



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

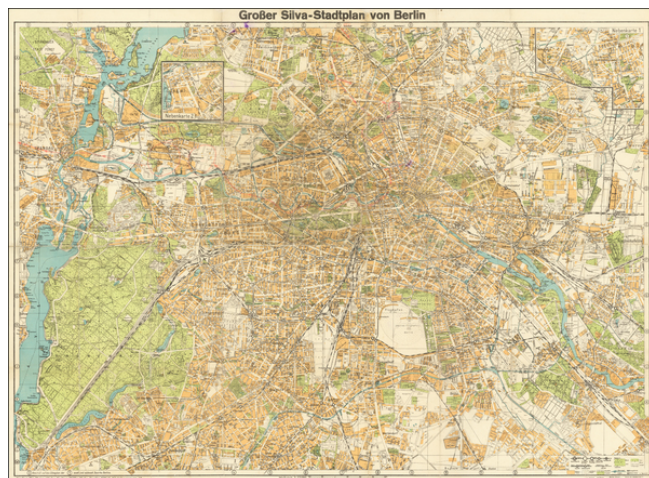
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[Second World War - Battle of Berlin] Großer Silva-Stadtplan von Berlin

Stock#: 63107
Map Maker: Verlag für heimatliche Kultur
Willy Holz
Date: 1938 (manuscript additions in
April-May 1945)
Place: Berlin
Color: (See Description)
Condition: Good
Size: 41 x 31 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Hand-Annotated Map of the Battle of Berlin, Showing the Progress of the 89th Armenian Rifles through the City, to the Reichstag. From the Personal Papers of the Major General Who Led the 89th Rifles' Assault on Berlin.

An excellent Battle of Berlin map, consisting of a contemporary manuscript record of the progress across Berlin of elements of the Soviet 3rd Shock Army, namely the 89th Armenian Rifles (89-я стрелковая дивизия), drawn onto a captured contemporary German map of Berlin: *Grosser Silva-Stadtplan von Berlin* (Berlin: Willy Holz, ca. 1939).

The hand-written notes show the 89th Infantry Rifle Division (the Tamanyan Division) entering Berlin from the northern suburbs and proceeding to the Reichstag, where they famously danced the kochari (Armenian national folk dance) on what remained of the walls of the building that was seen by the Soviets to be the heart of Nazi Germany.

Battle of Berlin

By early 1945, the Germans had all but lost the war on Eastern Front. The Red Army proved an unstoppable tidal wave, destroying the Wehrmacht division by division. Evacuation measures for Berlin had been prepared for the Reich government, ministries, and security apparatus starting in February of 1945. However, their implementation was delayed so that the commanders would not be seen to be admitting defeat. With two million Soviet soldiers quickly surrounding Berlin, Adolf Hitler finally gave the order to execute the defensive plan for the city on April 20th, 1945, his 56th birthday.



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With a balance of power of some two million Soviet troops to forty-thousand German defenders, Berlin's defenses proved completely inadequate in the face of the Red Army, and by May 2nd the Battle of Berlin had come to an end with a complete Soviet victory, and shortly thereafter a conclusion to the Second World War in Europe.

The hand-drawn notes on the map show the Tamanyan Division entering the city from the north through Reinickendorf-Ost, proceeding to capture the Schäfersee Lake, Bornholmer Strasse rail station, Humboldthain Park (with its massive concrete Flak Tower), Rosenthaler Platz (where several small fronts are shown), crossing the Spree River just to the east of Friedrichstraße, continuing to the Reichstag, and Königsplatz. To the west, the manuscript notes show deployments of the 390th, 400th, and 526th Regiments of the 3rd Shock Army in Charlottenberg.

The 89th Armenian Rifles arrived at the Reichstag just after its capture by other elements of the 3rd Shock Army.

Detailed Condition:

Contemporary hand-drawn notes. Some old separation expertly stabilized on verso. Flattened.