

MEDAL OF HONOR

HENRY JOHNSON



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MEDAL OF HONOR

HENRY JOHNSON

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THE 369TH INFANTRY STARTED AS A NATIONAL GUARD UNIT MOSTLY MADE UP OF AFRICAN AMERICANS FROM NEW YORK STATE. THEY EARNED A REPUTATION AS THE HARLEM HELLFIGHTERS AND ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS OF THEM ALL WAS...



HENRY JOHNSON

BORN WILLIAM HENRY JOHNSON IN NORTH CAROLINA, HENRY MOVED TO NEW YORK WHERE HE WORKED LONG HOURS SHOVELING COAL.

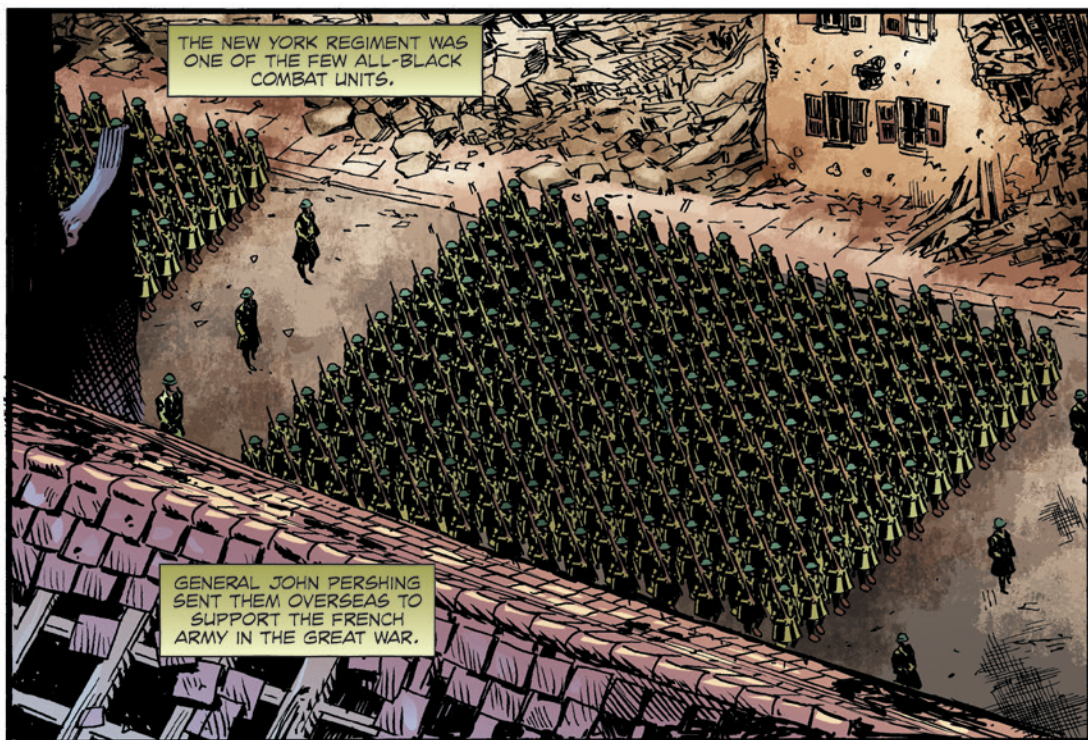


HE WOULD EVENTUALLY BECOME A REDCAP PORTER AT ALBANY'S UNION STATION.



