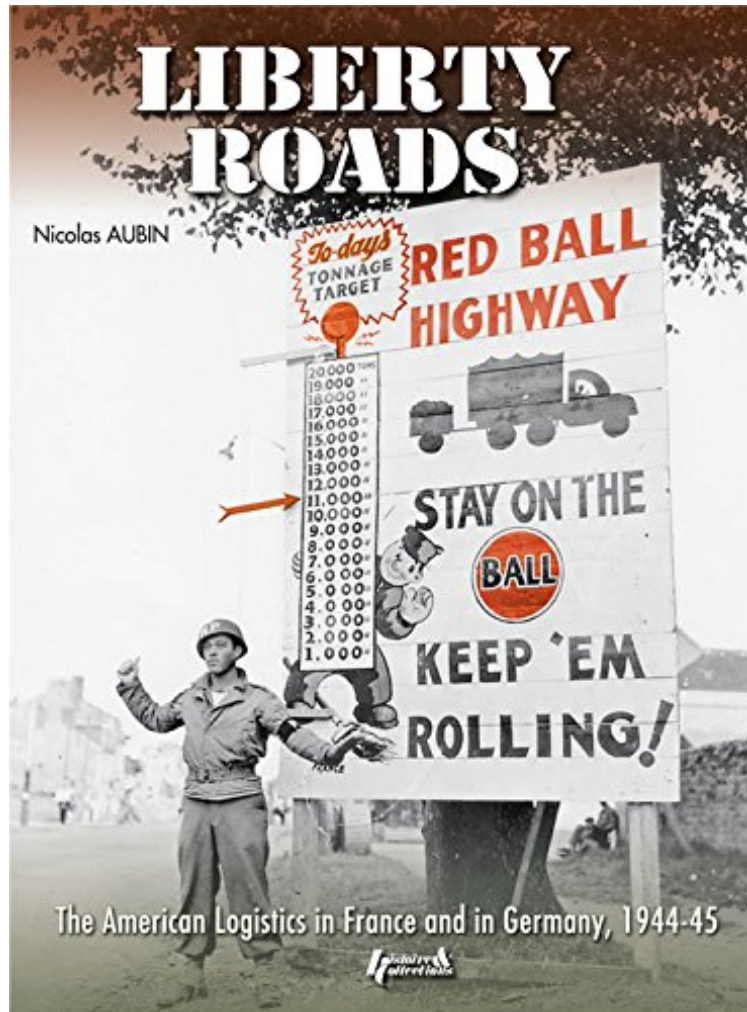


# Liberty Roads: The American Logistics in France and Germany, 1944-45

Nicolas Aubin

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**Nicolas Aubin : Liberty Roads: The American Logistics in France and Germany, 1944-45** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Liberty Roads: The American Logistics in France and Germany, 1944-45:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Important book for a narrowly focused subjectBy Edward BreslinThis review is difficult to accurately describe the book.. i really enjoy.. and fully recommend this book.. although it is very expensive.I suspect the cost is partly due to the extensive..say lavish!! illustrations; many,if not most ,will be new to american readers..( the book is french(with french photo credits ) and seem to be well coordinated with the text. The text is a translation from french.. and grammatical purists will be annoyed.. everyone else will read

