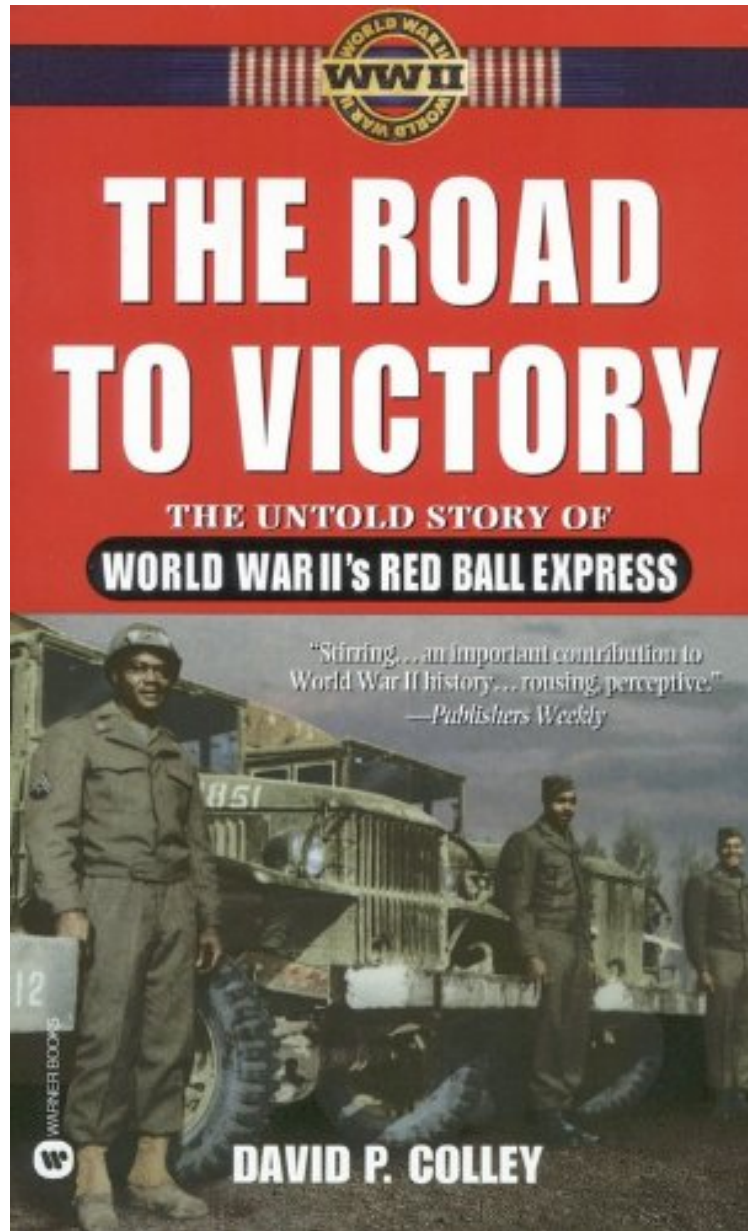


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The Road to Victory: The Untold Story of World War II's Red Ball Express

David P. Colley

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#2513826 in Books 2001-08-01 Ingredients: Example Ingredients Original language: English PDF # 1 6.75 x 1.00 x 4.251, Binding: Mass Market Paperback 336 pages | File size: 43.Mb

David P. Colley : The Road to Victory: The Untold Story of World War II's Red Ball Express before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Road to Victory: The Untold Story of World War II's Red Ball Express:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A very good book on an heroic effort – one that was ...By GerryA very good book on an heroic effort – one that was largely completed by African American Soldiers in the ETO during the Second World War. Early in the book we find the “official” existence of the “Red Ball Express” was 25 August – 16 November, 1944. The interesting thing I find about the start date of the “Red Ball” is that it coordinates with the official Liberation of Paris; the concluding “official” date is the first day of the Rhineland Offensive coordinated by American Forces in retaliation for the German Forces that rapidly had moved into the Northeast Aachen Forest. What I enjoyed about this book were the specific comparisons of tonnage provided to the forward moving front line troops. General Patton for example had pushed this supply route along by mere action of his aggressive attacks against the German Forces. In some ways this book dovetails the Carlo D’Este book on Patton or at least that section that relates to the battle fields of France following the Normandy Invasion of 6 June 1944. Within the index of the book the author ensured pictured visuals of all the different types of trucks he had referenced that were weaved with personal accounts of the stories of GI Soldiers who had to do this sort of work. I would recommend this book for persons interested in additional details to the battle fronts of the American attack as they approached the Rhineland. This book in my view dovetails with the biography of General George C. Patton by Carlos D’Este. The many African American Soldiers did a marvelous job and they receive seemingly little credit for their efforts. Gen. Patton acknowledged their efforts to keep him supplied – it was this supply that kept his well-oiled efforts moving. An important book for students of Military History and continuous education. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Justin Malaponte Great book. Good reading Would have been a little better if there were more photos. But still great book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer Outstanding reading

The true story of a bunch of tough-as-nails drivers who, during three pivotal months of World War II, operated the "Red Ball Express", is told through firsthand accounts. Almost all African Americans, these truckers rushed fuel and supplies to the rapidly advancing American armies desperately needed after D-Day to crush the German Panzers.

From Publishers Weekly After the Normandy invasion, the Red Ball Express--a U.S. Army trucking operation that lasted 81 days--transported critical ammunition, rations, gasoline and other supplies to American troops as they pushed on toward Germany. Three-fourths of the Red Ball drivers were African-Americans who faced continual prejudice and hostility from white soldiers. In this stirring chronicle--an important contribution to WWII history--former Baltimore Evening Sun reporter Colley tells the full story of the Red Ball Express for the first time. Drawing from interviews, army documents and oral histories, Colley leaves no doubt that the heroic efforts of the Red Ball drivers, who braved strafing by Luftwaffe planes, German artillery and friendly fire, contributed significantly to the defeat of the Nazis in France--and he shatters the myth that the Germans were the masters of mechanized warfare. (While the German Army was supplied by horse and wagon, the American army's secret weapon in the ground war-- simple, rugged trucks nicknamed "Jimmies"--made it the world's most flexible and mechanized force.) Colley transforms what might have been a dry tale of military logistics into a rousing, perceptive reappraisal of the Allied invasion of northern Europe. Although the Red Ball's exploits--the subject of a 1952 movie starring Sidney Poitier--are legendary, former Platoon Sergeant John Houston (father of singer/actress Whitney Houston) sums it up: "We never got enough credit for what we did.... The Army would never have won without us." Photos, maps. (Mar.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. "The old adage says that amateurs talk tactics while professionals talk logistics. Yet there is a sad dearth of books that examine World War II logistical operations in any detail. Colley's well-researched, well-written book helps fill that void and sets a standard for measuring the impact of supply considerations on combat operations. I was particularly impressed by the discussion of racism and its impact not only on the Red Ball but on the conduct of the war . . . In this sense, Colley's book . . . contribute(s) to the growing collection of works . . . on racism in American society and the armed forces in World War II." -- Jay Karamales, co-author of *Against the Panzer: United States Infantry versus German Tanks, 1944-1945* A classic American tale of perseverance, aptitude, and adaptation. -- Bloomsbury , May/June, 2000 Colley ... transforms a routine trucking operation into something that has drama and an important life of its own. -- Indianapolis Star, April 22, 2000 About the Author Journalist David P. Colley is an award-winning writer, formerly with the Baltimore Evening Sun. The many publications to which he has contributed include the New York Times, Army, Popular Mechanics, Sport, VFW Magazine, and World War II.