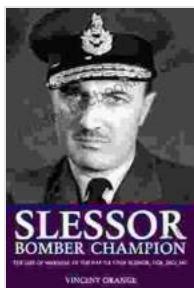


# The Life of Marshal of the RAF Sir John Slessor GCB DSO MC



## Slessor: Bomber Champion: The Life of Marshal of the RAF Sir John Slessor, GCB, DSO, MC by Vincent Orange

4.1 out of 5

Language : English  
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Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
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An Inspiring Journey Through Military History



Marshal of the RAF Sir John Slessor GCB DSO MC (1897-1971) was one of the most distinguished British military leaders of the 20th century. His extraordinary career spanned three wars and saw him rise through the ranks from a young pilot to the highest echelons of the Royal Air Force (RAF). This comprehensive biography delves into his exceptional journey,

paying tribute to his leadership qualities, strategic vision, and enduring legacy.

## **Early Life and Military Beginnings**

John Slessor was born in India in 1897 into a military family. His father was a cavalry officer, and his grandfather had served in the Indian Army. Slessor's childhood was spent in both India and England, and he developed a keen interest in aviation from an early age. In 1914, at the outbreak of World War I, he joined the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and quickly established his reputation as a skilled pilot.

## **World War I and the Interwar Years**

During World War I, Slessor flew on the Western Front and in the Middle East. He distinguished himself in aerial combat, earning the Distinguished Service Free Download (DSO) for his bravery and leadership. After the war, he remained in the RAF and held several key postings, including 担任 RAF College Cranwell's Commandant. In the 1930s, Slessor played a crucial role in developing the RAF's strategic bombing doctrine, which would later prove vital during World War II.

## **World War II and the Battle of Britain**

At the outbreak of World War II, Slessor was appointed Senior Air Staff Officer at Fighter Command. In this role, he played a key role in the Battle of Britain, overseeing the RAF's defense against the Luftwaffe's relentless attacks. Slessor's calm and decisive leadership proved invaluable during this critical period, and he is widely credited with helping to secure victory for the RAF.

## **Commanding the RAF in the Far East**

In 1942, Slessor was appointed Commander-in-Chief of RAF Coastal Command. He then went to the Far East in 1943 to take up the post of Commander-in-Chief of RAF Bomber Command. In this role, he oversaw the RAF's strategic bombing campaign against Japan and played a key role in the planning and execution of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

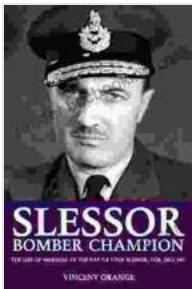
## **Post-War Career and Retirement**

After the war, Slessor continued to serve in the RAF and held several high-ranking positions. He was appointed Chief of the Air Staff in 1950 and served in this role until his retirement in 1953. In retirement, Slessor wrote several books on military history and strategy, including his autobiography, *The Central Blue*.

## **Legacy and Impact**

Marshal of the RAF Sir John Slessor GCB DSO MC was one of the most influential and respected military leaders of the 20th century. His legacy continues to inspire and inform military strategists and leaders today. Slessor's contributions to air warfare, strategic planning, and leadership have left a lasting impact on the RAF and the wider world of military affairs.

The life of Marshal of the RAF Sir John Slessor GCB DSO MC is a testament to the power of determination, leadership, and strategic vision. His exceptional career and lasting legacy serve as an inspiration to all who seek to make a meaningful contribution to their chosen field. This comprehensive biography provides a fascinating insight into the life and times of a legendary figure in British military history.



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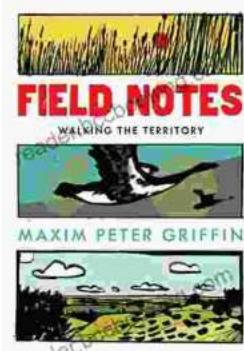
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