



# Lieutenant Leslie Playne

1894 - 1918

FIRST WORLD WAR

Air Force: Royal Flying Corps, 16th Squadron

Leslie was born in 1894 in Gloucestershire, England, the son of Alexander and Florence Playne. Alexander and Florence had nine children together. Raised and educated in England, Leslie also had three years military service in the Officers Training Corps, Christ's Hospital Division. At age 17, he immigrated to Canada, intending to go to Toronto to work as a clerk. At some point he ended in Sarnia, where he worked as an accountant at the Canadian Bank of Commerce. Prior to enlisting he was a member of the 27th Regiment, St. Clair Borderers and was active in the local athletic association.

In September 1914, twenty years old and single, Leslie enlisted in Sarnia. He arrived in England in October 1914 and served there over the next two years with a number of different units. In December 1916, Leslie proceeded to Royal Flying Corps (RFC) School for Officers Training Course, and in mid-April 1917 he received an appointment to commission in the British Army, Royal Flying Corps. Eleven months later, on March 27, 1918, 2nd Lieutenant Leslie Playne lost his life during action in France. It was reported when last seen, the young officer was attacking German infantry with bombs and machine gun. Leslie Playne, 23, has no known grave. He is memorialized on the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.



**THE SARNIA**  
WAR REMEMBRANCE  
**PROJECT**

by Tom Slater and Editor Tom St. Amand