

## PRIVATE SIDNEY CHARLES COMER

Service Number: 4862198

Enlisted: 16<sup>th</sup> May 1940 Leicestershire Regiment

Transferred to 1/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Hampshire Regiment 30<sup>th</sup> April 1943

Born: 15<sup>th</sup> August 1915

Died: Killed in action 15<sup>th</sup> September 1944, Aged 30

Memorials: Gradara War Cemetery, Italy Plot 2 Row E Grave 44

Burbage War Memorial

St Catherine's Church Memorial

Burbage Congregational Memorial

Liberal Club Memorial



Sidney Comer was born on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1915, the eldest son of farm labourer Sidney Comer. The family lived at 64 Hinckley Road, Burbage near to the National School where Sidney started in 1920. Growing up in the village he was a member of the Liberal Club and the Burbage Congregational Football Club.

He married Cicely Daisy Allwood in the first quarter of 1942.



Cicely Daisy Allwood

Sidney had enlisted in the Leicestershire Regiment on 16 May 1940 and was transferred to the Hampshire Regiment on 30 April 1943.

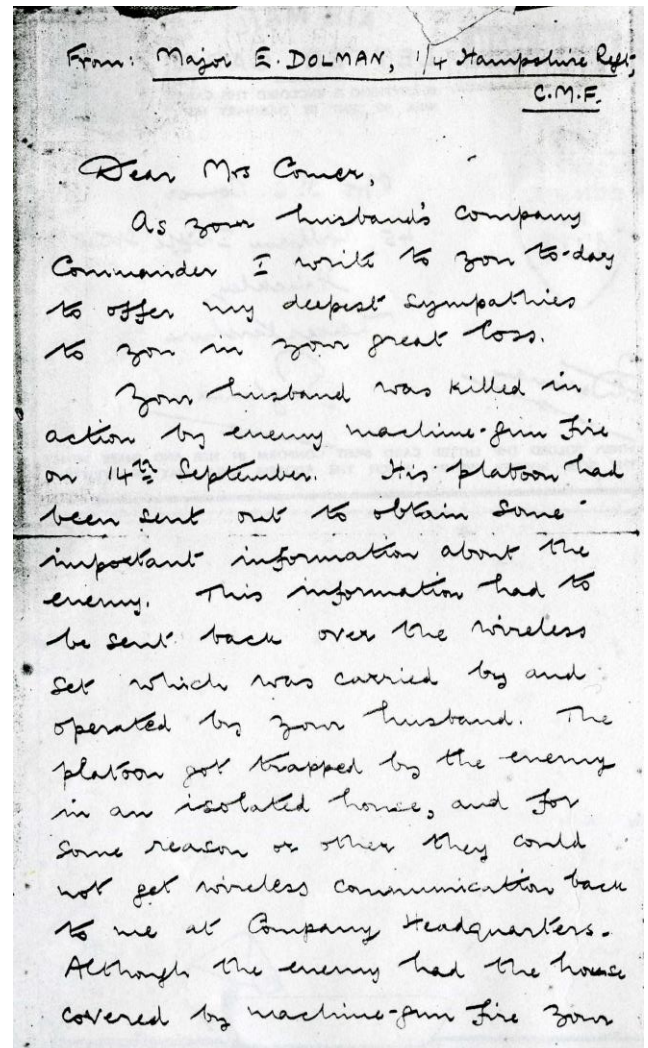
### From the Hinckley Times 10<sup>th</sup> November 1944:

News of how Private "Mick" Comer of Hinckley lost his life fighting overseas has been conveyed to his wife who lives at 45 William Iliffe Street, Hinckley, in a letter written to her by Major Dolman, the company commander:

"Your husband was killed in action by enemy machine gun fire in September. His platoon had been sent out to obtain some important information about the enemy. This

information had to be sent back over the wireless set, which was carried and operated by your husband. The platoon was trapped by the enemy in an isolated house and for some reason or another they could not get the wireless communications back to headquarters. The group were isolated and all killed".

### Letter from Major E Dolman informing of Sidney's death



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husband volunteered to go back towards Company St. Q. to try and re-establish communication and pass the information through. Unfortunately, he lost his life in this most gallant attempt.

The loss has been felt throughout the company, as he was popular with everyone. I always found him very willing and cheerful, and I miss him very much.

His platoon commander tells me that when he was killed he fell at once and did not move, so he must have been killed outright and can have had no pain or suffering. When I saw him later his face was peaceful. He was decently buried that night by our Chaplain. In due course I hope you will receive a photograph of his grave. I want you to know that he died gallantly, and like many thousands of others doing



his duty in the cause of freedom.

Once again, let me join with all ranks of my company in sending you our sincerest sympathies in your irreparable loss.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

*S. J. [Signature]*



Gradara War Cemetery, Pesaro, Italy

Sidney was buried close where he fell at Gradara Cemetery in the Province of Pesaro in Italy. The site was chosen as it contains the graves of casualties incurred during the advance from Ancona to Rimini, and in the heavy fighting around Rimini, which was taken by the allies on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1944 a week after Sidney had been killed

## PTE. MICK COMER KILLED IN ACTION

Pte. S. (Mick) Comer has been reported killed in action in Italy. His wife and eleven-months-old son live at 45, William Iliffe Street, Hinckley.

He is the eldest son of Mr. M. Comer and the late Mrs. Comer, of Avon House, Burbage, and his younger brother was killed in action nearly two years ago.

Pte. Comer had been in the Forces 4½ years, and went abroad 18 months ago. Before the war he was a well-known member of Burbage Congregational Football Club.

Hinckley Times 13<sup>th</sup> October 1944

## HINCKLEY MAN'S GALLANTRY



**Pte. Mick Comer**

News of how Pte. Mick Comer, of Hinckley, lost his life in the fighting overseas has been conveyed to his wife, who lives at 45, William Iliffe Street, Hinckley, in a letter written to her by Major E. Dolman, the company commander.

In his letter, Major Dolman says: "Your husband was killed in action by enemy machine-gun fire in September. His platoon had been sent out to obtain some important information about the enemy. This information had to be sent back over the wireless set which was carried by and operated by your husband. The platoon got trapped by the enemy in an isolated house, and for some reason or other they could not get wireless communication back to me at company headquarters.

"Although the enemy had the house covered by machine-gun fire your husband volunteered to go back towards company H.Q. to try and re-establish communication and pass the information through. Unfortunately he lost his life in this most gallant attempt.

"The loss has been felt throughout the company, as he was popular with everyone. I always found him very willing and cheerful, and I miss him very much.

"His platoon commander tells me that when he was hit he fell at once and did not move, so he must have been killed outright and can have had no pain or suffering. When I saw him later his face was peaceful. He was decently buried that night by our chaplain. In due course I hope you will receive a photograph of his grave. I want you to know that he died gallantly, and like many thousands of others, doing his duty in the cause of freedom."