

T5 (Charles) Lester Johnson

Born: 3/7/1922 on
Island

Died:

Service # 36290613

SS # 394-15-6461

Period of Service WWII
ARMY

Sources: Am Legion
scrapbook – box 17

Entered service 12/17/1942 Ft Sheridan, IL. Discharged 2/11/1946 Ft Sheridan

Served in 252nd Field Artillery, 102nd Infantry Division from Puffendorf, Germany on Ruhr River to Sandauer, Germany on the Elbe River.

Battles include: Rhineland and Central Europe as a member of 252nd Inf Div till 10/31/1944. Hillenberg,, Germany; Toongres, Belgium; Geilenkirchen-Flossdorf, Rurdorf, Linnich , Ederen, Hottorf, Kuckhoven, Gerkenath, Wassel, Telgte, Halle, Mollenbergen and Sandauer, all in Germany.

He was in rest camps at the 9th Army and 2nd Armored Div, also Maastrich, Holland and Brussels.

Sailed from NY aboard *SS John Erickson* arriving Liverpool on 8/24/1944, went into Camp Brymore, England. Sailed from Marseilles, France 1/25/1946, arriving NY 2/5/1946 as member of 2nd Armored Div.

Medals include: Victory, American Theater ribbon, Good Conduct, European-Africa-Middle Eastern with two battle stars, Sharpshooter.

In a letter to the Hahnkuper family, he says “Guess I can tell you about our life here. It may be interesting to you but it’s hell to us here. We have been up at the front for quite a while. The first place we were at we slept in slit trenches and now we occupy a ‘German dugout’ and it’s the neatest little home I’ve struck since I crossed the Channel. It’s about 15X10X8, has in it a little cooking range, four bunks (with cushions) Celotex on the walls, a table at which I am now writing, a cabinet and just imagine, glass coffee cups and plates. We have a pot of coffee on the stove most of the time.

“The roof consists of two layers of logs each about 16” I diameter and on top of that a cover of dirt four feet deep, and believe me that doesn’t feel too safe when the Germans start throwing their ‘88s’ back at us. You know it’s a funny here, like tonight it’s quiet and peaceful, then all of a sudden all Hell breaks loose.

Now I’ll tell you about my Thanksgiving. It was a wet rainy day and we were really in a mud hole. But--- for dinner we had roast turkey, mashed potatoes, brown gravy, soft white bread, peaches and grapes. Well the weather could be what it wanted and so could the mud and all else connected with the war, but brother I enjoyed that meal.”

His wife was Ida May (born 9/6/1923) and their child was Sandra Lee (born 5/15/1949).