



MARITIME PATROL AND RECONNAISSANCE FORCE HALL OF HONOR

Squadron Leader Terry Bulloch DSO* DFC* Mid, RAFN

Sqdn Ldr Terry “Hawkeye” Bulloch was born in Ireland and following his older brother, was commissioned and earned his RAF wings in 1937. At the outset of the war he was flying Avro Ansons and subsequently, Lockheed Martin Hudsons on anti-shipping patrols, for which he earned his first Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC). During this time, his brother was lost while flying a Wellington bomber over Germany in early 1940. With the entry of the US into the war, Terry was selected to come to the US as “seedcorn” for the RAF in developing experience in US aircraft. He subsequently flew the first trans-Atlantic flight in a B-17, delivering the aircraft to RAF bomber command. Returning to the US, he learned to fly the B-24 Liberator and after ferrying several to the UK, he helped establish it as an anti-U-boat platform, with the B-24 credited for more U-boat sinkings than any other allied aircraft during the war.

Back in combat and flying out of Reykjavik, Iceland to cover the famed U-boat hunting grounds in the mid-Atlantic, Lt Bulloch flew several successful events, conducting over 16 attacks and credited with damaging and probably sinking U-89. On 12 October 1942, he recorded his first confirmed U-boat kill, attacking from astern and out of the sun, he straddled U-597 with six depth charges that compromised the submarine’s hull, which subsequently sank with all hands. For this attack he was awarded his first Distinguished Service Order (DSO).

His most famous mission followed shortly thereafter on 12 December 1942, as he flew in support of west bound convoy HX-217. In the span of five hours on-station, he sighted eight submarines, with successful attacks against seven, two of which were sunk during this action. His first attack, with depth charges, probably sunk U-611 and 30 minutes later he sighted two submarines, attacking one with his remaining depth charges and machine gun fire, while the other submerged. While taking some lunch during a lull in the battle, he sighted another submarine, dumping his lunch and attacking with machine guns and cannon fire forcing the U-boat to submerge. Over the next two hours, he attacked four more submarines in the same manner and is credited with the sinking of U-254 during these actions.

On 8 July 1943, Sqdn Ldr Bulloch sank his fourth confirmed U-boat while flying in Spanish waters. He sighted U-517, a new larger Type IX submarine and after attacking it several times with new air to surface rockets and machine gun fire, the U-boat sank.

During his wartime career, he was credited with 350 combat missions, and over 4,568 flying hours with 1,721 of those in a B-24 Liberator. During his World War II combat, Squadron Leader Terry Bulloch and the crews he flew were credited with four confirmed U-boat kills, three severely damaged, with two of those possibly sunk, and over 28 others attacked - at least forcing them out of attack position, if not certainly damaging them.

This resulted in Sqdn Ldr Bulloch becoming the most decorated pilot and anti-U-boat ace in Royal Air Force Coastal Command history.