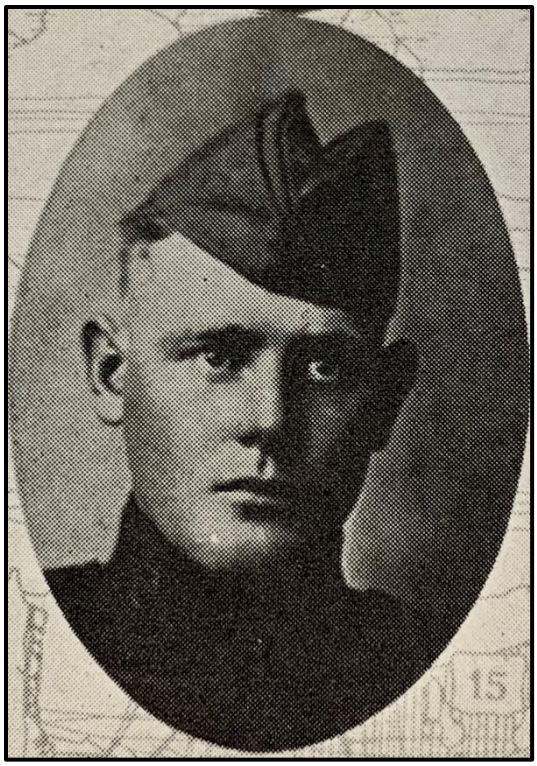
Harold Ernest Johnson



Harold Ernest Johnson was born 8 February 1898 in Des Moines, Iowa to Jeremiah R. Johnson (1860-1905) and Rose Anna Curtis (1873-1951). Jeremiah was born in Iowa and Rose was born in Missouri; they are buried together in Des Moines at Woodland Cemetery.

Harold Johnson was born and raised in Iowa. At the time of the 1900 census, the family lived at 1511 Twenty-Seventh Street in Des Moines, and Jeremiah and Rose had four children: Thomas William (b: Jan 1896), Marie E (b: Jan 1897), Ernest Harold, and Marion S (b: Jan 14, 1900). Jeremiah said he was a preacher and student. He was a pastor of the Harlan, Iowa Christian Church. In 1903, another daughter was added to the family, Mildred E., and in 1904, Charles S. Johnson was born.

Reverend Jeremiah Johnson was killed in February 1905 in a train wreck near Atlantic, Iowa, in which he was a passenger. By 1910, the widowed Rose was living alone with her children at 1320 Twenty-Sixth Street in Des Moines. Marion may have also died, as she is not listed in the 1910 census with the rest of the family.

Harold registered for the draft on 12 September 1918 in Bakersfield, California, where he was working for a rancher, Joe Adams. He was 20 years old. According to *Dakota County in the World War*, Harold E. Johnson of Hastings joined the colors on 17 May 1918 and was in the Aero Construction Co. No. 15. He served in the Army for 11 years. In July 1927, Harold returned to San Francisco on the USS *Thomas* from Manila, Philippines.

The 1930 census taken at the United States Army Post at Fort Snelling listed Harold as a single 32-year-old. At some point prior to 1940, Harold married Lillian May Hammond in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The couple then moved to St. Paul, where Harold was employed. In 1940, the family lived at 240 S. Western Ave., St. Paul. Harold (age 41) worked as a laborer at a foundry and Lillian (40) worked at a beauty parlor. The couple had two daughters, Elizabeth (15) and Phyllis (13).

When he registered for the WWII draft on 14 February 1942, Harold was 44 years old, still living at 240 S. Western Ave. His mailing address was the Sunset Hotel in San Francisco, CA.

His wife, Lillian, was his emergency contact. For employment, he listed Harry C. Conners at the National Beuring Metals Corp. at 626 Armstrong Ave. in St. Paul. In 1946 the family moved to Hastings, where Harold worked for the Hudson Manufacturing Co. He continued working for Hudson until he suffered a heart attack ten days prior to his death. He was 60 years old.

Harold E. Johnson died 19 June 1958 and is buried in Hastings, Minnesota in the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Cemetery. At the time of his death he was survived by his wife, Lillian, daughter Elizabeth (Ulbrich of Marshan), six grandchildren, and a sister and brother, Esther (Gfeller of Salina, KS) and Charles S Johnson (Des Moines, IA).

Note: Minnesota Historical Society holds a WWI bonus file, warrant number 47599, for Harold E. Johnson of Hastings. There does not appear to be a corresponding military service questionnaire, which was voluntarily submitted by a veteran or a family member.