

CZECH GROUP CAPTAIN LEAVES COASTAL COMMAND

Group Captain A.A. Kubita, Czechoslovak liaison officer with Coastal Command, has been posted for similar duties to the R.A.F. Transport Command.

This will be the third command in which he has served as liaison officer. He joined Bomber Command on arrival in England after the fall of France, but when a Czech squadron moved from Bomber to Coastal Command, 13 months ago, he went with them.

His new post gives him an important task in assisting to plan post-war transport of food and vital supplies to his own and other enemy occupied countries.

A pilot of the last war and for many years since then in the Czechoslovak Air Force, Group Captain Kubita was taken prisoner in Hungary on his way to join his compatriots in France early in this war. He remained a prisoner for two months and reached France shortly before her collapse.

He says his days as a pilot are past but when he joined Coastal Command he resolved that, if only as a passenger, he would share with the Czech squadron as often as he could the hazards of their anti-submarine patrols over the sea.

Nearly every month he flew with them on an operational sortie. His great regret on leaving Coastal Command is that he has been on ten flights but has seen no signs of a U-boat. His successor, Wing Commander J.S. ----, D.F.C. had the fortune to sight one on his first trip as commanding officer of the squadron.

Wing Commander S----- flew on 38 sorties as captain of one of this squadron's Liberators. Since he left the squadron he has served with the Czechoslovak inspectorate in London.

Group Captain Kubita is proud of the operational progress of the squadron since he became associated with it, but he has not been concerned entirely with their performance in the air. He is equally proud of their enthusiasm for spare-time education and has done much to encourage their study of English.

He has a special file containing a list of Czech airmen who came to Britain knowing hardly a word of English but who have since passed Cambridge University examinations in English proficiency. His successor intends to continue this work for, like Group Captain Kubita, he believes in the importance of language study in furthering good relations between the Allies.

+++++