RAF names latest aircraft after Northern Ireland WW2 Coastal Command ace
Poseidon MRA.1 ZP803 currently being completed in the USA sports the name ‘Terence Bulloch DSO, DFC, in recognition of the pilot who made the greatest number of attacks against submarines in the Battle of the Atlantic.

This week in 2020 the RAF announced that the third of nine new Poseidon aircraft would commemorate Squadron Leader Terry Bulloch from NI who made the greatest number of sightings and attacks in Coastal Command against German U-boats in WW2.

By the end of the war he had been credited with sinking four, twice the number by any other pilot.

He joined the RAF on a short service commission in 1936 and trained as a pilot before flying Ansons in Coastal Command, becoming a Pilot Officer in May 1937. By early 1940 he had transferred to No 206 Squadron at the same airfield RAF Bircham Newton, Norfolk, flying American-built Lockheed Hudsons, patrolling the French, Dutch and Belgian coastal areas, including a number of hazardous
trips during the evacuation of the BEF from Dunkirk. He attacked and damaged a German floatplane forcing it to land on the sea where he then bombed it. He also bombed the Channel ports being used in Hitler’s preparations to invade England in September 1940.

He had a short detachment to Coastal Command at RAF Aldergrove, Co. Antrim. From this airfield, the RAF conducted convoy escorts and anti-submarine patrols over the Atlantic.

At the end of the year, he was awarded the DFC, which was soon followed by a mention in despatches.

By December 1940, “The Bull” was a Flight Lieutenant and due for a rest. This rest period, he spent in the USA training to fly American bombers to the United Kingdom. On 13/04/1941, he piloted the first Boeing B-17 across the Atlantic for use by RAF Bomber Command. He also trained
in the USA on flying the B-24 Liberator and flew one to the United Kingdom on 21/06/1941.

On one occasion, flying a B-17 Fortress, he took just over eight hours to reach Prestwick in Scotland, a record flight across the Atlantic at that time.

With the arrival of the B-24 Liberators, some of which Bulloch had delivered, No 120 Squadron was formed at Nutts Corner, Belfast and Bulloch joined as a flight commander. They were the first Coastal Command squadron to make use of American-made Liberators. Terry had experience in flying these American planes. He helped train other pilots including fellow Ulstermen Brian Bannister, Eric Esler, and Jack Harrison.

On October 21 1941, Bulloch made the squadron’s first attack against a U-boat but abandoned it briefly to attack a
Terence Bullock - fourth from left, front row - at a South Atlantic Medal Presentation to Crew 6, 120 Squadron on 29/01/1983

Focke Wulf 200 Kondor aircraft that was shadowing the convoy he was protecting. The Kondor left the area rapidly and Bulloch resumed his hunt for the submarine. He spotted a periscope and dived to attack with three depth charges. The attack was inconclusive and he was credited with a “damaged”.

Bulloch developed new techniques for attacking U-Boats while with RAF 120 Squadron. Eventually, parts of Coastal Command’s Operations Manual was rewritten as a result.
His “perfect vision” was an asset that enabled him to spot German U-Boats earlier than most other pilots.

Over the next nine months of patient patrolling, Bulloch made six more U-boat sightings. He damaged U-59 as it returned to Brest and, two days later, he seriously damaged U-653, forcing it to return to Brest where it spent six months being repaired.

In September he was in Iceland and on October 12 he achieved his, and the squadron’s, first confirmed “kill”. His depth charges virtually blew U-597 out of the water and it was last seen tipping vertically before disappearing.

Over the next two weeks he sighted and attacked four more submarines and on November 5 he sighted another two. Attacking one of them from bow to stern, his aim was accurate and his depth charges destroyed U-132. He was awarded a Bar to his DFC, the citation commenting, “his power of leadership is outstanding”.

After his memorable sortie of December 8, he became an instructor but took the opportunity to test new equipment, including a battery of eight rockets fitted to the nose of his aircraft. He was attached to No 224 Squadron and, on July 8 1943, he was on patrol near Cape Finisterre when he spotted the conning tower of a submarine in the wake of a fishing boat. He attacked and fired his eight rockets in pairs from fifty feet. He pulled up and re-attacked with his depth charges. U-514 outbound to South African waters was destroyed with all hands.

At the end of his tour, Bulloch refused to be rested and he joined a long-range transport squadron flying converted Liberators across the Atlantic. Later he flew with a special
RAF transport squadron on routes across the Pacific. Towards the end of the war, he was seconded to BOAC and after his release from the RAF in July 1946 he joined the airline as a captain.