over the slight grammatical oddities. The text is a series of chapters describing the logistics of supplying allied forces in Europe while planners had to supply other theatres at the same time. The author is a historian and the book is essentially a series of historical facts (some very surprising..Page 4: "artillery units were rationed...by October 80% of shells fired by XX corps were German shells". Who ever heard of this?? Is it true?? To conclude: I recommend this book to anyone interested in details concerning military logistics, planning etc or interested in details of military operational requirements..The book is solely concerned with supplies.. not battalion /regiment operations so be forewarned!! I really do recommend the book enthusiastically...the pics alone are worth the price.. but the prospective audience is somewhat limited...price and narrow focus will limit sales somewhat.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good book, poor editing.By Jack BrendleThis book provides additional information concerning the reasons for the implementation of the Red Ball Express. Although it is well written it suffers from poor editing. Some of the text is stopped mid-sentence to start a new paragraph. Other text is stopped in mid-sentence and lost. The text for this reader was too small (2x or 3X magnification recommended). The photos are interesting but the descriptions are not in the order in which the photos appear on the page. The photos could have been smaller to make room for larger text. The references in the book are in metric which may confuse some readers. The author assumes that the reader knows what the alpha-numeric designations for the US vehicles are since there is no explanation as to their meaning. Overall I would recommend this book to those who are interested in the organization and reason for the logistical effort known as the Red Ball Express.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Data Rich Superbly IllustratedBy ReasonableGuyThis is one of those rare gems that is comprehensive, detail oriented, data rich, AND wonderfully illustrated. It discusses everything from the evolution of US logistical doctrine and its organization, to the pros and cons of specific equipment. It discusses port capacity (including the Mulberries) and both the anticipated and actual dates of opening. It talks about rail capacity, storage capacity, fuel pipelines, virtually anything that you could think of, and backs it all up with extensive tables. It talks about the volume of supplies moved and how the effort evolved and improvised, and analyzes its successes and failures. There's even a section of the book devoted to a comparative study of the logistical systems of the other major combatants and how their systems effected their campaigns. Logistics may not be of interest to the casual reader of military history, but if you do want to up your game and get down to the nuts and bolts of how the campaign in the West was made possible, this book will not disappoint.

The Red Ball Express Highway is the nickname given to the supply route opened in August 1944 which stretched from the landing beaches to the American armies launched in an incredible pursuit throughout France. For three months, up to 6,000 trucks drove along this route. However, the generals complain in their memoirs about the lack of gasoline, ammunition and even warm clothing and cigarettes. It is this paradox which led to the writing of this book.This investigation is the first publication to cover in depth the American Logistical effort during the Second World War in Europe: operational doctrines, tactics, techniques, equipment .... It takes us from the hushed offices of Washington to the decks of the Liberty Ships, the tops of the overhead cranes at Cherbourg, the steering wheels of the GMC trucks and the drivers' compartments of the Broadway Limited Locomotives, in search of a Logistical revolution. It reveals that the final stage of the supply chain, that of the Normandy beaches to the fighting men, had not been properly thought out. We discover that, far from what is commonly believed, the US Army was rationed from the outset on D-Day and that its logistical chain was dislocated from August to November 1944 due to an ill-suited doctrine and administrative quarrelling. Finally, it was at the cost of formidable expedient means and remarkable innovations in the field that the US Army had become, in the spring of 1945, the only war machine capable of supplying Long-term millions of soldiers and thousands of tanks deep within the enemy system.

JEAN LOPEZ, author of "Zhukov, the man who defeated Hitler", "Kursk", "Stalingrad", "Bagration" and "Berlin": "RELEVANT QUESTIONS, SOURCES OF CHOICE, WRITING CLEAR AND TREATMENT DEEP. WORK OF HIGH VOL, DENSE AND MASSIVELY ILLUSTRATED. A MUST READ ! "CEDRIC MAS, author of "Rommel" and "Montgomery" : "THIS BOOK IS THE RESULT OF A HUGE WORK THAT SHOULD APPEAR IN ALL GOOD LIBRARY OF MILITARY HISTORY. THIS BOOK DETHRONED THE OLD BOOK OF MARTIN VAN CREVELD (SUPPLYING WAR). Quoted in "essential" books to understand the D-Day by the french magazine's website "Guerres Histoire".About the AuthorNicolas Aubin is a history teacher in Normandy (France), graduate of the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and Sciences Po Paris. After specializing in the history of the "Parti Communiste Français" is his passion - that goes back to childhood - of military history who for nearly fifteen years led him to work with various french magazines. Nicolas Aubin is firmly in the course of the "new military history " that combines academic knowledge, epistemological renewal and passion preserved.