



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

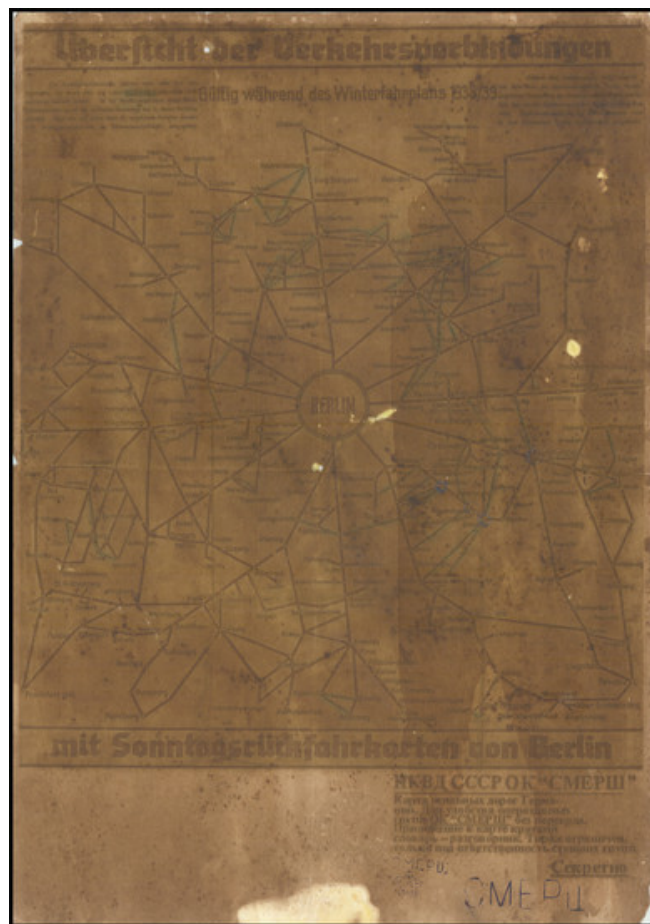
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(Second World War - NVKD SMERSH) Übersicht der Verkehrsverbindungen mit Sonntagsrückfahrkarte von Berlin. Gültig während des Winterfahrplans 1938/39 [Overview of the Transport Links with Sunday return ticket from Berlin. Valid During the Winter Timetable 1938/39]

Stock#: 69563
Map Maker: SMERSH
Date: 1945 circa
Place: n.p. (Eastern Front)
Color: Uncolored
Condition: Fair
Size: 8 x 11.5 inches
Price: \$ 1,200.00



Description:

A fascinating relic of mapmaking on the Eastern Front of World War II, being a field-printed map of Berlin and the surrounding area produced for one of the most infamous groups involved in the Second World War, the *Отдел Контрразведки СМЕРШ*, or Counterintelligence Division of SMERSH, the Red Army secret police.

Joseph Stalin coined the name *СМЕРШ* ('SMERSH') as a portmanteau of the Russian-language phrase *Смерть шпионам* (SMERt' SHpionam, "Death to Spies"). Originally focused on combating German spies



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**(Second World War - NKVD SMERSH) Übersicht der Verkehrsverbindungen mit
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infiltrating the Russian military, the organization quickly expanded its mandate: to find and eliminate any subversive elements—hence Stalin's inclusive name for it.

The Russian-language note on the map suggests that it was printed on short notice and in very small numbers for use by only the most senior SMERSH units as the Red Army closed in on Berlin.

The note in Russian in the lower-right corner reads as follows:

НКВД СССР ОК "СМЕРШ"

Карта основных дорог Германии. Для удобства оперативных групп ОК "СМЕРШ" без перевода. Приложение к карте краткий словарь - разговорник. Тираж ограничен, только под ответственность старших групп.

Секретно

[Translated:]

NKVD USSR OK "SMERSH"

Map of major roads in Germany. For the convenience of operational groups OK "SMERSH" without translation. Appendix to the map a short dictionary - a phrasebook. The circulation is limited, only under the responsibility of the senior groups.

Secret

Detailed Condition:

Darkened and stained. Contact-print-type printing method. Ink stamps of SMERSH ("СМЕРШ" and "СМЕРШ" with a star below), and blind stamp of Military Unit 01768 21 (?) ("Войсковая Часть 01768 / 21"). Some manuscript notes around various lines and cities.