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Air Ministry News Service

Air Ministry Bulletin No. 12318

LAST-WAR PILOT SEES U-BOAT KILL

Although many pilots have never seen a U-boat despite hundreds of hours' flying over the Atlantic, S/Ldr. George Lugg, a pilot of the last war and today a controller in a Coastal Command station, was in an aircraft making a U-boat kill during the recent convoy battle, in which three U-boats were destroyed by Coastal Command and two by the Royal Navy.

Flying in a V.L.R. Liberator piloted by F/O G.D. Gamble, D.F.C., B.E.M., of Bedworth, Warwick, S/Ldr. Lugg was an active participator in the 90-minute battle which led to the U-boat's destruction.

"It was an experience I would not have missed for the world", he said. "I'm afraid I wasn't the first to see the U-boat but I was the first to notice smoke coming from her before she sank. The trip was in no sense a joy-ride. I went because I wanted to have first-hand knowledge of the task of Coastal Command aircraft captains and crews during their long patrols. And the 90-minute battle had more thrills packed into it than came my way in months of flying in the last war."

S/Ldr. Lugg, who comes from Crawley, Sussex, joined the R.A.F. in the last war after having served in the Royal Engineers. He started the war as a despatch rider and earned his wings in 1917. He was one of the pioneers who carried out take-offs and landings on the Hermes, the aircraft carrier.

Soon after the war, he left the service but returned in 1922 to fly carrier-borne aircraft until he retired in 1927. He was selected, but never flew, with the high speed flight led by the late Air Commodore Orlebar.

Civilian flying attracted S/Ldr. Lugg and he joined a well-known transport company. He returned to the R.A.F. again early in 1940.

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