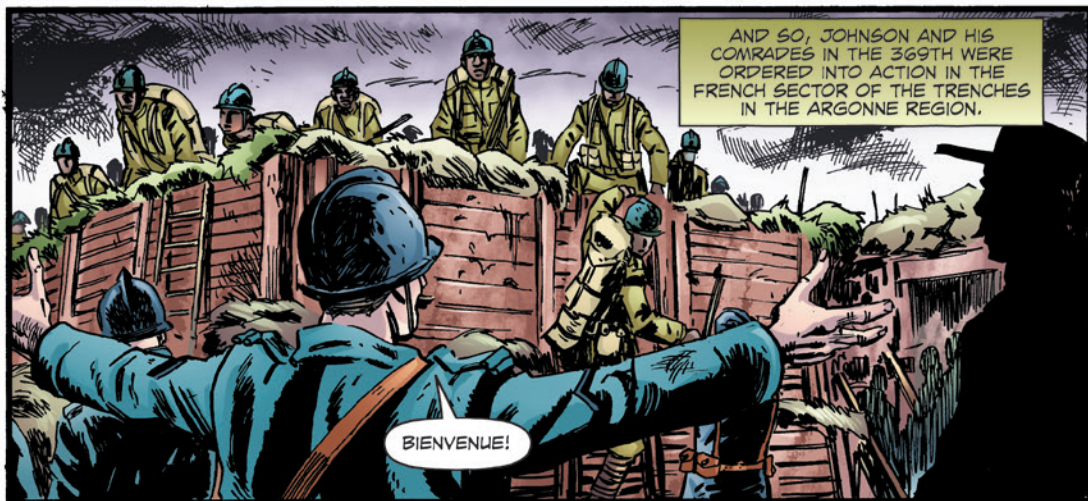
AND, IN THE SUMMER OF 1917, JOHNSON ENLISTED TO FIGHT FOR HIS COUNTRY AGAINST THE KAISER.





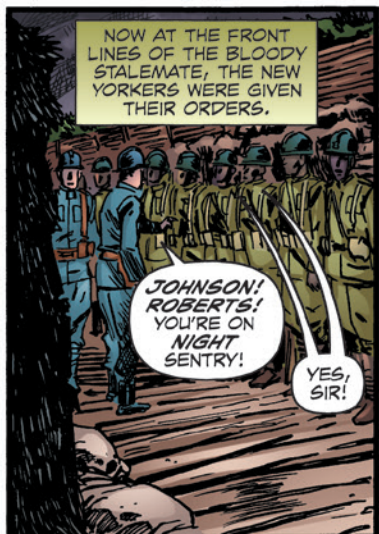
THE NEW YORK REGIMENT WAS ONE OF THE FEW ALL-BLACK COMBAT UNITS.

GENERAL JOHN PERSHING SENT THEM OVERSEAS TO SUPPORT THE FRENCH ARMY IN THE GREAT WAR.



AND SO, JOHNSON AND HIS COMRADES IN THE 369TH WERE ORDERED INTO ACTION IN THE FRENCH SECTOR OF THE TRENCHES IN THE ARGONNE REGION.

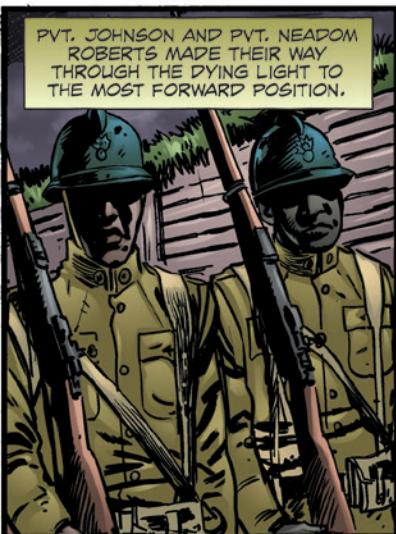
BIENVENUE!



NOW AT THE FRONT LINES OF THE BLOODY STALEMATE, THE NEW YORKERS WERE GIVEN THEIR ORDERS.

JOHNSON!
ROBERTS!
YOU'RE ON
NIGHT
SENTRY!

YES,
SIR!



PVT. JOHNSON AND PVT. NEADOM ROBERTS MADE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE DYING LIGHT TO THE MOST FORWARD POSITION.

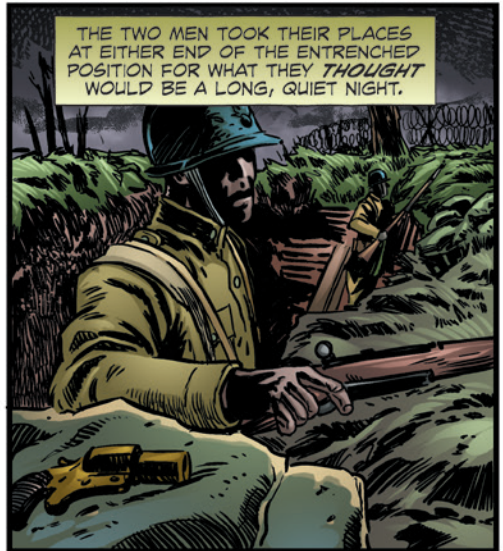


THEY REPORTED TO A FORWARD STRONG POINT WITH NOTHING BETWEEN THEM AND THE GERMAN ARMED FORCES BUT THE EMPTINESS OF NO MAN'S LAND.



ALL YOU DO IS *STAY AWAKE* AND *KEEP YOUR EYES AND EARS OPEN*.

NO ONE IS GONNA GET BY US.



THE TWO MEN TOOK THEIR PLACES AT EITHER END OF THE ENTRENCHED POSITION FOR WHAT THEY *THOUGHT* WOULD BE A LONG, QUIET NIGHT.



IT WAS TO BE *ANYTHING* BUT AS A SQUAD OF GERMAN TRENCH RAIDERS MADE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE WIRE--

--TOWARD WHAT THEY THOUGHT WOULD BE A *WEAK POINT* IN THE ALLIED LINE.



ROBERTS WAS THE FIRST TO HEAR WHAT HE THOUGHT SOUNDED LIKE WIRE BEING CUT.

SNIK



HE MOVED SWIFTLY TO ALERT HIS COMRADE.

HENRY! I HEAR SOMETHIN'!

I'LL USE THE FLARE GUN SO WE CAN *SEE!*

THE SUDDEN LIGHT REVEALED WHAT THEY MOST FEARED.



CORPORAL OF THE GUARD!



THE GERMANS, VETERANS OF FOUR YEARS OF WAR, ATTACKED WITH FURY.

FLYING SHRAPNEL THREW BOTH DOUGHBOYS TO THE GROUND WITH SERIOUS WOUNDS.



ROBERTS COULD NOT STAND BUT RETRIEVED A BAG OF HAND GRENADES.

JOHNSON PICKED UP HIS RIFLE.

THE GERMANS STORMED INTO THE DEFENSES INTENT ON KILLING OR CAPTURING AS MANY AMERICANS AS POSSIBLE.





JOHNSON STOOD HIS GROUND AND EMPTIED HIS RIFLE.



THE GERMANS PRESSED ON, CONFIDENT THAT THE AMERICANS WOULD FOLD OR DIE.

VORWÄRTS!



JOHNSON USED HIS RIFLE AS A CLUB.



HE BLUNTED THE ATTACK WITH SHEER BRUTE FORCE.



BUT TWO GERMANS ATTEMPTED TO TAKE NEADOM ROBERTS PRISONER.

NEADOM!



HOLD ON!
I'M COMIN!

ARMED ONLY WITH HIS BOLO KNIFE, HE PREVENTED THE CAPTURE OF HIS FRIEND.



ONE OF THE GERMANS HE STRUCK WAS ONLY STUNNED.

NEADOM? ARE YOU ALRIGHT?



SURPRISED BY THE ENEMY'S RISING, JOHNSON WAS SHOT AT CLOSE RANGE.



DESPITE HIS WOUNDS, JOHNSON LAUNCHED HIMSELF AT THE TRENCH RAIDER--



--AND DISPATCHED THE MAN WITH HIS KNIFE.



THE MOMENTUM OF THEIR ATTACK BROKEN AND YANKEE REINFORCEMENTS BEGINNING TO ARRIVE, THE GERMANS FLED.







THE END

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