

one enlisted men to maintain these, which sounds like you are overloaded with personnel. This wasn't true. When we went to Portland, Maine of course we were sitting up there and the Tirpitz was in Brest, France the U. S. S. Washington our sister ship had joined the fleet in Scapa Flow. I understand the basic reason of being there was in case the Tirpitz made a run for the North Sea, the British Lord Nelson and the Washington and the North Carolina would be about the only thing they could possibly handle her. Well we sat there for several weeks and the aviation unit was called upon to fly dawn antisubmarine war patrols and dusk antisubmarine warfare patrols with two or three aircraft in each morning and each afternoon. Then in the late morning or early afternoons, we would run tracking drills for exercising the radars, the antiaircraft gun directors and the gun crews at their stations. At that time the V division manned the four twenty millimeters aft of the starboard and port catapults. Therefore they could be spared for maintenance on the third aircraft during these mandatory tracking runs. Then in the afternoons, the aircraft would go out for their own gunnery bombing, navigational and operational and search type flights. So at the end of the month, we had put in approximately five hundred and fifteen hours in the air with thirty O52U's. Now this averages out approximately a hundred and seventy seven hours a month per plane or five point eight eight hours per day for thirty days. The days were extremely long then because all of the maintenance had to be done in the evenings or the single aircrafts down. Now there is no way that we could prove this. But neither has it ever been challenged. Because every log of every ship that had an aviation unit would have to be scrutinized to get the exact figures. But to the best of my knowledge, we have never been able to find another ship that was called upon to conduct so many flying hours in any one month. I think this is some sort of record and I think it would stand, if the time could be taken to develop the complete