



**Lance Corporal Frederick Harold Howkins
4861140**

1st Battalion Leicestershire Regiment

Born 25th March 1917

Killed in action 23rd August 1944, Age 27

Son of Herbert & Kate Howkins of Rye
Nook, Lutterworth Road, Burbage

Husband of Marguerite Howkins of Ryton,
Warwickshire

St. Desir War Cemetery, Calvados, France
Plot 5 Row D Grave10

Burbage War Memorial
Wesleyan War memorial
St Catherine's Church War Memorial



Frederick the eldest of the Howkins children enlisted soon after the outbreak of war in the autumn of 1939 leaving his job at Sketchley Dyeworks. His wife Marguerite and small daughter moved to Ryton near Coventry to be near her family.



Sketchley Dyeworks

Shortly after D Day in June 1944, he was sent to France to serve in the final stages of the campaign, in pursuit of the German forces towards the Seine where he was killed on active service.

His parents were the first to hear the news of his death and had to travel to Ryton to break the news to his wife and small child.

He is buried St Desir War Cemetery, Calvados, France.

Every Remembrance Day up to the death of his sister May, in 2004, (last surviving sibling), the family would always place a vase of dahlias, Fred's favourite flowers on the Burbage Memorial after the formal wreath laying ceremonies were completed.

The Allied offensive in north-western Europe began with the Normandy landings of 6 June 1944. St Desir War Cemetery is the most easterly of the Normandy cemeteries. For the most part, those buried here died in the final stages of the campaign, in pursuit of the German forces towards the Seine. The cemetery contains 598 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War. 78 of these graves were brought in from Chartres (St Cheron) Communal Cemetery after the war, together with the four First World War burials now at St Desir.



St Desir War Cemetery, Calvados

BURBAGE L.-CPL. DIES IN FRANCE

The death has occurred, on active service in France, of L.-Cpl. Harold Howkins, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Howkins, of Lutterworth Road, Burbage.

L.-Cpl. Howkins had been in the Forces 4½ years and went out to France shortly after D-Day.

His wife lives at Ryton, near Nuneaton, and his younger brother is serving with the Home Forces.

Before the war L.-Cpl. Howkins was employed at Sketchley Dye Works.

Hinckley Times 15th September 1944

KILLED IN ACTION WHILE DOING A SPLENDID JOB

Corporal J. Hall, of the British Army of Liberation, referring to the death of Lance-Corporal Howkins, of Burbage, says he was killed in action while carrying out his duty—a job of signalling to keep open communications to enable the troops to speed on to their objective, which thanks to the splendid work of the signals, was taken according to schedule. "As a regular reader of the 'Hinckley Times and Guardian,' the contents of which I greatly enjoy," he adds that he desires L.-Cpl. Howkins to get his just recognition of dying as a soldier on the battlefield.

Hinckley Times 27th October 1944

