Billy Bishop Museum's 2026 Honouring Our Local Veterans

Private William Slessor (Bud) Hopkins
Highland Light Infantry of Canada

Family Life

William Slessor Hopkins, also known as "Bud," was born September 28,1915, to Martha (née Young) and Martin Hopkins.

Bud attended Tobermory School.

Prior to enlisting in the military, Bud operated a butcher shop in Tobermory.

He married Verna Elizabeth Moore on December 18, 1937, and they had two children, William David, born on September 3, 1946, and Susan Jane, born on January 31, 1952.

After his military service William operated "Buds," a groceries, meats, hardware, and dry goods store. William was a hard-working individual who never retired. He was a member of the Harbour United Church and the Tobermory Rotary Club.

William died in 1964, and was buried in Dunk's Bay Cemetery in Tobermory, Ontario.

Decorations

- 1939-1945 Star
- France and Germany Star
- Defence Medal
- Canadian Volunteer Service Medal
- War Medal 1939-1945

Military Service

Private Hopkins enlisted in Galt, Ontario, on June 21, 1940, with the Highland Light Infantry of Canada. His service number was A37590.

Hopkins arrived in England in August of 1941. On August 21, 1943, he acted as the groomsman for his cousin Lance Corporal Harry Davis during his wedding in Provanhill, Scotland.

He was wounded during training operations in March, 1944, but returned to the unit quickly. On June 6, 1944, the Highland Light Infantry landed in Normandy, France, as part of the 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade, 3rd Canadian Infantry Division. The HLI fought in North-West Europe until the end of the war. Hopkins saw service in France, Germany and the Netherlands. He arrived back to Canada in early July 1945. He had spent nearly four years overseas.

William Hopkins was discharged on August 13, 1945. He became a member of Tobermory's Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 290.