

## PRIVATE DENNIS COMER

*Service Number: 5891793*

*Enlisted: 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Northampton Regiment*

*Died: Killed in action 29<sup>th</sup> November 1942, Aged 20*

*Memorials: Massicault War Cemetery, Tunisia Plot 4, Row A, Grave 11*

*Burbage War Memorial,*

*St Catherine's Church Memorial,*

*Hinckley War Memorial,*

*Regent Club Memorial,*

*Burbage Congregational Church Memorial*



Born and educated in Burbage, Dennis was the younger son of Sidney and Ada Comer, living on the Long Row, 64 Hinckley Road, Burbage. Before enlisting in January 1942, he was employed at the Engineering Co. on the Watling Street.

Dennis married Mary Tamar Moore in 1941 and made their home at 140 Edward Street, Hinckley, they had two daughters the youngest being only 11 weeks old at the time of the death of their father.

On 8<sup>th</sup> November 1942, a combined allied force made a series of landings in Algeria and Morocco. The Germans replied by sending a force to Northern Tunisia which checked the advance by early December. Dennis must have been caught up in this first wave of aggression and was killed on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

Dennis is buried in Massicault War Cemetery in Tunisia, the

cemetery contains 1,576 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War, 130 of them unidentified.

After the war his wife and children emigrated to Australia and the Comer family lost contact until 2004. A chance meeting on Remembrance Sunday in Burbage with Brian Simpson of Burbage and Iris the younger sister of the two Comer brothers put the family back in touch.

Two years after Dennis was killed, his brother was also killed in action in Italy. The Comer family of five children had lost its two sons. The mother Ada never fully recovered and died quite young. The rest of the family split up and some lost contact. Iris (West) the youngest daughter never forgot her two brothers and visited both their graves in Italy and Tunisia before she died in 2008.



Massicault War Cemetery, Tunisia



## Burbage Man Killed in Action



### PTE. DENNIS COMER

Hinckley people will sympathise with Mrs. Mary Comer, of 140, Edward Street, Hinckley, in the loss she has sustained by the death of her husband, Pte. Dennis Comer, of Burbage, who has been reported killed in action in North Africa.

Pte. Comer leaves two little children, one 15 months old and the other 11 weeks. It has only been a few months since he left this country, and the news of his death came as a great shock to his relatives and friends.

He joined the Army in January of this year, previously being employed at Engineering Co. on the Watling Street. He was 20 years of age.

His wife, before her marriage, Miss Mary Moore, was a former Hinckley carnival maid of honour.