

Biographical Sketch

WILLIAM A. JOHNSON HOC

I enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force October 10, 1942, was called to duty January 31, 1943 in Wilkes-Barre, Penna. I traveled by train to Miami Beach Fla., arriving February 2, 1943 where I received my Basic Training. I reported to the College Training Detachment at North Carolina State College in Raleigh, N. Car. on February 27, 1943. I next arrived at the Nashville Classification Center in Nashville, Tenn. May 16, 1943. On to the U.S.A.A.F. Preflight Training at Maxwell Field, Montgomery, Ala. on July 2, 1943. Primary Flight Training started at the 63rd A.A.F.-F.T.D. in Douglas, Ga. on August 31, 1943. Basic Flight Training began at Cochran Field, Macon, Ga. November 4, 1943. I reported for Advanced Flight Training at Moody Field, Valdosta, Ga. on January 17, 1944, where I graduated as 2nd Lieutenant with the rating of Pilot on March 12, 1944. I took Transitional Flight Training (B-17) from March 25, 1944 to June 2, 1944 at Hendricks Field, Sebring, Fla.. I picked up my Combat Crew at Plant Park, Fla. and began Crew Flight Training at MacDill Field, Tampa, Fla. on June 10, 1944. Starting September 2, 1944, our crew flew to our European Assignment via Hunter Field, Savannah, Ga., Dow Field, Bangor, Me., Newt Field, Goose Bay, Labrador. Meeks field, Reykjavik, Iceland and Valley, Wales. We arrived at Station 152, Debach, England September 25, 1944 and were assigned to the 860th Squadron of The 493rd Bomb Group (H), of The 8th Air Force..

Our Bomb Group indoctrinated new Pilots to combat by having them fly their first mission as a copilot with an experienced crew. I was shot down on my first mission. Our target was Munster, Germany. Flak disabled two engines and set a third afire. The whole crew parachuted before the plane exploded in mid-air over southern Belgium. I landed safely in Maaseick, Belgium and returned to my base ten days later. I then flew 35 more missions with my own crew. I attained the rank of First Lieutenant and was discharged in November 1945. I am an active member of The 8th Air force Historical Society and The 493rd Bomb Group Memorial Association.

I attended Hobart College, Geneva, N.Y. and am a Life member of the Sigma Chi fraternity.

I retired in 1978 from The Bell Telephone Co, of Pennsylvania where I had been an Operations supervisor on the Headquarters staff in Philadelphia. I worked for Bell in various capacities for over 30 years.

Biographical Sketch

WILLIAM A. JOHNSON

440 C

I am a member of George M. Dallas Lodge # 531 Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania. A member and Past commander in Chief of Caldwell Consistory in Bloomsburg, I was made a 33rd degree Mason of The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in 1976 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

I have been active in The Boy Scouts of America and now serve as a Committeeman for Troop 17, Town Hill, Penna.

I married the former Dorothy M. Williams of Huntington Mills, Penna.. We are the proud parents of a daughter, Mrs. Jacqueline E. Erickson, State College, Penna., and we enjoy our three wonderful grandchildren.