

HOBSON, JOHN WARREN
December 21, 1918-May 20, 1945

Military services were held Wednesday afternoon at two at the graveside of S/Sgt. John Warren Hobson, son of Philip Wendell Hobson of Wheatland. His body was brought in Wednesday morning from Ogden, Utah, by an honorary military guard, S/Sgt. Sajovic. The VFW and the American Legion were in charge of the military rites, and acted as pallbearers. Rev. R.A. Klein acted as chaplain.

The following is taken from a letter received by Wendell Hobson from Commander James R. Richardson, in May, 1945, immediately after the death of S/Sgt. Hobson.

"On May 20, 1945, John traveled to the front lines to try to salvage some captured Japanese ordnance spare parts. This action was most typical of him, that ever-present drive and enthusiasm to have the best motor pool in the army. However, this trip he ventured to join the infantry who were sealing abandoned Japanese caves. When one of the infantryman threw a hand grenade into a cave, John sought security in a nearby abandoned cave. The first cave was, unfortunately, an enemy storage cave for demolitions, and the concussion from the terrific explosion therein sealed the cave into which John had entered. Frantically the infantry dug to reopen the cave and remove his body, after which artificial respiration was applied without success.

It was all so sudden and unexpected that John could have known no pain. His face carried that ever-present smile, and he looked as if in a pleasant sleep. During the application of artificial respiration, his lungs would not suck in air although it would expel it, leading to the belief he was instantly killed by the concussion without suffering or in pain.

John was buried in the cemetery at Santa Barbara Pangasinan Province, Luzon, P.I. after a short though reverent Protestant service on May 21, 1945. Here by the beautiful mountain stream in a green grassy valley dotted with spotless crosses, he would find peace and quiet in the war-torn world, visited reverently by us, his living comrades.

John was reburied in the family plot in the Wheatland cemetery.