

William Leslie Scott



Batley News, 29 Apr 1944 (photo), 22 May 1943 (photo), 22 May 1945 (Roll of Honour).

Flight Sergeant 1435311 Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve No. 17 Operation Training Unit (OTU), Silverstone. Roll: Pilot.

William Leslie was born in Healey, Batley in 1922, the son of William and Lily May Scott (nee Moore, m. 1920, registered Dewsbury) of 20 West Park Grove, Healey, Batley. He had two brothers Colin and David.

William was educated at St. Mary's Roman Catholic School, Batley and St. Bede's Grammar School, Bradford. He was employed as a clerk at the Bradford Road C.W.S. Livingstone Mills, Batley before he joined up in September 1941. William was a keen tennis player and was a keen member of St. Christopher's Cycling Club, Leeds.

He was posted to an air training school in South Africa where he attained first place in an aggregate of 84 per cent. He gained his wings in the Transvaal when he was only 20 years old and returned to England to finish his course.

William took off from Turweston, near to Silverstone, at night, and crash landed on his return. His fellow service men killed with him were Sgt N G Cailles, Sgt A W Sherry and Sgt T H Stacey.

Sgt (air gunner) R S Gunnell was the sole survivor of the crew and wrote to his parents: -

“I had the honour of being in the same crew as your son. He was my skipper; we were pals together on and off duty and I looked upon him more as a brother than a friend. He was one of the finest lads in the service. He did not die in vain: he volunteered for the job and was prepared to go as he did, and I believe that he would have liked it as it was.”

William was brought home to Batley and Father Burns conducted the service on Wednesday, 26 April, whilst six boys from the Bradford A.T.C. formed a guard of honour.

William was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-45 War Medal.

He is remembered with honour at Royal Air Forces Association Club, Batley and Batley War Memorial.



Researched by members of
Batley History Group