SQUADRON COMMANDER WHO MISSED U-BOAT "KILL"

Whether he is resting or checking over his 'plane, the captain of a Coastal Command aircraft takes the controls when a U-boat is sighted or attacked.

Because of this tradition, an R.C.A.F. officer, Wing Commander J.R.Frizzle, or Berwick, Halifax, Nova Scotia, failed to achieve the ambition of a service life-time during the recent action in the Atlantic when Coastal Command sank three U-boats in one day.

Although he was the senior officer in an R.C.A.F. Sunderland and was at the controls at the moment the submarine was located, and although he sighted the U-boat almost at the same time as F/O A. Mcnhaul, of Lindsay, Ont., the second pilot, he did not have the satisfaction of carrying out the attack which led to the U-boats destruction.

For W/Cdr. Frizzle, recently appointed Commanding Officer of one of the newest R.C.A.F. Sunderland squadrons, was flying as third pilot in another squadron's flying-boat, and, in accordance with general procedure, he handed over the controls to F/O. A.H. Russell, of Edmonton, Alberta, the aircraft's captain.

"It was a perfect attack", said W/Cdr. Frizzle. "I checked the depth-charges while F/O. Russell positioned, and I then stood beside him and the second pilot as he took the aircraft down, in poor visibility, to make the 'kill'".

The disappointment of the Wing Commander can be judged from the fact that he has been engaged on anti-submarine work since the war began, both as an operational pilot and as an instructor.

For 18 months after the outbreak of war he hunted U-boats off the Canadian coast but was never fortunate enough to make a sighting. He flew in Stranraer flying-boats from a base only a few minutes' flying distance from his own home, over which he often passed on his way to and from operations.

"I've two consolations", he said. "F/O. Russell had made a 'kill' while I was in his aircraft, and I'm taking over a squadron which will give me an opportunity for some more action against the U-boats".

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