

THE JOHNSON FAMILY

Douglas Melford Johnson



Douglas Johnson military portrait

Born 29 March 1921 in Dresden, Ontario, Douglas Johnson was fourth child of Clifford Johnson and Susan Earll (Owen Sound). On 6 January 1941 at age 21 Johnson enlisted at Hamilton, Ontario with No. 2 District Depot but later transferred to the Irish Regiment of Canada. Johnson was a single man who stood 5'6" and was a pro boxer for some time.

Johnson was an instructor in infantry in the United Kingdom and North Africa. After enlistment he received training at Camp Borden with the Canadian Armoured Corps (A-8). In July 1942 Johnson was off to England with the 2nd Canadian Armoured Corps Replacement Unit. While training in England he completed Q Command Boxing Course and Q-2 NCO Gas Course. He was then posted to No. 1 Canadian Base Replacement Depot and in June 1943 shipped to Africa.

He was confirmed as a sergeant in July 1943 and held this rank over two years. Later, Johnson was posted to Italy where he was wounded and spent his 23rd birthday in hospital. The Irish Regiment of Canada landed in France in February 1945 and Johnson rejoined them in March 1945. In April 1945 Johnson felt his colour had been a handicap and he relinquished his sergeant's rank returning to private. Once demobilized, on 13 March 1946 he was discharged in Toronto, Ontario. He died in 1977.



Douglas Johnson with Shep April 1945, Piccadilly Circus

Beverly Clifford Johnson

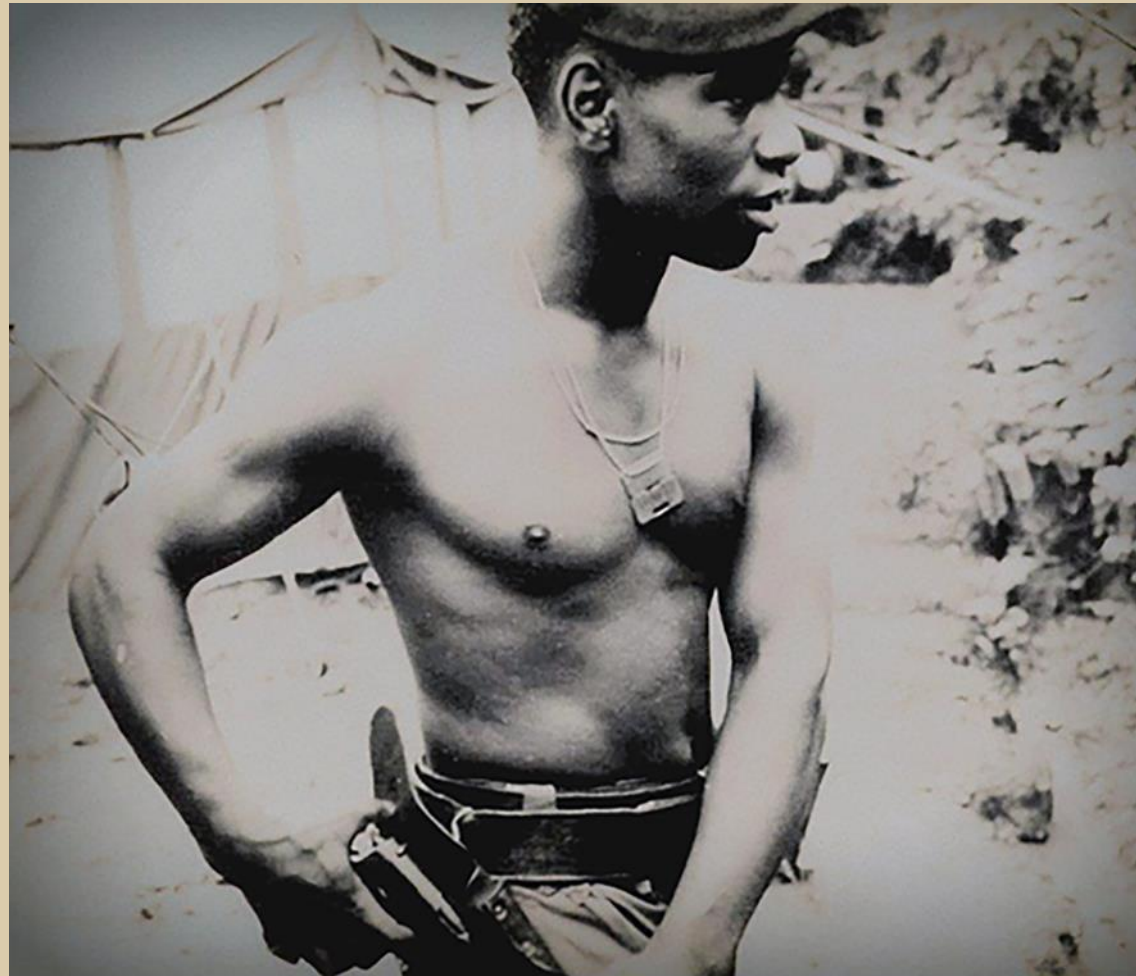
Born in Owen Sound, Ontario on 9 January 1927, Beverly was the first "coloured baby" born in the General and Marine Hospital. He enlisted in the Royal Canadian Navy in 1947. He received the Canadian Forces Decoration. Beverly went on after the War to serve in the Navy until retirement in 1969.

