

Obituary for LT. RONALD FREEPORT THOMPSON

FREEPORT, ILL



LT. RONALD THOMPSON

Pearl City Pilot Killed On East Coast

PEARL CITY—A flame-stricken marine plane carried a Pearl City airman to his death Saturday in a soybean field near Quinby, Va., an Atlantic Coastal village.

Killed was 1st Lt. Ronald M. Thompson of Pearl City Route 3, pilot of the aircraft. Two others escaped in parachute jumps.

The Skyraider, a single-engine propeller driven plane, ran into trouble Saturday over the ocean during an instrument flight from the Marine facility at Edenton, N. C., to Floyd Bennett Field in New York.

Radio Report

Fire apparently broke out shortly after the plane made a report by radio to the Norfolk air station.

Lt. Thompson, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Thompson, died at about 8:20 a.m. His parents were notified by telegram from the dead pilot's commanding officer at about 9 o'clock Saturday evening.

Thompson was graduated from Pearl City High School in 1951, attended Texas A. and M. for two years and was a member of Naval air cadets, Pensacola, Fla. He received his wings, Nov. 30, 1954, at Corpus Christi, Tex.

He served with the Marine Corps at Cherry Point, N. C.; El Toro, Calif.; Okinawa; Korea; and Edenton. He recently re-enlisted in the Marine Corps after serving four years.

Holiday Leave

Thompson spent a two-week leave at Pearl City over the Memorial Day holiday. During that time, he became a member of Pearl Lodge A.F. & A.M.

Lt. Thompson was born in Freeport, July 23, 1934, the son of Merrill and Eleanor Menzimer Thompson.

Surviving are his parents; two sisters, Mrs. Sheldon Sturtevant of Pearl City and Mrs. Robert Helman of Rockford; and his maternal grandfather, G. W. Menzimer of Stockton.

He was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Funeral service is pending, following the arrival of the body at Herman Funeral Home, Stockton.

Burial will be in Ladies Union Cemetery, Stockton.

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