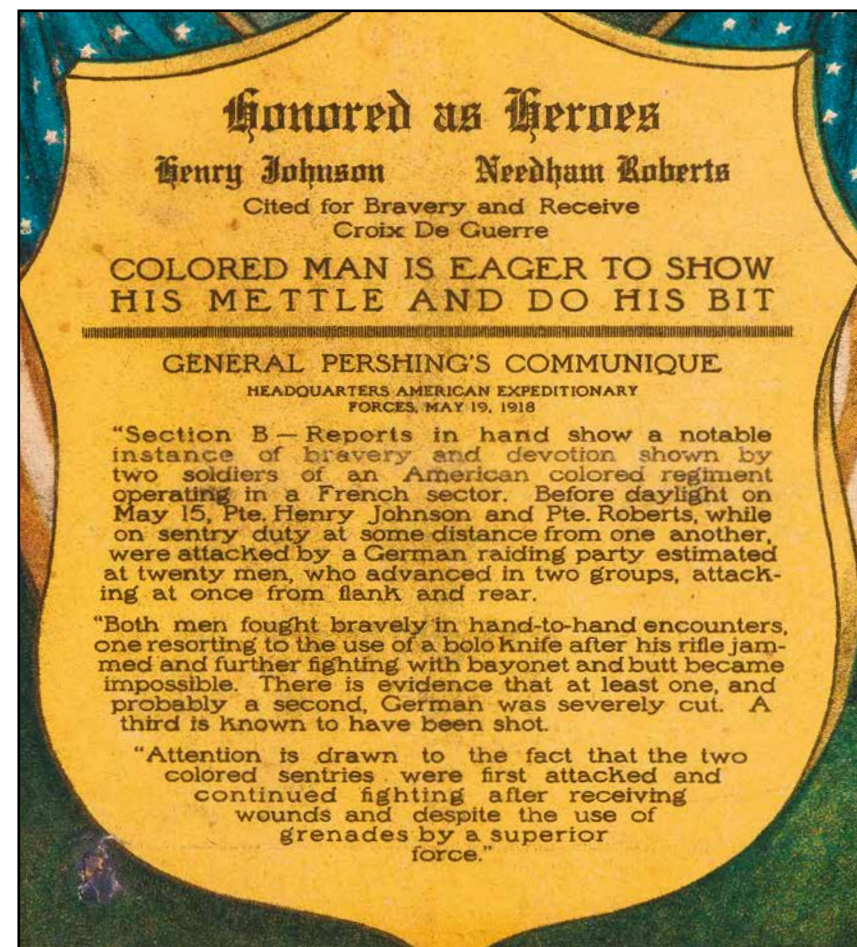


(Broadside): Our Colored Heroes. Honored as Heroes Henry Johnson - Needham Roberts. Cited for Bravery and Recieve Croix De Guerre...

Chicago: E.G. Rensch & Co. 1918

\$1200



15½" x 12" Chromolithograph on thick card. A few modest scuffs at the extremities, else near fine. This broadside commemorated the awarding of France's highest award for bravery - the Croix de Guerre avec Palme - to two black American soldiers to Henry Lincoln Johnson and Needham Roberts, the first Americans to receive that award. both were members of the all black 369th Infantry Regiment - formerly the 15th Regiment New York Guard - known as the Harlem Hellfighters. Because of segregationist policies in the U.S. Army, the 369th was seconded to the French army.

While on guard duty in the Ardennes in May, 1918, Johnson and Roberts singlehandedly repulsed a surprise attack by a 24-man German patrol and both were severely wounded. Despite the Croix de Guerre, American recognition was not forthcoming: Johnson died destitute in 1929 at age 36; Roberts in 1949. Not until 1996 did Johnson receive a posthumous Purple Heart, followed in 2002 by a Distinguished Service Cross, and finally a Congressional Medal of Honor award by President Obama in 2015. Rare. OCLC locates three copies (over two records). Detailed image on next page. [\[BTC#422694\]](#)



Honored as Heroes

Henry Johnson Needham Roberts
Cited for Bravery and Receipt
Croix De Guerre

**COLORED MAN IS EAGER TO SHOW
HIS METTLE AND DO HIS BIT**

GENERAL PERSHING'S COMMUNIQUE

HEADQUARTERS, AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY
FORCES, MAY 29, 1918

"Section B—Reports in hand show a notable instance of bravery and devotion shown by two soldiers of an American colored regiment operating in a French sector. Before daylight on May 16, Pte. Henry Johnson and Pte. Roberts, while on sentry duty at some distance from one another, were attacked by a German raiding party estimated at twenty men, who advanced in two groups, attacking at once from flank and rear.

"Both men fought bravely in hand-to-hand encounters, one resorting to the use of a bow-knife after his rifle jammed and further fighting with bayonet and butt became impossible. There is evidence that at least one, and probably a second, German was severely cut. A third is known to have been shot.

"Attention is drawn to the fact that the two colored soldiers were first attacked and continued fighting after receiving wounds and despite the use of grenades by a superior force.

OUR COLORED HEROES