

## **George William JOHNSON**

**1904 - 1974**

**Always on the lookout for World War 2 military heroes from Peterborough it was nice to drop on George William Johnson for his bravery in action.  
A veteran of the assault on Pegasus Bridge.**

**George William JOHNSON was a Peterborough hero who was awarded the MBE in July 1943 and the Military Medal for action on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 1944.**

**George was born in Garten End, Peterborough on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 1904. The son of James and Kate Johnson.**

**The 1921 census has George living at 53 Rogers Street, Peterborough where his occupation was given as a Grocers Assistant.**

**George married Maud Taylor in 1947 and died at the King Edward VII Retirement Home for Officers on the Isle of Wight on the 13th December 1974, aged 70.**

**What follows are the records of George's career together with a photograph of George being presented with his MM by Field Marshal Montgomery.**

**I am afraid that I do not know the circumstances regarding his award of the MBE.**



**GEORGE WILLIAM JOHNSON M.B.E M.M**

**Other Rank Service**

**Army Number - 6281947**

Enlisted at Northampton as a Private with the Buffs & was posted to the Depot on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 1923.

**Enlistment Details**

Date of Birth – 7<sup>th</sup> November 1904.

Place of Birth – Peterborough.

Height – 5ft & 3 ins.

Weight - 110lbs.

Chest Measurement – 35ins.

Complexion – Dark.

Eyes – Brown.

Hair – Black

Religious Denomination – Church of England.

Awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Certificate of Education on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1923.

Posted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 1923.

Awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Certificate of Education on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1926.

Passed Quarter Master General Course held in Netherton from the 1<sup>st</sup> February 1930 to the 28<sup>th</sup> March 1930.

Awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Class Certificate of Education on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1932.

Attended Boxing Instruction Course from the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1933 to the 21<sup>st</sup> December 1933.

Awarded Course Rifles Certificate during the period 26<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> March 1934.

Appointed unpaid Lance Corporal on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 1925.

Appointed paid Lance Corporal on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 1925.

Promoted to Corporal on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 1927.

Appointed as paid Lance Sergeant on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1929.

Promoted to Sergeant on the 4<sup>th</sup> November 1931.



**GEORGE WILLIAM JOHNSON M.B.E M.M**

Promoted to Warrant Officer II & appointed as Company Sergeant Major on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 1935.

Posted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 1937.

Posted to the Staff at the Ceylon Defence Force on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 1938.

Promoted to Warrant Officer I & appointed as Regimental Sergeant Major on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1941.

Transferred to the Middlesex Regiment & posted to the 70<sup>th</sup> Battalion on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 1942.

Transferred to the Army Air Corps & posted to the Parachute Regiment Depot on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 1943.

Discharged to Commission under Paragraph 390(xvii) of the Kings Regulations 1940 on the 8<sup>th</sup> July 1945.

**Testimonial**

“Honest, sober & hardworking. He is a very energetic Warrant Officer, who is keen reliable & trustworthy. He has always carried out instructions both at home & overseas in a very conscientious manner. He is in possession of a 1<sup>st</sup> Class Certificate of Education. I recommend him for any position of trust.”

**Military Conduct**

Exemplary.

**Commissioned Service**

**Officer Number – 355337**

Granted an Emergency Commission in the Army Air Corps Parachute Regiment as a Lieutenant Quarter Master on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 1945.

Posted to the South East Asia Command on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 1945.

Released from Military duty under Regulations for Release from the Army 1945, granted Honorary Rank of Lieutenant (Quarter Master) & posted to the Royal Army Reserve of Officers on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 1946.

Recalled for duty & posted to the Airborne Forces Depot on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 1947.

Posted to the Parachute Regiment Infantry Training Centre on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 1947.





**GEORGE WILLIAM JOHNSON M.B.E M.M**

Promoted to Captain (QuarterMaster) on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 1948.

Posted to the Airborne Forces Depot Pool on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 1948.

Released from Military duty under Regulations for Release from the Army 1945, granted Honorary Rank of Captain (QuarterMaster) & posted to the Royal Army Reserve of Officers on the 28<sup>th</sup> August 1948.

Relinquished Emergency Commission & granted the Honorary Rank of Captain (QuarterMaster) on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 1954.

**Overseas Service**

Palestine from the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1936 to the 29<sup>th</sup> December 1936.

India (on Indian Service) from the 16<sup>th</sup> October 1937 to the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1938.

Ceylon from the 24<sup>th</sup> April 1938 to the 12<sup>th</sup> April 1942.

North West Europe from the 5<sup>th</sup> June 1944 to the 29<sup>th</sup> September 1944.

North West Europe from the 25<sup>th</sup> December 1944 to the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1945.

North West Europe from the 24<sup>th</sup> March 1945 to the 20<sup>th</sup> May 1945.

Malaya & Java from the 27<sup>th</sup> July 1945 to the 16<sup>th</sup> October 1946.

**Medals & Decorations**

1939/45 Star.

The France & Germany Medal.

The Defence Medal.

The War Medal.

The General Service Medal with Clasp Palestine.

The 1937 Coronation Medal.

The Long Service & Good Conduct Medal.

The Military Medal.

Awarded the Membership of the Order of the British Empire.

## RSM George Johnson

Unit : Battalion Headquarters, 7th Parachute Battalion

Service No. : 6281947

Awards : Military Medal

*At Bois de Bavent on 18th June 1944 a patrol reported on return that it had been unable to bring back some of the wounded. RSM Johnson at once organised a party of stretcher bearers and at complete disregard of his own safety returned to the scene of the patrol's task. This area had then been re-occupied by the enemy who were thoroughly aroused by their recent brush with the patrol. RSM Johnson and his party became the target for all the enemy weapons in the area and would have well justified in turning back. However he did not turn back and succeeded in bringing back all the wounded. This Warrant Officer has been an inspiration to all throughout the campaign by his unfailing energy, enthusiasm and complete disregard for his own personal safety.*

**The citation for George's MM.**





**The award of the MM by FM Montgomery.**

**End.**