Together with his wife, Gertrude, they raised their family in Nova Scotia. Beverly moved with his family to Owen Sound, Ontario for a few years in the early seventies and worked as a jail guard at the Owen Sound, Ontario jail.

He later moved back to Nova Scotia in 1979. He died in Nova Scotia, 27 January 1990 at the age of 63.



David Gibson Johnson



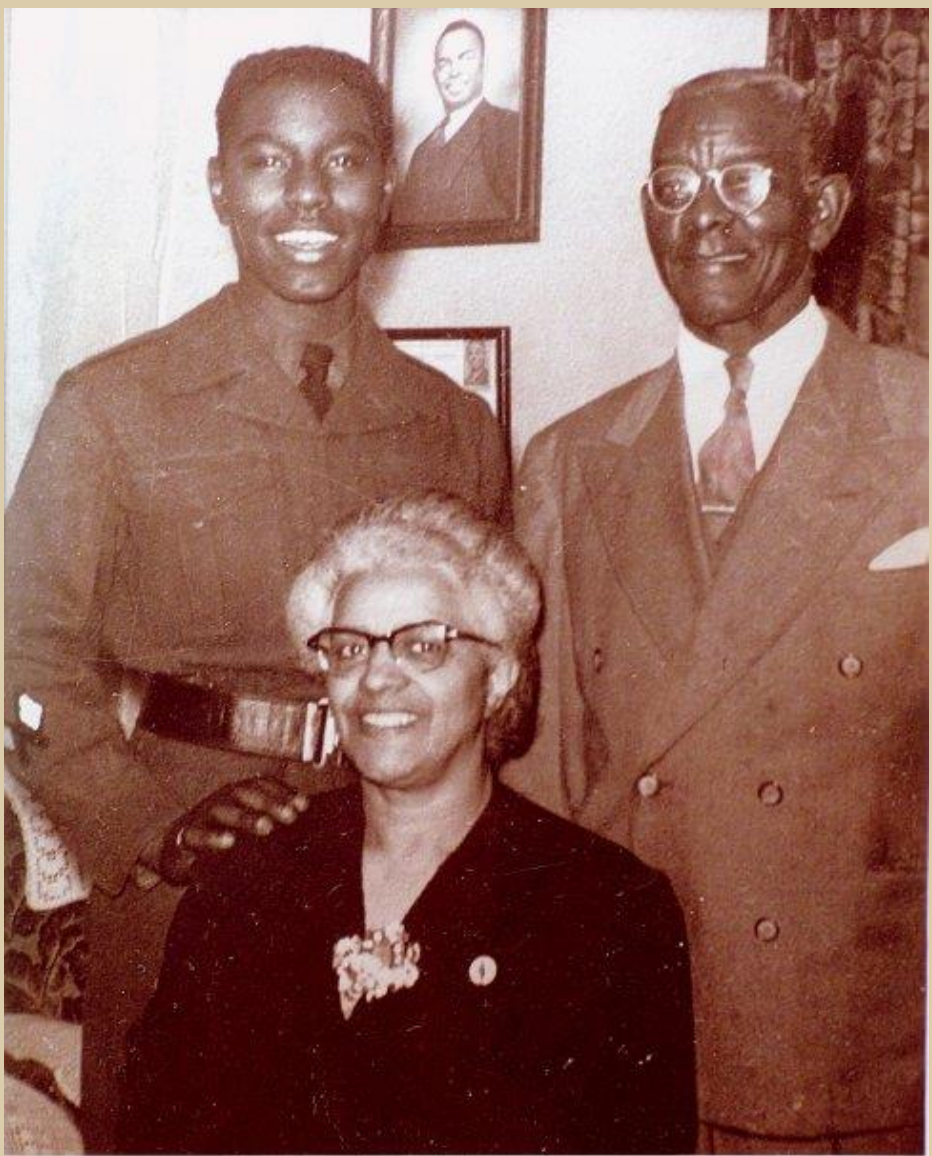
David Gibson Johnson was born 19 April 1935 in Guelph, Ontario, the youngest son of Rev. Clifford and Susie Johnson (Earll).

