

## LANCE CORPORAL FREDERICK HAROLD HOWKINS

*Service Number: 4861140*

*Enlisted: 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Leicestershire Regiment*

*Born: 25<sup>th</sup> March 1917*

*Died: 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1944, Aged 27*

*Memorials: 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 Dye Works

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, he was killed on active service.

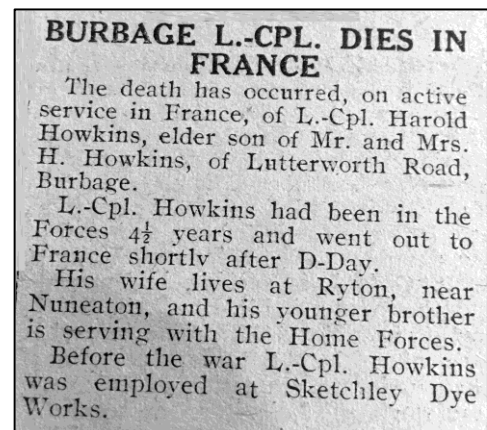
His parents were the first to hear the news of his death and had to travel to Ryton to break the news to his wife and small child.

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

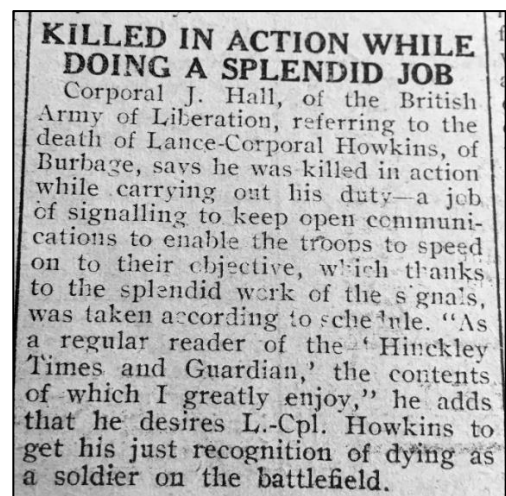
Every Remembrance Day up to the death of his sister May in 2004 (the last surviving sibling), the family would always place a vase of dahlias, Fred's favourite flowers on the Burbage Memorial after the formal wreath laying ceremonies were completed.

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.



Hinckley Times 15<sup>th</sup> September 1944



Hinckley Times 27<sup>th</sup> October 1944



St Desir War Cemetery, Calvados