HICKFORD, Thomas William

No.5825242, Private,
7th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment
Place of Birth: Haverhill
Date of Death: Saturday, 31st August 1940
Died on Active Service
Place of Death: Warwickshire
Cemetery: Haverhill
Aged 28 years



Thomas William Hickford was born in Haverhill on 16th July 1912, the son of general labourer Thomas William Hickford and his wife Rose (née Bartram) who had been married in Belchamps St Paul on 9th November 1901. His father served during WW1 and his military records show that the family were living at Bridewell Street, Clare. Thomas Jnr had a brother Frank born in Clare in 1902 and three sisters who were born in Haverhill, Eliza (1905), Phyllis (1910) and Rose May (1913).

Thomas married Alice May Hearn in 1940. Alice was born on 19th September 1911, the daughter of farm labourer Joseph and his wife Jane nee Darking. In 1939 she was living with her parents and brother Walter at 8a Horseheath Road, Withersfield but the information on the CWGC website suggests that after they were married they settled in Broadstairs, Kent.

Thomas joined the 7th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. This was a war-formed unit raised in June 1940, shortly after Dunkirk, and, on 10th October, was assigned to the 210th Independent Infantry Brigade (Home) alongside other hostilities-only battalions. With the brigade, the battalion alternated between home defence duties and training to repel an expected invasion of the United Kingdom. Initial training took place in Warwickshire and due to shortages, they had to borrow rifles from Birmingham University O.T.C.

Serving with his regiment, Thomas was working as a horse keeper near Royal Leamington Spa.

Private Thomas William Hickford died on Saturday 31st August 1940 aged 28 years after developing tubercular meningitis. This occurs when tuberculosis bacteria invade the membranes and fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord. His death was registered in Yardley, Birmingham by his widow on 5th September.

Registration District BIRMINGHAM

1940. **DEATHS in the Sub-District of** Yardley **in the** County Borough of Birmingham

Columns :— 1. No.	1. When and Where Died.	2. Name and Surname.	3. Sex.	4. Age.	5. Rank or Profession.	6. Cause of Death.	7. Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	8. When Registered.	9. Signature of Registrar.
300	Thirty first August 1940 City Hospital Little Bromwich	Thomas William Hickford	male	28 years	of Moreton Morrell near Leamington [illegible] Private. No 5835242. Suffolk Regiment (Home Troops)	1(a) Tuberculous meningitis Certified by John J. McVeigh M.B.	A. M. Hickford Widow of deceased 8A. Hearsecroft Road Withersfield near Haverhill Suffolk.	Fifth September 194 0	Registrar

Thomas was buried in Haverhill Cemetery close to the war memorial plaque that bears his name.

County: SUFFOLK — GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM — Schedule No.: 1.YR

PLACE OF BURIAL: HAVERHILL CEMETERY — UNITED KINGDOM DISTRICT

Controlling Authority:

The following are buried here:

Certified complete and correct. SIGNATURE [illegible] AAS Foreman Clerk DATE 19-1-56

(a) P.R.G. Gr.No.	(b) No. and Rank	(c) Initials, Name and Honours	(d) Unit	(e) Date of Death	(f) Details of Grave marking including Screen Wall	(g) By whom maintained, if at Commission expense state fee payable	(h) Ownership of Grave	(j) REMARKS
	Sections A & F see Schedule 5		WAR GRAVES					
			SECTION U. (~~SERVICE~~ PLOT)					
130	5825242 Pte	T.W. HICKFORD	7th Bn.Suffolk Regt.	31.8.40	C/H	All @ 5/- per grave per annum by U.D.C.	—	



HICKFORD, Pte. THOMAS WILLIAM, 5825242. 7th Bn. The Suffolk Regt. 31st August, 1940. Age 28. Son of Thomas William and Rose Hickford; husband of Alice May Hickford, of Broadstairs, Kent. Sec. U. Grave 130.



His widow, Alice, married Albert E Bray in Harrow in 1963.