David Johnson enlisted in the Army as a soldier with The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, 2nd Battalion, Signal Platoon as a wireless operator.

David was deployed to Korea. Military decorations received were the Korean Medal, Volunteer Medal, Peacekeeping Medal and the United Nations Medal.

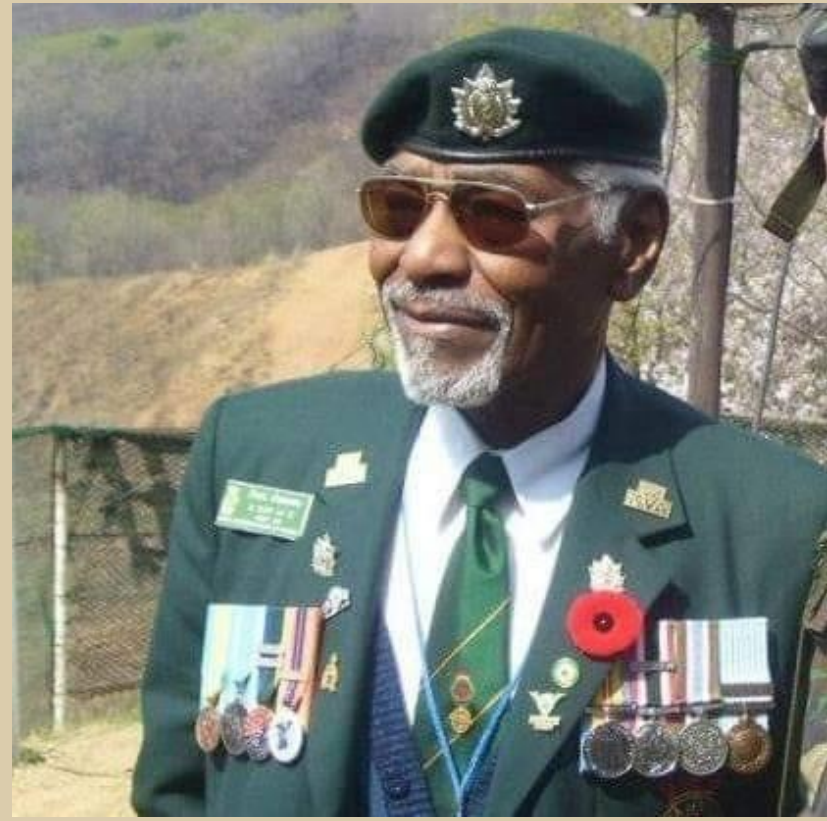
Top Left: David Johnson while serving in Korea.

Bottom Left: David Johnson on a return Trip to Korea in 2009.



Right: David Johnson with Rev. Clifford Johnson and Susan Earll.

This photo was taken before David shipped out to Korea. He was 18 at the time, soon to be 19 as he crossed the international date line.



Photos courtesy of Bruce Johnson

Beverley, David and Clifford Johnson's biographies taken from Bonita Johnson de Matteis *Lest We Forget* 2003.

Wounded In Italy



SERGT. DOUGLAS M. JOHNSON son of Rev. and Mrs. C. S. Johnson of the B.M.E. Church, has been wounded in action in Italy, according to news received by his parents, today. The youth, who was 23 years old on March 29th, celebrated his birthday in the military hospital where he is recovering from his wounds. Johnson went overseas two years ago. He was born at Dresden, Ontario, and educated at the Niagara Falls Collegiate Institute. Prior to enlistment on January 6, 1941, he was employed at the Dominion Chain Company. Johnson was promoted to the rank of sergeant overseas.

Clarence Johnson



Pte. Clarence Johnson was the first of five sons born to Rev. Clifford Johnson and Susie Johnson (Earll). Clarence did not enlist as so many others his age did. He was conscripted. He had very strong beliefs against war and killing. "The day he got his papers he was very upset" said younger brother David, "I remember he handed me an orange as he opened the papers and cried, "Oh, no...not this" and tears came to his eyes." Clarence reported for duty in Toronto and from there was sent to Chilliwack to train with the Artillery. As a result of the many maneuvers done in training his shoulder was dislocated numerous times. He received an Honourable Discharge and returned home to Niagara Falls where his parents ministered at the B.M.E. Church. Clarence later went into the ministry. Rev. Clarence Johnson, a well known and loved minister never married. He died in London Ontario, 28 September 1968. He was 49 years old.



The Five Johnson Brothers
Back Row L to R: Paul Johnson, C. Beverly Johnson, Clarence Johnson
Front Row L to R: David Johnson, Douglas Melford Johnson