By the end of the Second World War, Squadron Leader Terence Malcolm Bulloch had completed 350 operational missions. This totalled 4,569 flying hours including 1,721 hours on B-24 Liberators. After 1945, he joined British Overseas Airways Corporation and continued to set records. By his retirement, he was the fastest pilot to cross the Atlantic, an ocean he had crossed 1,113 times.

**Ulster roots**

Terence Malcolm Bulloch was born February 19 1916 in Lisburn. Born on 19th February 1916, he was the second son of Samuel Bulloch and Elsie Bulloch of ‘Montreagh’, 1 Belsize Road, Lisburn, Co. Antrim. Terence had a twin sister Yvonne Bulloch.
The family did not stay in Lisburn, moving first to Malone Park, Belfast, Co. Antrim and then to 23 Ormiston Crescent, Belfast, Co. Down. Terry’s education took place at Mourne Grange School, Kilkeel, Co. Down and Campbell College where he was the pipe sergeant major in the Officer Training Corps and an excellent rugby player.

Terence worked in the linen industry. He was also an active member of the Irish Hockey Union, the Shakespearian Society, and the Ulster Reform Club. He married Elsie, a woman with Huguenot ancestry.

Terry enjoyed his retirement, living near London with his second wife Linda. He played golf regularly despite suffering back problems attributed to the many hours spent at the controls of the B-24. In 2012, he appeared on the BBC documentary ‘Dig WW2’ alongside historian Dan Snow. His older brother Flying Officer Hugh Larmour McLean Bulloch died on a bombing raid on 92/01/1940.

Squadron Leader Terence Malcolm Bulloch died on 10th December 2014 aged 98 years old. He was cremated at Chiltern Crematorium London. A replica of the Squadron Leader’s medals is on permanent display at the Ulster Aviation Society, Long Kesh, Co. Antrim.

May 30 - First thousand plane raid on Germany 1942

On this day in 1942, Operation Millennium, a thousand-raid on the German city of Cologne was launched by Great Britain. Almost 1,500 tons of bombs rain down in 90
minutes, delivering a devastating blow to the Germans’ medieval city as well as its morale.

In the six years of the Second World War, the pilots of the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) transported the equivalent of 141 aircraft every single day, that is over 415,000 hours of flying sorties.

1,046 aircraft drawn from Bomber Command squadrons and Operational Training Units (OTUs) took part.

Air Marshal A.T. (later Sir Arthur) Harris, commander in chief of the Bomber Command, planned Operation Millennium. It was his goal to prevent significant losses of Royal Air Force bombers by concentrating air attacks in massive bomber raids, overwhelming the enemy by numbers and delivering
decisive, crippling blows. Harris would need to beef up the relatively small number of 416 “first line” aircraft needed, though; to those he had to add second-line and training squadron bombers, thus creating an aircraft force of 1,046.

On the night of May 30, Cologne was besieged: 600 acres of the city sustained heavy damage, 45,000 Germans were left homeless and 469 were killed. The chemical and machine tool industries, the main targets of the raid, were rendered useless. The cost to the British: 40 bombers, or less than 4 percent of the total that participated.

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who approved the raid, telegraphed President Franklin Roosevelt the next day: “I hope you were pleased with our mass air attack... there is plenty more to come.”

**On this day - May 30**

**1918**

The Germans make a claim for the recent capture of 35,000 prisoners and war materials.

**1940**

53,823 evacuated from Dunkirk, bringing total landed in England since May 27 to 126,606. Britain orders modern destroyers to leave Dunkirk due to heavy losses.

Germany increases food rations due to increased supplies from newly conquered countries.
Roosevelt asks Congress for considerable funds to strengthen the US Armed forces.

Mussolini tells Hitler he intends to enter the war.

1941

The revolt in Iraq collapses as the British near Baghdad. The Iraqi leader Rashid Ali flees into Persia (Iran).

German commander in Crete orders deadly reprisals for civilian resistance. In Iraq, British troops enter Baghdad.

1942

RAF Operation Millennium: first 1000-bomber raid, to Cologne, Germany. (See article above).

The Afrika Korps take up defensive positions in the ‘Cauldron’ in readiness for their attempt to punch through the Gazala line.

