

Maj. John A. Johnson

June 9, 1914 - January 25, 1944



John (Jack) Alexander Johnson, son of John Alexander and Jean (Lindsey) Johnson, was born on June 9, 1914 in Los Angeles, California. He had one brother Ralph Johnson. John attended Punahou School from elementary through high school graduation. He was an outstanding athlete, captain and football star of the 1934 Rainbows at the University of Hawaii. He was also a member of the student council, Saber and Chain military fraternity, and Warrior of the Pacific rifle team.

While serving as an agriculturist for the McBryde Sugar Company on Kauai, John took an active part in Kauai Athletic Union sports and played football and soccer for the McBryde teams.

John served in the Army Reserve Officers' Corps at the University of Hawaii in June, 1935 and was called to active duty with the Hawaii National Guard on Kauai on October 15, 1940 (Serial No. O-320297) during which time he became a Captain.

John trained at Schofield Barracks on Oahu and then went to Ft. Benning, Georgia. From there he was transferred to the Hawaii unit at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin before going to Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

On March 21, 1942 John married Elizabeth Sinclair Knudsen of Koloa, Kauai and a former schoolmate from Punahou. John and Elizabeth had one child that died at birth. Mrs. Johnson later relocated to Mt. Rainier, Maryland.

John, serving with the 100th Battalion Headquarters, was sent overseas to Algeria and then to Italy where he succeeded Maj. James Gillespie after the Voltorno River crossing and was wounded in action on November 5, 1943 during the Salerno to Cassino Campaign in Italy. On January 25, 1944 during the Cassino to Anzio Campaign in Italy, Maj. John Johnson was badly wounded near Cassino by a burst of machine gun fire. As he crawled for cover, he exploded a mine and caught it full force. He died a few hours later at the aid station. He was the 17th Kauai soldier in the 100th Infantry to be killed in action in Italy.

Maj. John Johnson was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart with Oak-Leaf Cluster, Combat Infantryman Badge, American Defense Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. He is interred at the Sicily+Rome U.S. Military Cemetery, better known as the Anzio Cemetery, and located in the neighboring town of Nettuno.