

ALFRED JOHN HAWKSWORTH, 1905564

Corporal in the Royal Engineers

Alfred's parents were John Hawksworth and Mary Jane, née Cooper.

In the 1911 census it was recorded that John was living with his parents at 32 Wood Street, Burton upon Trent (they occupied 5 rooms).

Name	Relationship	Condition	Occupation	Where born
HAWKSWORTH, William	Head	Married	M 60 Stationary Engine Driver, Brewery	Tutbury Staffordshire
HAWKSWORTH, Edith	Wife	Married, 31 years	F 57	Belper Derbyshire
HAWKSWORTH, John	Son	Single	M 29 Stable Labourer	Tutbury Staffordshire
HAWKSWORTH, Nellie	Daughter	Single	F 24	Tutbury Staffordshire

Mary was born in 1885 in Burton and her parents were from Leicestershire. When she was just a few months old her father, Frank, died and her mother remarried two years later. In the 1891 census the family were recorded as living in Uxbridge Street, Burton. In the 1901 census Mary was a domestic servant at a household in Moor Street, Burton.

John and Mary married in 1911. Their first three children were Walter born 1914, Gladys Mary 1917 and Alfred John 1920. They were baptised at St Wystan's Church on the same day. The family lived at Park End, Repton and John was recorded as a labourer. John and Mary had another son, Albert Edward, who was buried at St Wystan's churchyard on 3 April 1924, aged 14 months.

Alfred joined the infants' class at Repton Church School on 26 January 1925 and transferred into the elementary class on 31 March 1927. He did not return to school in January 1934 for the new term as he had reached the age of 14. In the 1935 Directory, John Hawksworth is listed as a labourer, living at Wood End.

In 1938 Alfred was a witness when his sister Gladys married Leslie Dooley at St Wystan's Church. Their father, John Hawksworth, was buried in St Wystan's churchyard on 17 July 1944, aged 65. In the burial register his address is given as Wood End, Repton.

Alfred was a corporal in the Royal Engineers, commonly known as the Sappers. The RE has been involved in every major conflict the British Army has fought in and its motto is Ubique (Everywhere). During WW II the RE maintained the railways, roads, water supply, bridges and transport etc. From 1940 the RE was also involved with the disposal of bombs. Possibly

the greatest achievement was the construction and operation of the Mulberry Harbour, a portable temporary harbour developed to facilitate rapid offloading of cargo onto the beaches during the Allied invasion of Normandy.

Alfred died 6 November 1945, aged 25. His death was registered at Aldershot.

The Commonwealth War Graves' Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials at 23,000 locations in 153 countries. The Commission's principles are:

- Each of the dead should be commemorated by name on the headstone or memorial
- Headstones and memorials should be permanent
- Headstones should be uniform
- There should be no distinction made on account of military or civil rank, race or creed

Since their foundation by Royal Charter the CWGC have constructed 2,500 war cemeteries and plots, erecting headstones over graves and where the remains are missing, inscribing the names of the dead on permanent memorials. Over a million burials are now commemorated at military and civil sites.

St Wystan's churchyard has 15 headstones erected by the CWGC. Most relate to airmen based at Burnaston. For details see the document titled **WWII War Graves**.



1905564 CORPORAL
A. J. HAWKSWORTH
ROYAL ENGINEERS
6TH NOVEMBER 1945

WE WHO LOVED HIM REMEMBER

St Wystan's Churchyard