AC2 Leslie Askham Berridge RAF

Leslie was born in Kettering, Northamptonshire in 1917, the son of Charles Edward Berridge and Margery Elisabeth Berridge nee Bailey.

In an effort to slow the German advance through Belgium, on the 12 May 1940, British and French bombers were sent to attack the German army formations between Maastricht and Gembloux and to bomb the bridges over the Meuse. The goal was to cause enough damage so that the debris and rubble would block the roads, thus effectively impeding the Wehrmacht.

On the morning of 12 May 1940, 12 Blenheims from 107 Sqn, as part of a combined force of 42 Blenheims, took off from RAF Wattisham, Suffolk. This would prove to be a very costly raid, with 11 aircraft being lost, 4 from the Squadron. Leslie, operating as the WOp/AG, departed RAF Wattisham at 0810 in Blenheim IV P4914 (OM).

The Squadron aircraft reached their objective and carried out accurate bombing with excellent results, but they were subject to heavy anti-aircraft fire for a distance of 15 miles from the target, which increased to an intense barrage over the objective. Eleven out of the 12 aircraft were hit by the fire. After the bombing of the bridges had been completed the formation was forced to open out owing to the increasingly intensive and accurate anti-aircraft fire. Before the formation could close, it was set upon by enemy fighters.

Leslie's aircraft was shot down by Bf109s of 2./JG 27 at 0925 shortly after attacking the target, and crashed near Voroux-Goreux, Liège.

Also killed were : PO Osborne Harvey Keedwell (Pilot), Sgt Leonard John Merritt (Observer)

Leslie is buried in a collective grave with his crew in the Voroux-Goreux Communal Cemetery, Liege, Belgium

Leslie is commemorated on Wall Panel 130