

Lieutenant Herbert Johnson

CHIPPENHAM

JOINING THE COMMANDOS

CHIPPENHAM'S FIRST DETECTIVE

On Monday 27-years-old Herbert Johnson, youngest detective sergeant in the South, left Chippenham to join the Commandos. Johnson was attached to Chippenham Police Division, and has had a short but brilliant career.

A Yorkshireman, he first studied mining, but at the age of 16 he joined the Royal Horse Artillery, and served until 1926, when he joined Wiltshire Constabulary.

After two years as a police constable, he was promoted to the C.I.D., and was Chippenham's first detective. He was mainly instrumental in getting the branch organised when it was decided to have a C.I.D. at Chippenham.

He tracked down the many accused in the Malmesbury "directories case," masquerading as a labourer and working side by side with one man in order to secure his arrest.

During the trial Mr. J. D. Casswell, K.C., described Johnson as "the man with the marvellous memory."

As a result of the case he was promoted detective-sergeant, and assisted by Supt. Sadler he brought to book a few months ago the three men—one of them a Bath resident—concerned in an amazing "indecent photographs" case

LIEUTENANT IN COMMANDOS

FORMER CHIPPENHAM DETECTIVE

A former member of the Wiltshire Constabulary Detective-Sergt. Herbert Johnson, has gained his commission in the Commandos. He has seen Army service in many parts of the world before and during the present conflict.

He will be remembered as a very able police officer, especially for his investigation in the Wiltshire Directory fraud case, which gained nation-wide publicity. Lt. Johnson was recalled to the Army in 1942.



Det.-Sergt. H. Johnson

He was in the Mediterranean theatre of war just before the fall of Tunis and returned to England in April of this year.

When stationed in Chippenham, he resided at Plantation Road. His wife and baby daughter, Carol Ann, at present live in Salisbury. Besides his two other brothers, on active service, his father is a member of the Home Guard and Lt. Johnson's sister is in the A.T.S.

Lt. Johnson, when reaching Gibraltar in the early part of this year from N. Africa, called upon his younger brother, Norman, who is in the Royal Engineers. A party was arranged and imagine their surprise two days later when Leonard, the eldest brother, a Flight-Lt. in Coastal Command, paid them a "flying" visit.