413515 Flying Officer Lloyd Allan Trigg VC



https://losses.internationalbcc.co.uk/loss/503208

Lloyd was born into a farming family in Houhora, New Zealand on 5 June 1944. He was educated at Whangarei Boys' High School followed by Auckland University College.

He worked as an agricultural equipment salesman before enlisting in the Royal New Zealand Air Force as a trainee pilot in June 1941. Following basic training in New Zealand, he completed his training in Canada before embarking for the UK to join Coastal Command.

On arrival in the UK in October 1942, he was posted to No. 200 Squadron, Coastal Command, which was at the time operating in West Africa, tasked with seeking out enemy submarines that were harassing Allied convoys in the Atlantic.

By the following summer Lloyd had taken part in 46 sorties, including reconnaissance patrols, convoy escorts and anti-submarine patrols, and was in the process of converting to the Liberator heavy bomber. August 11th,1943 saw his first operational sortie in a Liberator – an anti-submarine patrol south of Dakar. During the patrol they sighted U-Boat 468 and immediately set course for attack, but as they closed in, they came under a hail of fire from the sub's anti-aircraft battery. It was clear they were going down, but rather than pull out and attempt to ditch into the sea, well away from the U-boat, 29-year-old Lloyd maintained his course and, at less than 50ft, with his aircraft ablaze, dropped six depth charges on to the U-boat.

Seconds later, just as the depth charges exploded with devastating effect, the Liberator crashed into the sea, killing Lloyd and his seven crew. It was a heavy price to pay for taking out a single submarine. The U-boat sank within ten minutes, and most of its 46 crew were killed or injured, some of whom fell victim to sharks and barracuda.

Miraculously, the Liberator's dinghy had deployed as the craft hit the water and, with nobody aboard, a few surviving Germans made it their own and were rescued the next day. Amongst them were the U-boat's Captain and 1st Officer. Under interrogation, they praised Lloyd's gallantry in the face of 'certain death' and said he deserved to be awarded the highest honour possible, leading directly to the posthumous award of the Victoria Cross. **It remains the only time in the award's long and rich history that it was made solely on evidence provided by the enemy.**

Its lengthy citation ended: "The Battle of the Atlantic has yielded many fine stories of air attacks on underwater craft, but Flying Officer Trigg's exploit stands out as an epic of grim determination and high courage. His was the path of duty that leads to glory."