

# Oscar G. Johnson

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Oscar G. Johnson, Jr.	
<b>Born</b>	March 25, 1921 <a href="#">Foster City, Michigan</a>
<b>Died</b>	May 13, 1998 (aged 77)
<b>Place of burial</b>	DeWitt Cemetery, <a href="#">De Witt, Michigan</a>
<b>Allegiance</b>	<a href="#">United States of America</a>
<b>Service/branch</b>	<a href="#">United States Army</a>
<b>Years of service</b>	1942 - 1945, 1959 - 1964
<b>Rank</b>	<a href="#">Chief Warrant Officer Four</a>
<b>Unit</b>	<a href="#">1st Battalion, 363rd Infantry Regiment, 91st Infantry Division</a>
<b>Battles/wars</b>	<a href="#">World War II</a>
<b>Awards</b>	<a href="#">Medal of Honor</a>

**Oscar Godfrey Johnson, Jr.** <sup>[1]</sup> (March 25, 1921 – May 13, 1998) was a [United States Army](#) soldier and a recipient of the United States military's highest decoration—the [Medal of Honor](#)—for his actions in [World War II](#).

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## Biography

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Johnson joined the Army from his birth place of [Foster City, Michigan](#) in October 1942,<sup>[2]</sup> and by September 16, 1944 was serving as a [private first class](#) in Company B, [363rd Infantry Regiment, 91st Infantry Division](#). On that day and the following two days, near [Scarperia, Italy](#), he single-handedly held his position at his unit's left flank after all other members of his [squad](#) had been killed or wounded. He was subsequently promoted to [Sergeant](#) and, on July 19, 1945, awarded the Medal of Honor.

Johnson later joined the [Michigan National Guard](#) in July 1959, and reached the rank of [Chief Warrant Officer Four](#) before his discharge in April 1964.<sup>[3]</sup> He died at age 77 and was buried in DeWitt Cemetery, [De Witt, Michigan](#).

## Medal of Honor citation

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Johnson's official Medal of Honor citation reads:

He practically single-handed protected the left flank of his company's position in the offensive to break the German's [gothic line](#). Company B was the extreme left assault unit of the corps. The advance was stopped by heavy fire from Monticelli Ridge, and the company took cover behind an embankment. Sgt. Johnson, a [mortar](#) gunner, having expended his ammunition, assumed the duties of a rifleman. As leader of a squad of 7 men he was ordered to establish a combat post 50 yards to the left of the company to cover its exposed flank. Repeated enemy counterattacks, supported by artillery, mortar, and machinegun fire from the high ground to his front, had by the afternoon of 16 September killed or wounded all his men. Collecting weapons and ammunition from his fallen comrades, in the face of hostile fire, he held his exposed position and inflicted heavy casualties upon the enemy, who several times came close enough to throw [hand grenades](#). On the night of 16–17 September, the enemy launched his heaviest attack on Company B, putting his greatest pressure against the lone defender of the left flank. In spite of mortar fire which crashed about him and machinegun bullets which whipped the crest of his shallow trench, Sgt. Johnson stood erect and repulsed the attack with grenades and [small arms](#) fire. He remained awake and on the alert throughout the night, frustrating all attempts at infiltration. On 17 September, 25 German soldiers surrendered to him. Two men, sent to reinforce him that afternoon, were caught in a devastating mortar and artillery barrage. With no thought of his own safety, Sgt. Johnson rushed to the shell hole where they lay half buried and seriously wounded, covered their position by his fire, and assisted a [Medical Corpsman](#) in rendering aid. That night he secured their removal to the rear and remained on watch until his company was relieved. Five companies of a German [paratroop](#) regiment had been repeatedly committed to the attack on Company B without success. Twenty dead Germans were found in front of his position. By his heroic stand and utter disregard for personal safety, Sgt. Johnson was in a large measure responsible for defeating the enemy's attempts to turn the exposed left flank.

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## See also

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[Biography portal](#)



[United States Army portal](#)



[World War II portal](#)

[List of Medal of Honor recipients](#)

[List of Medal of Honor recipients for World War II](#)

## References

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- [^](#) [Hall of Valor](#)
- [^](#) [WWII Army Enlistment Records](#)
- [^](#) [Michigan Department of Military & Veterans Affairs](#)

"[Oscar G. Johnson](#)". *Claim to Fame: Medal of Honor recipients*. [Find a Grave](#). Retrieved 2008-01-28.

"[Medal of Honor recipients - World War II \(G–L\)](#)". *Medal of Honor citations*. [United States Army Center of Military History](#). June 8, 2009. Retrieved 2008-01-28.