Melvin Chris Thies, United States Army Air Force, WW II

15th Air Force, 98th Heavy Bombardment Group, 345th Bombardment Squadron, tail gunner

killed in action over Ploiesti, Romania interred at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, MO (group burial)

© 2018 by Robert A. "Bob" Christiansen, updated 13 Jul '18. Taken from the **Avoca**, **Iowa & Vicinity > Gold Star Avoca** webpage at *bigpigeon.us*.

Melvin C. Thies was born in Minden, Iowa and raised on his parents' farm west of Avoca in southwestern Pleasant Township, with a wartime mailing address RFD #2, Avoca.

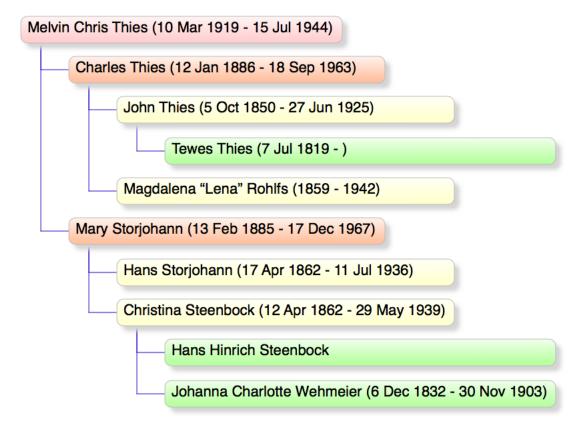
Melvin Thies was working as a farm laborer on his parents' farm in 1940. He entered active duty 17 Oct 1942 and left for overseas duty on 19 Apr 1944.

Melvin Thies died in one of the many 1943-1944 bombings of the Ploiesti oil fields in Romania. A cryptic on-line entry for 15 July 1944 reads:

600+ B-17s and B-24s bombed 4 oil refineries in the Ploieşti area and the "Teleajenul pumping station".[43] The 485 BG bombed the Sperantza [*sic*] Oil Refinery.

In 1943-44, hundreds of heavy bombers were lost over the Ploiesti area, which was thought to produce about a third of the oil used by Germany and thus was a prime target. Russian troops captured Ploiesti in August 1944.

The known ancestors of Melvin C. Thies (updated 13 Jul '18):



The parents and siblings of Melvin C. Thies (updated 8 Jun '18):

Charles Thies (12 Jan 1886 - 18 Sep 1963) & Mary Storjohann (13 Feb 1885 - 17 Dec 1967) m. 24 Nov 1909

> Elmer John Thies (19 Sep 1910 - 7 Mar 1977) & Gertrude Biederman (1915 - 2003) m. 26 Jun 1937, Harlan, Shelby Co., IA

Dorothy Marie Thies (11 May 1912 - 11 Aug 1983) & Jess Allen Perkins (19 Jul 1910 - 29 May 2003) m. 2 Jul 1939, Avoca, Pott. Co., IA

John A. Thies (10 Apr 1914 - 24 Jan 1983) & Donna M. Shearer (24 Nov 1920 - 5 Jan 2002)

Wilbur Charles Thies (17 Feb 1916 - 2 Jan 2010) & Lavone Agnes Krueger (5 Dec 1918 - Aug 2008)

Melvin Chris Thies (10 Mar 1919 - 15 Jul 1944)

Arliene Mayme Thies (17 Jul 1920 - 8 May 2007) & Max E. Jensen (21 Jan 1919 - 9 Feb 1980)

Arliene Mayme Thies (17 Jul 1920 - 8 May 2007) & W. T. Young (5 Nov 1915 - 29 Mar 2017)