Admiral Nimitz orders for Task Force 17 (Admiral Fletcher) consisting of the carrier Yorktown, 2 cruisers and 6 destroyers, which had been refitting at Pearl Harbor after operations in the Coral Sea, to set sail for Midway and meet Admiral Spruance there.

United States commemorates Memorial Day.

1943

SS doctor Josef Mengele became the chief physician of the Gypsy Family Camp at Auschwitz II-Birkenau. He was
almost 32 years old. He was responsible for deadly pseudo-medical experiments on Auschwitz prisoners, mainly twins.

Twenty children killed when bomb hits Torquay church.

After 19 days of fighting, the United States recaptures Alaska’s Attu Island from the Japanese Army, annihilating the remaining fighters “except for a few snipers”. Japanese losses were 2,500 killed with American losses at 600 killed.

1944

The Eighth Army captures Arce, 15 miles Northwest of Cassino, en route to Rome.

In England, the loading of assault forces for Operation Overlord (D-Day) begins. Allied troops begin to load in England-Force A (60,000 US troops); Force B (25,600 US reinforcements); British (75,000)

Germany approves the summary execution of downed Allied airmen who strafed passenger trains or civilians (“Terrorflieger”).

1945

38(Irish)Brigade

2 LIR: During the day, the first Austrian soldiers with discharges from US Army camps arrived in the bn area & were treated as Surrendered Personnel. Local residents supplied the bn with names & addresses of prominent Nazis, though no concrete evidence was given.
Roll of Honour - May 30

Representing their comrades who died on this day

1915

+O’NEILL, Peter
Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1st Bn. Private. 12124. Died 30/05/1915, while his battalion was in Brigade reserve at White House, Gallipoli. Peter enlisted in Cookstown, Born at Loup, County Londonderry. Son of Joseph and Lizzie O’Neill nee Hunter. Husband to Esther O’Neill, of Ballygillen, Ballinderry Bridge, Coagh. Father of Joseph James O'Neill, who was born about 1911. Brother of Corporal Joseph O’Neill, Connaught Rangers, (died 06/12/1915) and Private Francis O’Neill, 2nd Inniskillings, (died 29/03/1915). Coagh WM, Coagh Soldiers and Sailors WM 2013. Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, Cape Helles, Gallipoli, Turkey

1916

+COCHRANE, Thomas
RN. Ordinary Seaman. CH/SS/5098. HMS St. George. Died 30/05/1916. Aged 19. Accidentally drowned in St. George’s Dock, Hull. Enrolled 10/06/1914. Served in Pembroke, Duncan (0/06/1914 - 21/08/1915) and St. George (22/08/1915 - 30/05/1916). Born Belfast 18/02/1896. Son of Hugh and Elizabeth Cochrane, Fleet St., Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery. ADM 188/1099/5098
1940

+DEVINE, Edward
Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Bn. Lance Corporal. 7010080. Died 30/05/1940. Aged 34. He was born in Belfast. The only confirmed death suffered by the Battalion on this day. Dunkirk Memorial, Nord, France

+FAIRBROTHER, Robert Albert
North Staffordshire Regiment, 2nd Bn. Private. 5047549. Died 31/05/1940. Aged 26. Son of Joe and Louise Fairbrother; husband to Agnes Fairbrother, of Castlewellan. Oosttaverne Wood Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

+FYFFE, George
Royal Artillery. 3 Searchlight Regiment, 11 Bty. Gunner.1473525. Died 30/05/1940 after sustaining wounds while with the British Expeditionary Force in France and Belgium. Aged 40. Son of Robert and Maria Fyffe of Kesh, Co. Fermanagh; Husband of Miriam Fyffe of 173 Canmore St., Belfast and father of four young children. He was a member of Sackville Darts Club. His funeral took place on 04/06/1940 to Belfast City Cemetery, Glenalina

+HAMILTON, James
Royal Ulster Rifles, 2nd Bn. Rifleman. 7011031. Died Between 30/05/1940 and 02/06/1940. Aged 29. Born in Belfast. Dunkirk Memorial, Nord, France
+HILL, Patrick
Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Btn. Lance Corporal. 6979906. Died 30/05/1940. Aged 24. Son of George and Margaret Hill, of Limavady. Dunkirk Town Cemetery

+SMYTH, David
Royal Army Service Corps, 3 Amb. Car Coy. Driver. T/160206. Died 30/05/1940. Aged 33. Son of George and Anna Jane Smyth; husband to Annie Smyth, of Lisburn. Dunkirk Memorial, Nord, France

