

Leslie Harry Scholey



Rank: - Sergeant (Navigator)

Number: - 644477

Regiment: - Royal Air Force, 61 Squadron Code letters QR-S

Died: - 18th August 1943

Cemetery: - Runnymede Memorial, Surrey, Panel 164.

Batley News, 21 Aug 1943 (photo)

Leslie Harry was born in 1920 the son of Harry and Ruth Scholey (Formerly Randall, nee Cornell) of Redwood Cottage, Trinity Street, Batley Carr. Harry who had been a solicitor's managing clerk died in 1936.

Leslie attended Batley Carr Council School, Dewsbury Central School and Technical College. He was a member of Batley Carr Parish Church Choir. Before

joining the RAF in 1939 he was employed by Joshua Ellis and Sons, Batley Carr Mills.

In April 1942 he came home on leave and it was reported in the Batley News that because he had completed his training with Pan American Airways, he was able to visit America after visiting Canada. In America Louis Labout, chief designer to a Brewster aircraft company became a guide to British air trainees. They climbed the Empire State building, and went to Radio City. They visited Cuba, Bahamas, and Hollywood where they met Mickey Rooney, Deanna Durbin, and Betty Grable. He was introduced to the chief of the Semiloles Indians.

Leslie became engaged to Miss Jean Parkinson of 10, Jack Lane, Batley shortly before he was killed.

On 17 August No 61 squadron was flying Lancasters from Syerston, Notts. for a raid on the Peenemunde V-2 rocket research station (Operation Hydra – part of Operation Crossbow) in which 596 aircraft took part and 40 were lost. W493 QR-S in which Leslie was flying crashed into the Baltic Sea. With him were Sgt BJW Brown, Sgt D Easton, Sgt T Graham, F/O W Hughes, F/S W B Ness and Sgt R C Walton.

He was awarded the Air Crew Europe Star; 1939-45 Star; 1939-1945 War Medal

Leslie is remembered with Honour at Holy Trinity, Batley Carr, Lychgate Memorial; Royal Air Forces Association Club, Batley and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group