Maurice Hjelmar Johnson

Maurice Hjelmar "Mort" Johnson was born 14 August 1898 in Hastings, Dakota County, Minnesota. He was the son of Einar Johnson (1865-1951) and Eva Hedstrom (1871-1945), parents of a large family. His father was born in Norway, and his mother was born in Sweden. Maurice graduated from Hastings High School and the University of Minnesota School of Business where he was a member of the Chi Phi Fraternity.

Maurice enlisted 18 July 1918 and was discharged on 23 December of that same year. He served as an instructor as 2nd Lieutenant with the SATC Training Camp (Student Army Training Camp) at Fort Sheridan, Illinois. Fort Sheridan served as an induction and training center for the Midwest region and also housed an officer training camp. "Practice trenches" were constructed for simulated battle experiences to give the recruits an idea of what they would expect during combat. In addition to the trench training, there was also training in self-defense, use of artillery, mounting and dismounting of horses, bayonet practice, and practice marching to start off the day. After the War, Maurice returned to Hastings to live with his parents and siblings.

On 11 December 1928, Maurice married Lucille Ellen Harrington (1904-1997, the daughter of William H. and Carrie Lockwood Harrington) in Hastings. They had two children, Joann and Leigh. In 1930, they lived in Preston, Fillmore County, where Maurice was working as a project engineer for the Minnesota Highway Department in southeastern Minnesota. By 1933 they had moved to Wabasha Township, Wabasha County, Minnesota, where they owned Riverside Oil Company. He later added a filling station at Kellogg, Minnesota. Maurice retired in 1966. He was a member of the board of directors of First National Bank in Plainview from 1934; of the United Church of Christ at Wabasha, where he served as deacon and usher; the Wabasha Masonic Lodge, where he served as master in 1959; was past president of the Wabasha Rotary; the Wabasha City Council for eight years; the Order of the Eastern Star; American Legion Post 50; and the Minnesota Association of Professional Engineers.

Maurice died of a lung ailment on 1 August 1971 in St. Elizabeth Hospital in Wabasha. He is buried in Riverview Cemetery in Wabasha, Minnesota.