

Leslie Valentine



Leslie Valentine was born in the East End of Glasgow in 1918. He played a major part in the defence of the British Isles during the Second World War.

Leslie was a Bomber Command Pilot who flew 60 combat missions as part of RAF 88 Squadron, 2nd Tactical Air Force. Most of those missions were to disrupt German supply lines; bombing roads, bridges, railway marshalling yards, submarine bases and V1 rocket-launching sites which threatened southern UK cities.

During the D Day landings, Leslie was one of a few pilots who swooped only yards above the beaches of Normandy to drop smoke canisters as cover for the invading British and allied forces.

His contribution was rewarded by the French Government who awarded him the Croix de Guerre (Cross of War) with a Silver Star.

After the war he continued his university education in Glasgow and from general medicine he moved into physiotherapy and then employment in the pharmaceutical industry from which he retired to Hethe.

Leslie was married for 74 years to Vera who died in 2012. Her ashes were interred in Hethe Churchyard on 26th February 2014.

In 2014 Leslie moved into Fewcott Manor Nursing Home after living in Hethe for 27 years. He died on 21st April in the home, age 95.

His ashes were interred in Hethe's St Edmund & St George Churchyard on 3rd June 2014.