

# Honors for lost airmen

By **MICHELLE  
POUNTNEY**

FOUR Victorian World War II airmen who disappeared during a flight over Papua New Guinea 52 years ago will be buried today with full military honors.

The airmen, aged 21 to 44, were listed missing in action after their Beaufort bomber went down during a flight from Milne Bay to their base at Madang, 500km north-west of Port Moresby, on January 29, 1945.

The aircraft was found in January in thick jungle on top of a mountain near Wagau village, 20km south-west of Lae.

Flying Officer Neale McKissock Thewlis of South Yarra, Sgt Frank Tranter Burgess of Coburg, and aircraftmen William Bertram Luck of Moorabbin and James Henry Albert Smith of Eaglehawk were on the flight with Flying Officer John Garvey Thompson and Sgt John Austin Standing from NSW, and Flt Sgt Maxwell James Hewett of South Australia.

Many of the men's relatives have been flown to Lae on an RAAF Hercules to attend the military funeral at the Commonwealth War Cemetery.

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