

In reply refer to No. Op.Air 0155-12

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED - DOD DIR 5200.9, 27 Sep 1958

From : Chief of Naval Operations (Aviation)

To : All Naval Air Stations, Aviation Detachments

and ships carrying aircraft.

SUBJECT: Weekly Bulletin for weeks ending January 5, and January 12 1918.

l. Owing to delay in receiving reports from many of the stations, it has been impossible to make up the bulletin until nearly a month after the date of the reports. Hereafter the bulletin will be issued within ten days of the period covered by the reports, whether the files are complete or not.

All stations will, therefore, forward their statements to this office at the earliest possible date.

- 2. Owing to ice and bad weather no seaplane flying has been possible during the last two weeks at Montauk, Bay Shore, Rockaway, Cape May and Hampton Roads.
- 3. Preparations for flying at San Diego have not as yet been completed, but the work is being rushed. In the meantime, there are 1246 men taking ground school work at the Naval Training Station, preparatory to transfer to the Air Station. Several of the Fair Buildings are being used for this purpose.
- 4. Akron reports that 24 Seamen 2c, have finished the course of instruction in free and kite ballooning.
- 55. Cape May: The following officers reported for duty:

Ensign B.B.Dowell USNRF. Ensign R.C.Gartz USNRF. Assistant Surgeon F.G.Tindall USNRF The personnel at that station now consists of:

4 Naval Aviators,

11 Student Naval Aviators,

3 Qualified Mechanics, and

22 Student Mechanics

6. At Bay Shore there are:

4 Naval Aviators,

3 Student Naval Aviators

5 Qualified Mechanics, and

224 Student Mechanics.

7. Pensacola: The following Officers and men reported for duty:

8. 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 of January 5th:

Station		Flights	Hours	Machines
Key West Akron Akron Pensacola Pensacola Pensacola Miami	Total	185 ? ? 932 1 8 63 1189 Flights	121 1/2 3 18 18 1/2 684 1/4 2 1/2 35 882 3/4	8 Seaplanes 2 Dirigibles 10 Free Balloons 1 Kite Balloon 43 Seaplanes 3 Dirigibles 2 Free Balloons 31 Seaplanes

Week of January 12th:

Station	Flights	Hours	Machines
Key West Akron Akron Akron Pensacola Pensacola Miami Total	206 ? ? 890 8 133 1237 Fligh	109 1/2 5 1/2 19 1/2 730 1/2 3 1/2 75 943 1/2	8 Seaplanes 2 Dirigibles 10 Free Balloons 1 Kite Balloon 43 Seaplanes 2 Dirigibles 33 Seaplanes

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9. The following have qualified as seaplane pilots:

Speed C.M. Ludlow, George H. Bailey, Morris H. Powers, Harvey M. Bryant, R.A. Provost, Eusebe Wright, Webster M. Weatherhead Chas. H. Paul, Arthur Bergin, Thos M. Cantwell Robt.C. Zabriskie, Alexander C. Butchart Ellis J. Townsley Wm. M. Gardner Wm.H. Kennedy, Stanley C. Burrows, Julian A. Gardner Gibson McNaughton L.M. Staub J.F. Becker Fred H. Slater H.N. Lee L.H. Burke, James Jr. Boorse, A.L. McKinnon, Thomas M. Davidson D. Owen, K.B. Atwood R.L. Newlin James C.Jr. Hodges, K.B. Bailey Morris, H. Hammer L. Finnegan, B.O.J. Brockwell, W.A. Davis Harold Crosscup, W.E. Callahan P.J.

The following have qualified in free and kite balloons:

Stoppel, F. Clark F.S. Blakely, H. Van Emden A.L. Close, E.F. Carpenter G.H. Corbett, M.G.
Geddes, Homer R.
Green, P.A. CuChemin, N.M. White, D.T. Whitney, K. Ehrmanntraut, W.R. Williams C.D. Eldridge, C.G. Griffin, Walter B. Kelley, W.D. Gibson, J.R. Wing, H.C. Kant, E.S. Gheen J.W. Houghton, Arthur Harris, H.C. Morse, A.L. Bradford, S.N. McIntyre, H.M. Jones, V.H. Bottoms, R.R. McNally, L.A. Kennedy, H.H. Conway, F.J. Null, Telford, B. Noland, J.L. Easterly M.H. Packard, E.B. Partridge, W.H. Lawrence, J.B. Anderson J.B. Reed, C.E. Lewis, H.B. Blakey R.K. Shumway, C.E. Schwabe, J.C. Quinn J.J.

10. The personnel at Key West now consists of the following officers and men, under command of Lieut. Stanley V. Parker U.S.N.

14. Naval Aviators
35 Student Naval Aviators
49 Qualified Mechanics 3.
15 Student Mechanics 3.

11. News Notes from abroad.

"Statement from Groupe d l'Avant. The Germans assert they will have 12,000 airplanes ready for use by April 1918.

Exactly what types are being built, and how many of each, is not known, but a large Gotha bombarding machine is believed to be built in great numbers".

"RIESENFLUGZEUG. (Giant Airplane)

An Officer aviator taken prisoner at Verdun states that at an aerodrome, on the outskirts of Vouziers (Aisne) there are six or eight machines, each having several engines, and accommodating a crew of three or four persons.

The aerodrome is carefully guarded.

Other prisoners captured support the above statement and give the precise location of the aerodrome.

Aerial photographs confirm the existence of the aerodrome on which there are hangars of a sufficiently large type to house these "giant airplanes" (French source)".

EXTRACTS FROM THE GERMAN PRESS: The following is a list corrected up to the 1st of October 1917, of these German airmen who have brought down eight or more enemy airplanes:

The down of the first of more enemy airplanes
Rittmeister Friernerr von Richthofen6
Leutnant Gontermann3
Leutnant Bernert
Leutnant Mallon
Bountain Dostion (missing)
Bedthant Freirnerr von Richthofen.
Leutnant Schleich
Uperleutnant von Tutschek 20
Oberleutnant Berthold.
Leutnant Adam
Leutnant von Bulow
Leutnant Wusthoff
Leutnant Kissenberth
Oberleutnant Bethge
Leutnant Gootsch
Leutnant Klein
Leutnant Boehme
Leutnant Eschwege
Leutnant Schmidt15
Leutnant Thuy14
Offizier Stellvertreter Buckler13
Leutnant Goering
Leutnant Hoss
Leutnant Udet
Oberleutnant Buddocke

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Comparing the above with the list of airmen who had accounted for eight or more airplanes up to August 1st, 1917, it is interesting to note the following points.

The above list differs from the former ones, in that all names of deceased pilots are suppressed.

During the months of August and September 1917, the following well known German airmen were killed or otherwise put out of actions

Leutnant Voss
Leutnant Wolff
Uberleutnant Dostler (missing, believed killed)
Offizier Stellvertreter Muller, Max.
Leutnant Hoendorf,
Leutnant Bengartz
Oberleutnant Freiherr von Althauss
Leutnant Anslinger"

"A" states that it is well known that the German Communiques with regard to the air are unreliable. He states, for instance, that pilots return from a flight and say that they have brought down this or that machine, and that their claims are immediately recorded without any check or control whatsoever.

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