

Allyn D. Johnson – Private First Class to Technical Sergeant

Served with distinction in the Hq1 Battalion Headquarters Section as Battalion Clerk and later Battalion Sergeant Major.

Allyn Johnson is a classic example of the "Greatest of the Greatest Generation." He was a courageous soldier, magnificent leader, outstanding reliable man, and cherished comrade. He performed heroically in combat with diligence and dedication always striving for excellence.



Allyn Johnson was born October 5, 1923 in Fargo, ND. On March 17, 1943 he joined the Army and was assigned to the newly formed 527th Armored Infantry Battalion at Fort Knox, Kentucky. After basic and unit training, the 527th battalion participated as a demonstration unit for armored groups.

In October 1943, Allyn was sent to communications school and qualified as a voice and Morse code radio operator. In May 1944, Allyn volunteered for Airborne School training, and on July 1, 1944, at Fort Benning, Georgia, he proudly pinned on the coveted parachute wings.

After a short furlough, Allyn spent the remaining summer months in the replacement stream.

On September 19, 1944, Allyn arrived in Nottingham, England assigned to the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment. The regiment had parachuted into Holland on September 17, and rear detachment personnel received Allyn at the base camp. On November 11, 1944 the 508th PIR was relieved from Holland and moved into a French Artillery Post in Sissonne, France.

Allyn Johnson says. "We replacements were happy to move to Sissonne from England and to join the 508th PIR. We were quickly assigned to units. I was assigned to a rifle squad in Company B. However, in December I was transferred to the Hq1 Battalion Staff Section as a battalion clerk.

A few days later, we were in combat in the largest most costly land battle fought in Europe during WW II, the 'Battle of the Bulge.'" During that campaign, I witnessed an act of compassion that emphasizes the bond of love and respect that prevailed among our officers and enlisted men.

In Belgium, late in the afternoon of January 7, 1945, our battalion was assaulting the heavily defended Their-du-Monte Ridge, under the direct fire of German antiaircraft guns (88mm). Major Benjamin F. Delamater was our battalion executive officer. His runner Private First Class George E. Kriker was killed.

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It was bitter cold, the snow was deep, and the area where George lay was still under German observation. Finally, our battalion captured the ridge. That night, Major Delamater returned to the area and evacuated George's remains.

During the attack, our battalion Adjutant John Buffkin and Sgt. Major Jim Daum were wounded and 1st Lt. Gerald Guillot and Sgt. John Sivets replaced them. Lt. Guillot guided, encouraged and supported others and me around him. He was a real man.

I am especially proud to have been a member of the 508th PIR and am honored to have known such great people."

Allyn Johnson served as the Battalion Sergeant Major until he left the 508th PIR in Heddernheim, Germany in 1945. Allyn Johnson earned:

- ?? Bronze Star Medal
- ?? Combat Infantry Badge
- ?? Two battle stars
- ?? Belgium Fourragere
- ?? Numerous defense medals including the Victory medal and Occupation Medal with Germany Bar

Allyn Johnson was separated from the service January 22, 1946 at Fort Lewis, Washington and attended college. Allyn and Maria married in 1951, and raised four children. They enjoy their family including five grandchildren and four great grandchildren, and keep busy operating a small business. They reside at 321 E. Lakeshore Drive, Shelton, WA 98584



Allyn and Maria Johnson

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This Album is Not For Sale

This excerpt from the “We Served Proudly, The Men of Hq1” album contains the recollections of men who in their youth risked their lives in furtherance of our national interests. These memoirs are sacred to them -- especially those events alluding to activities in which comrades lost their lives on the battlefields of Europe.

This album was prepared for perpetual residence in the archives of the Camp Blanding Museum complex, operated by the Camp Blanding Museum and Historical Associates, Inc. Starke, Florida. We are grateful for the support and assistance of the Camp Blanding Museum and Historical Associates, and for their kindness in having the museum make our album available to historians, students, researchers and others interested in our background and brief history.

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Copies of the album have been presented to the Hq1 veterans or their survivors that contributed information for the effort. To facilitate reproducing copies of individual memoirs for relatives or friends, the memoirs have been developed as separate entities.

October 19, 2004

George S. Stoket

Hq1 Album Collator