

## **RAYNHAM FALLEN HERO**

### **SERGEANT THOMAS M. HOPKINS, USA**

Thomas M. Hopkins was born in New Hampshire in 1919. His family moved to Raynham shortly thereafter. He graduated from Taunton High School. He was not married.

Thomas enlisted for the duration of the war in the United States Army at Fort Devens, Massachusetts on February 26, 1942 age 23 and was assigned serial number 31069528.

Sergeant Hopkins served with Mike Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

He trained initially at Fort Gordon, GA. Then the unit moved to Fort Dix, NJ and later continued its training for combat at Camp Gordon Johnston, FL and Fort Jackson, SC. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment staged for overseas deployment at Camp Kilmer, NJ. They shipped out on January 18, 1944 and arrived in Plymouth England eleven days later, where they began their preparations for the D Day invasion.

Sergeant Hopkins assaulted Utah Beach on D Day, June 6, 1944, as part of VII Corps. His unit fought their way to Pavenoville, France by the end of the day. Sergeant Hopkins participated in the Cherbourg Peninsula Operation while attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division from July 19 through August 2, 1944. His unit participated in the liberation of Paris, France and then fought through Belgium. On September 14, Sergeant Hopkins unit attacked the Siegfried Line near Buchet, in western Germany.

Sergeant Hopkins died of wounds received in Germany on September 19, 1944 at age 25 after two and a half years of service.

Sergeant Hopkins received the following military awards for his honorable service:

Purple Heart Medal with white cross distinguishing device to denote a posthumous award

American Campaign Medal

European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal

World War II Victory Medal

Sergeant Hopkins is buried in the Henri-Chapelle American Military Cemetery in Fosse, Belgium. His headstone is located in Block H, Row 10, Grave # 191.

Sergeant Hopkins home is believed to be near White Street. For this reason, it is appropriate that his FALLEN HERO sign be erected on White Street at the intersection with North Main Street.