

PATIENCE REWARDED

The patience demanded of aircrews engaged in U-boat hunting in the Bay of Biscay and the Atlantic is shown by the experience of the Captain of a Coastal Command Wellington, a squadron leader, who flew for 1300 hours without finding a target and was then able to make two attacks in three nights.

The pilot, who comes from Aberdeen, served with one of the Scottish Auxiliary Squadrons of the R.A.F. and only a few months before the war obtained a post in South Africa. Before leaving home he told his brother, adjutant of his squadron, that if any trouble came he was to be called at once.

So when war began he came home again as soon as possible.

Year after year, although he had other experiences in action, he did not have the good fortune to sight a submarine and he had completed his first operational tour of 1,000 hours and had done 300 hours of his second tour before his luck changed.

Then, last month, in the course of three nights the Wellington of which he is captain, saw two U-boats both of which were attacked.

The second submarine met the Wellington with fire from a cannon mounted aft of its coming-tower.

"Shells passed very near us, but we were not hit," the squadron leader said. "We went in to attack and the Nazi kept firing. He must have been blown off the vessel and left in the water when our depth-charges exploded because he certainly did not attempt to get into the coming-tower.

"The submarine re-surfaced for a brief time after it had dived, and seemed to have been blown to the top. One of our depth-charges had exploded right alongside the hull. Then it disappeared again."

Although these were his first U-boats the squadron leader has had other lively actions notably when his aircraft attacked a large tanker, and blew a gaping hole in its port side, forcing the ship to run for port where she was laid up for three months.

"They fired at us as we went in to attack and the Wellington was damaged, but not sufficient to stop us", he said.

The Wellington Captain is a former student of the Scottish School of Physical Education in Glasgow: he has now completed 1,400 hours of operational flying.

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