



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

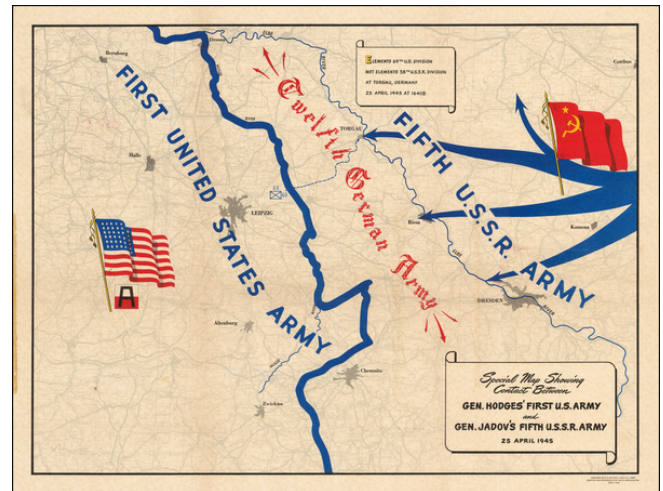
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(Second World War - Elbe Day) Special Map Showing Contact Between Gen. Hodges' First U.S. Army and Gen. Jadov's Fifth U.S.S.R. Army 25 April 1945

Stock#: 52194
Map Maker: U.S. Army
Date: 1945
Place: n.p.
Color: Color
Condition: VG+
Size: 27 x 20 inches
Price: \$ 1,500.00



Description:

A Map Celebrating Elbe Day -- World War II

Fine thematic map showing the progress of the American and Russian Forces against the last remnants of the German Army, published on Elbe Day.

The two forces are shown moving toward each other, superimposed over a map of Germany, on the occasion of the 2 armies meeting in Torgau, Germany.

The meeting of American and Soviet forces at the Elbe River was a major Allied accomplishment and helped set the stage for the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany and the end of World War II in Europe less than two weeks later.

Elbe Day

Elbe Day, April 25, 1945, is the day Soviet and American troops met at the Elbe River, near Torgau in Germany, marking an important step toward the end of World War II in Europe. This contact between the Soviets, advancing from the East, and the Americans, advancing from the West, meant that the two powers had effectively cut Germany in two.

The first contact between American and Soviet patrols occurred near Strehla, after First Lieutenant Albert Kotzebue, an American soldier, crossed the River Elbe in a boat with three men of an intelligence and reconnaissance platoon. On the east bank they met forward elements of a Soviet Guards rifle regiment of



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the First Ukrainian Front, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Gardiev. The same day, another patrol under Second Lieutenant William Robertson with Frank Huff, James McDonnell and Paul Staub met a Soviet patrol commanded by Lieutenant Alexander Silvashko on the destroyed Elbe bridge of Torgau.

On April 26, the commanders of the 69th Infantry Division of the First Army and the 58th Guards Rifle Division of the 5th Guards Army (Soviet Union) met at Torgau, southwest of Berlin. Arrangements were made for the formal "Handshake of Torgau" between Robertson and Silvashko in front of photographers the following day, April 27.

The Soviet, American, and British governments released simultaneous statements that evening in London, Moscow, and Washington, reaffirming the determination of the three Allied powers to complete the destruction of the Third Reich.

Elbe Day has never been an official holiday in any country, but in the years after 1945 the memory of this friendly encounter gained new significance in the context of the Cold War between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

Rarity

The map is apparently quite rare. We locate copies in the Library of Congress, Texas A&M and the University of Illinois Champaign Urbana. A note on the Library of Congress website suggests that it may have been part of a print run of about 300 copies.

Detailed Condition: