

Staff Sgt. Ray E. Thompson

New Guinea

August 5, 1918-May 7, 1944

Ray E. Thompson was born on August 5, 1918, in La Grande, Oregon, to Riley E. and Jennie E. Thompson. Ray was killed in action on May 7, 1944, serving his county in the South Pacific Theater. At the time of his death, he was survived by his father, Riley E. Thompson; stepmother Bernice Thompson; three sisters, Daisy (Thompson) Seaman, Bernice (Thompson) Gates and Verla (Thompson) Tomlinson; and two brothers, George A. Thompson and Riley D. Thompson. He is presently survived by his sister Verla Tomlinson of Spokane, Wash.; cousins Vernitta (Harmon) Searles of Pendleton, Ore., and Leah (Harmon) Lundberg of Walla Walla, Wash.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

His remains were discovered on September 25,

2002, in New Guinea by two local informants who reported their discovery to the Australian Defense Staff. The human remains were turned over to the

Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii on March 10, 2003. Upon completion of the investigation that included DNA sampling, it was concluded that some of the remains were those of Staff Sergeant Ray E. Thompson.

Graveside services will be held 10 a.m. Wednesday April 10, 2013, at the Olney

Cemetery with the VFW Post 922 of Pendleton and Reverend Chris Clemons of the Pendleton Nazarene Church officiating. A gathering will be held at the VFW hall for family and friends following the service.

Online condolences may be shared with the family at www.pioneerchapel.com.



Thompson

