

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.

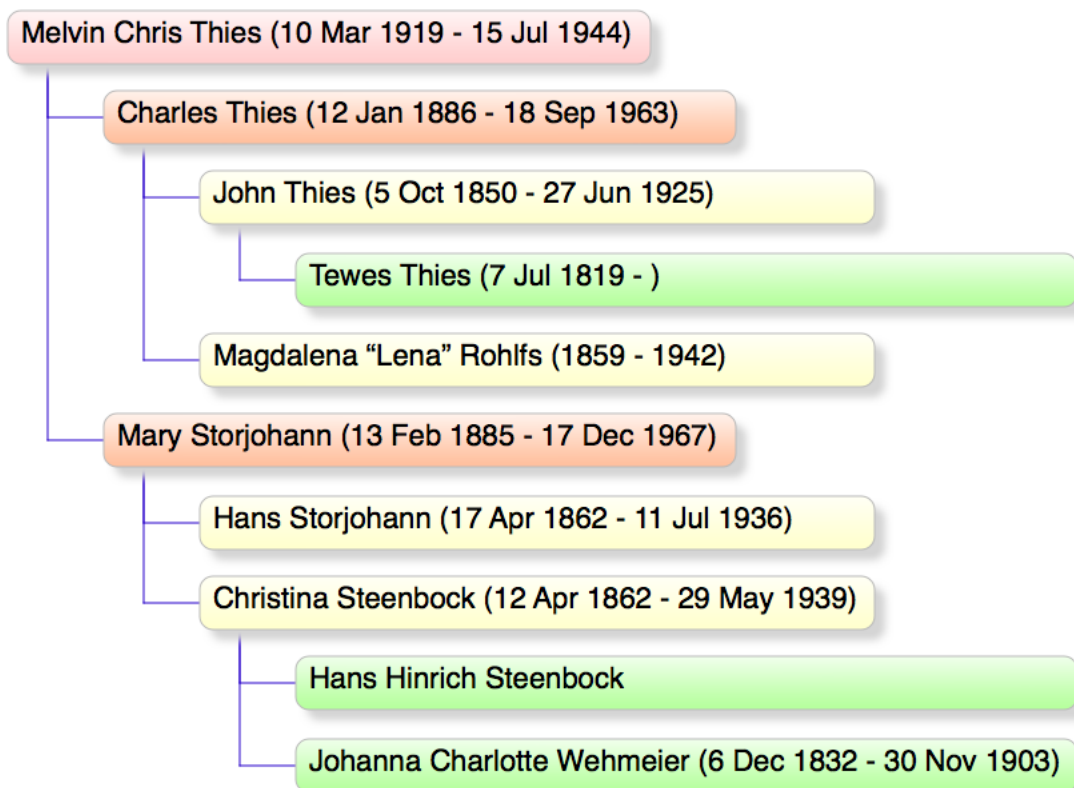
Melvin Thies was working as a farm laborer on his parents' farm in 1940. He entered active duty 17 Oct 1942 and left for overseas duty on 19 Apr 1944.

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 Ploiești 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):

