u>	<u>3021</u>	<u>3</u>

m - Experimental.

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MIA, FLA. - December 14, 1918.

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The Gunnery Course has been enlarged so as to call for more attention to the Lewis Air Guns.

This is done, due to the information that we have just received about the course at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida.

Pigeons:- On December 9th the Southern Team were single tossed about thirty-five miles south of the station. Maximum time, one hour thirty-nine minutes. On December 11th the Northern Team were single tossed at about twenty-five miles north of the station. Maximum time, one hour, fifty-five minutes. Minimum time, twenty-five minutes. Four birds were lost during the week. They were birds from the Eastern Team, and were tossed from an H-Boat. Six birds were tossed, only two returning.

KEY WEST, FLA. - December 17, 1918.

Heavier-than-Air.

Seaplanes were employed successfully during the past week in a search for a man lost in a small power craft between Cape Sable and Homestead on the southern tip of the Florida peninsula.

After an unsuccessful search of three days by small craft, etc., this station was notified and two HS-2L seaplanes were directed to assist in the search. Within an hour the seaplanes located the missing boat, which was stuck upon a shoal, furnished the occupant with food and assisted him in getting his boat into deep water.

The success of this search demonstrates the value of aircraft in a locality of such a character as that about the tip of Florida - very shoal water with hundreds of small keys scattered about.

Communications

Much difficulty has been experienced in training carrier pigeons at this station because of the numerous hawks and other predatory birds that infest the locality. Several of the pigeons have returned to the loft showing evidence of being attacked.

Two birds returned last week after an absence of several days - both severely injured about the crop and breast - necessitating several stitches being taken in each bird. The ability of these birds to reach the loft in their wounded condition is accepted as an excellent demonstration of their value and efficiency.

It is believed that many of the birds which failed to return to the loft after having been released, fell victim to the attacks of hawks, etc.

SOURCE O.N.I. - December 15, 1918.

The British have several new ships entirely fitted for launching airplanes under way. They carry no guns or armament and travel at speed varying from 20 to 30 knots. They are oil burning, with the smokestacks pointing horizontally from the stern. The upper deck is absolutely flush, with no masts or stacks. Several elevators lift the airplanes from the lower decks to the upper decks.

CHATHAM, MASS. December 16, 1918.

Patrols.

Rain, fog and high winds held up patrols on all but two days of the past week.

Gunnery.

(a) Practice work using the new Mark III pilot directing bomb sight in combination with the sub-caliber bomb launching gear was started and eighteen bombs were dropped at the submarine target. The Mark III sight is a great improvement over any that have been developed to date.

(b) Two Mark IV bombs were dropped with a depth setting of twenty feet; one of these was the standard bomb with a nine grain detonator and failed to function; the other had the standard nose piece with a nine-grain detonator and a booster charge of two and one half pounds of Grade "A" T. N.T. in a copper container twelve inches long extending down into the main charge. This bomb functioned with very high order of detonation.

Pigeons

(a) Two birds were liberated at the Island of Nantucket at 2:00 P.M. one day this week. The haze was so heavy that the water was invisible at an altitude of from 400 to 500.

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CHATHAM, MASS - December 16, 1918. (Cont'd)

feet, Directly after liberation it commenced to rain. One bird arrived at the loft at 3:55 P.M. and the other arrived the next morning. These were good performances considering the haze, rain, and a stiff head wind.

(b) Forty untrained birds were given two liberations, one at a distance of one-half mile, and the other at a distance of one mile. Both performances were generally satisfactory.

ANACOSTIA - December 20th

The following is considered a remarkable performance for the storage battery and ignition system on an HS-3 boat that was submerged for fourteen hours, due to an injury in its hull.

The storage battery instrument board ignition switch and all of the wiring inside the hull were under water for that length of time.

When the ignition switch was turned on, the ammeter, which was also submerged, showed the proper discharge of current, and no difficulty was experienced in starting the engine.

The ignition system was the standard Liberty equipment.

A series of Official pictures have been taken from the air over Washington, the Navy Yard, and the Air Station.

The pictures taken from over the city were from altitudes of one thousand and two thousand feet. The pictures turned out very well and will be used in map making and for publication.

PENSACOLA - December 14, 1918.

Weather on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday was unfit for navigation.

Crashes.

There were two Float seaplane crashes during the week; A-2391 and A-2500, both Hispano-Suiza N-9's crashed to total wreck. No one was severely injured.

Service Flight School.

There were only three days during which it was possible to carry on Navigation instruction flights. 60 Navigation patrol flights were made, and the total time flown was 118:10:35 students completed the course. The average error of planes returning to point of departure was two thirds of a mile, and an average time error of three minutes.

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During the week 41 radio messages were received from planes on Navigation flights. 18 of these messages were sent by student officers in HS-1's.

Gunnery School.

Temporary barracks equipped with hammocks to accommodate 125 men have been completed and are now occupied.

Five motors furnishing propeller blasts for range practices are now in operation.

Until the lighting plant authorized for Camp Saufley arrives, arrangements are being made to use a generator and OXX motor for electric lights.

Bombing School

During the past week the number of "F" boat seaplanes in the Squadron has been cut to four. These are being used to train students in bombing. Three HS-1 boats have already been set up and tested. These are being used for Camera Obscura work.

Delco lighting plant has been installed. The power house at the base of the tower is finished, and the plant is now in operation.

Radio School

Ten H-16 seaplanes are now equipped with C.P. 1110 radio transmitters, and others are being installed. Considerable interference has been experienced from two or more planes sending at one time, as this type of set is designed to operate at one wave length only. Alterations are being undertaken to adapt them for use on several wave lengths. It is believed that this will overcome the interference and permit of more planes being on navigation at one time.

/s/ J.H.Towers
By direction.