+TURBITT, John
Royal Artillery. Bombardier. 6974101. Died Between 30/05/1940 and 22/06/1940. 12 Bty., 3 Searchlight Regt. Dunkirk Town Cemetery, France

1941

+IRWIN, Arthur Barham
RN. AB. D/SSX 26258. Died 30/05/1941. Age 21. HMS Fernie. Three years service. Was in battle of Narvik and was a survivor of HMS Gurka. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 20/04/1940). Son of a WW1 veteran. Son of John and Mary Irwin, Edenderry St., Belfast. (Belfast Weekly Telegraph 07/06/1941). Haslar Royal Naval Cemetery

1942

+BROWN, William
RAF. Sergeant (Flight Engineer). 532296. Died 30/05/1942. Aged 23. 76 Sqdn. Son of James and Sarah Brown, of
Tandragee, Co. Armagh. Viroflay New Communal Cemetery, France

+HUMPHRIES, John
Royal Artillery. Gunner. 1486178. Died on 30/05/1942. Aged 39. 316 Battery, 102 Heavy Anti Aircraft Regiment. Son of Alexander and Margaret Humphries of Belfast; Husband to Mary C. Humphries of Belfast. Belfast City Cemetery, Glenalina

+MAITLAND, Wilfred Ronald

+McSPARRON, Ernest William
RAFVR. Sergeant. 1073860. Died 30/05/1942. 15 Sqdn. Son of John and Margaret McSparron, of Waterside, Londonderry. Runnymead Memorial, Panel 89

1943

+BELL, Ernest
Sergeant (Flight Engineer). 548837. Died 30/05/1943. Aged 25. 35 Sqdn. Royal Air Force. Halifax II, DT 804, from RAF Graveley, Huntingdonshire was tasked for operation over Wuppertal. The aircraft was shot down by Lieutenant Heinz Wolfgang Schnaufner and crashed at 0143 coming down at Duras, Limburg. a 178 aircraft took part. It was a very successful attack. 4 aircraft of the squadron were lost that
evening with the loss of 15 lives and 14 taken prisoner of war. Son of Arthur and Nancy Bell, of Belfast; stepson of Alice Bell, Cliftonville, Belfast. Nine men in same squadron killed on same date and buried at the airfield of St Trond, home base of II/NJG on 01/06/1943 and then in 1945 were re-interred at Heverlee War Cemetery.

KENNEDY, Frederick William

RNVR. FAA. 827 Squadron

Sub Lieutenant (A). Died 29/05/1943. HMS Landrail (Fleet Air Arm). Fred was flying a Fairey Barracuda on a simulated torpedo attack against a target ship off Crail in Scotland when it crashed into the sea, on 29 May 1943. He was a member of 827 Squadron, which was temporarily shore-based at Dunino, while working up on new aircraft. Methodist College Belfast. Son of William John and Elizabeth Kennedy, Ben Madigan Pk., Belfast.

1944

McGAW, Samuel Joseph


1945

JAMISON, James

RAFVR. Flying Officer. 166749. Died 30/05/1945. Aged 27. B.A., Higher Diploma In Education (Queen's University, Belfast). Son of Robert and Janetta Jamison of Rasharkin. Rasharkin (St. Andrew) Church Graveyard, QUB RH
+McCULLOUGH, Henry

RAF. Leading Aircraftman. 502053. Died 30/05/1945. Aged 23. Son of John and Elizabeth McCullough, of Lurgan, Co. Armagh. Coriano Ridge War Cemetery. Italy

+VOGAN, Kenneth Ernest,

RNVR. FAA. 1843 Squadron. Sub Lieutenant (A). Died 30/05/1945. Age 24. HMS Gannet. In March 1945, 1843 Squadron embarked in HMS Arbiter in the Clyde for Australian waters, where the carrier was in May. Kenneth was flying a Corsair which, for reasons that are unclear, dived vertically into a hillside near Sydney, killing him. Son of Joseph and Elizabeth Vogan, Armagh. Sydney War Cemetery
The remembrance ni programme is overseen by Very Rev Dr Houston McKelvey OBE, QVRM, TD who served as Chaplain to 102 and 105 Regiments Royal Artillery (TA), as Hon. Chaplain to RNR and as Chaplain to the RBL NI area and the Burma Star Association NI. Dr McKelvey is a Past President of Queen’s University Services Club. He may be contacted at houston.mckelvey@btinternet.com

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