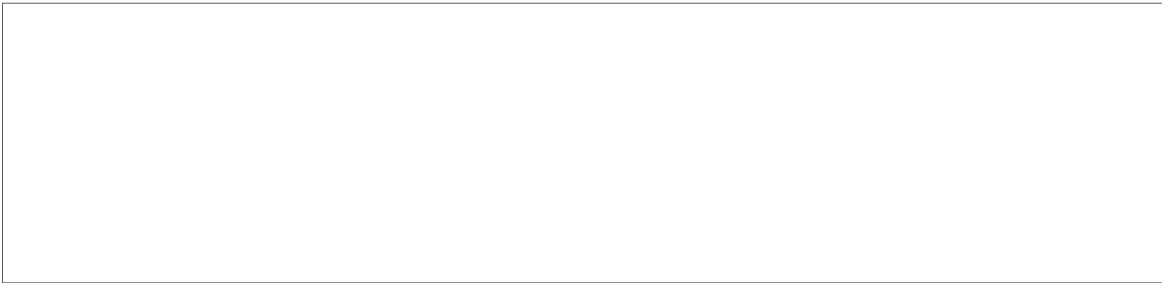


~~SECRET~~//NOFORN//MR



(b)(3)

Edward Johnson (1923 – 1965)



~~(S)~~ Edward Johnson drowned when a helicopter in which he was a passenger crashed in August 1965 into the Mekong River.

~~(S)~~ Ed Johnson served in the Marine Corps for six years and was honorably discharged in 1949 as a staff sergeant. He then attended business school part-time for nearly five years, studying accounting and business law while working as a shipping clerk, messenger, and insurance agent. While still studying business, Johnson went to work in 1950 for the Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C. He worked for Commerce for five years with a brief interruption in 1951, when he was recalled to active duty with the Marine Corps.

Fast Facts:

Directorate served:
Directorate of Plans (now
the Directorate of
Operations)

Position title:
Operations Officer

Grade:
GS-10

Award date:
1974

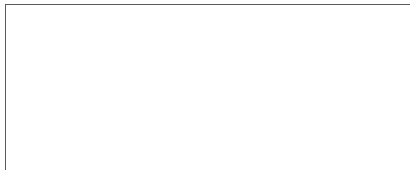
~~(S)~~ Ed Johnson joined the CIA in February 1955 as a clerk working in the Deputy Directorate for Plans (forerunner to today's Directorate of Operations), in the Far East Division's Cable Secretariat. His strong interest and his determination to become involved more in operations, along with his willingness to serve wherever needed, resulted in his first assignment overseas in 1957; he was sent to [redacted] as an administrative assistant and courier covering the East Asian area. After returning to Headquarters in 1959, he served a temporary tour of duty in Guatemala as an intelligence assistant providing the full range of support [redacted]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

[redacted] He also received some operational training in preparation for his return to the field.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)



(b)(3)

~~SECRET~~//NOFORN//MR

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(S) Ed was assigned to Vientiane, Laos, in late 1961. This was his first full operational field assignment. It involved planning and directing operations to collect Order of Battle information on enemy units. He was also responsible for selecting and training road-watch teams and intelligence operatives throughout his military region.

□ (b)(1)
(b)(3)

(S) In 1962, Johnson [redacted] as an operations officer, serving as chief of the intelligence section at a stay-behind command post. In this position he was responsible for four projects in a countrywide paramilitary program. A key element was to provide, in concert with the chief of base at [redacted] intelligence guidance to [redacted] leaders under his direction. He also provided paramilitary training to selected [redacted] groups, and he supervised national intelligence analysts, interpreters, and translators.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)
(b)(1)
(b)(3)
(b)(3))
(b)(3)

(S) Steadily increasing his scope of responsibility, Johnson was assigned in July 1963 to Udom Base as an operations officer, advisor, and project leader for a large third country group. The scale of this endeavor was quite large, consisting of a country-wide intelligence collection operation in a paramilitary program that involved more than 25,000 armed men from four ethnic groups.

(S) In 1965, while on one of his frequent missions to survey the region, and make stops at area villages to visit tribal leaders, the helicopter carrying Edward Johnson and his friend and fellow operations officer, Louis O'Jibway, crashed into the Mekong River during a heavy rainstorm. Ed and Louis died in the crash. At the time of his death Ed Johnson was 43 years old. He was posthumously awarded the Agency's Intelligence Medal of Merit.

~~SECRET//NOFORN//MR~~
~~SECRET//NOFORN//MR~~