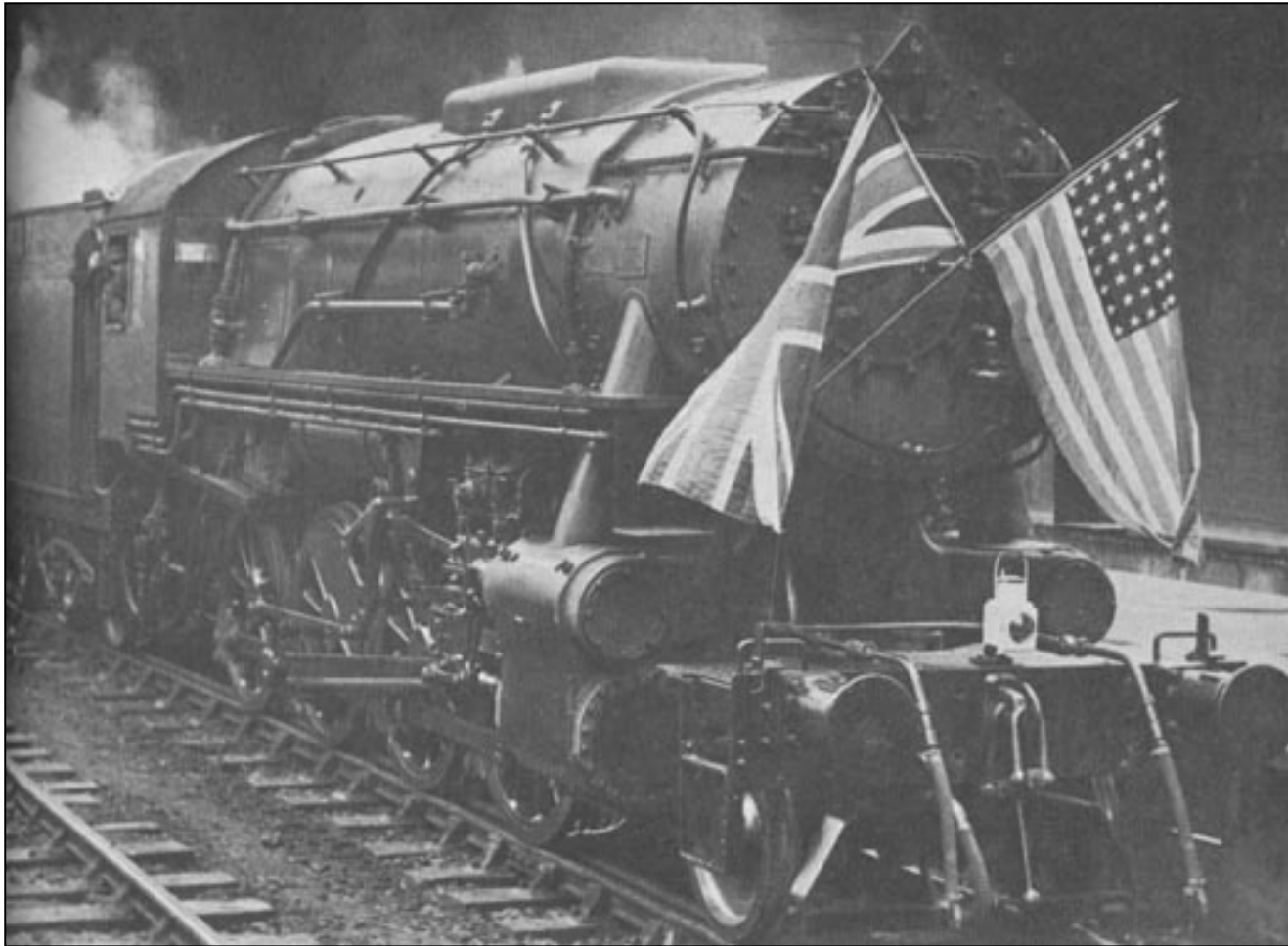
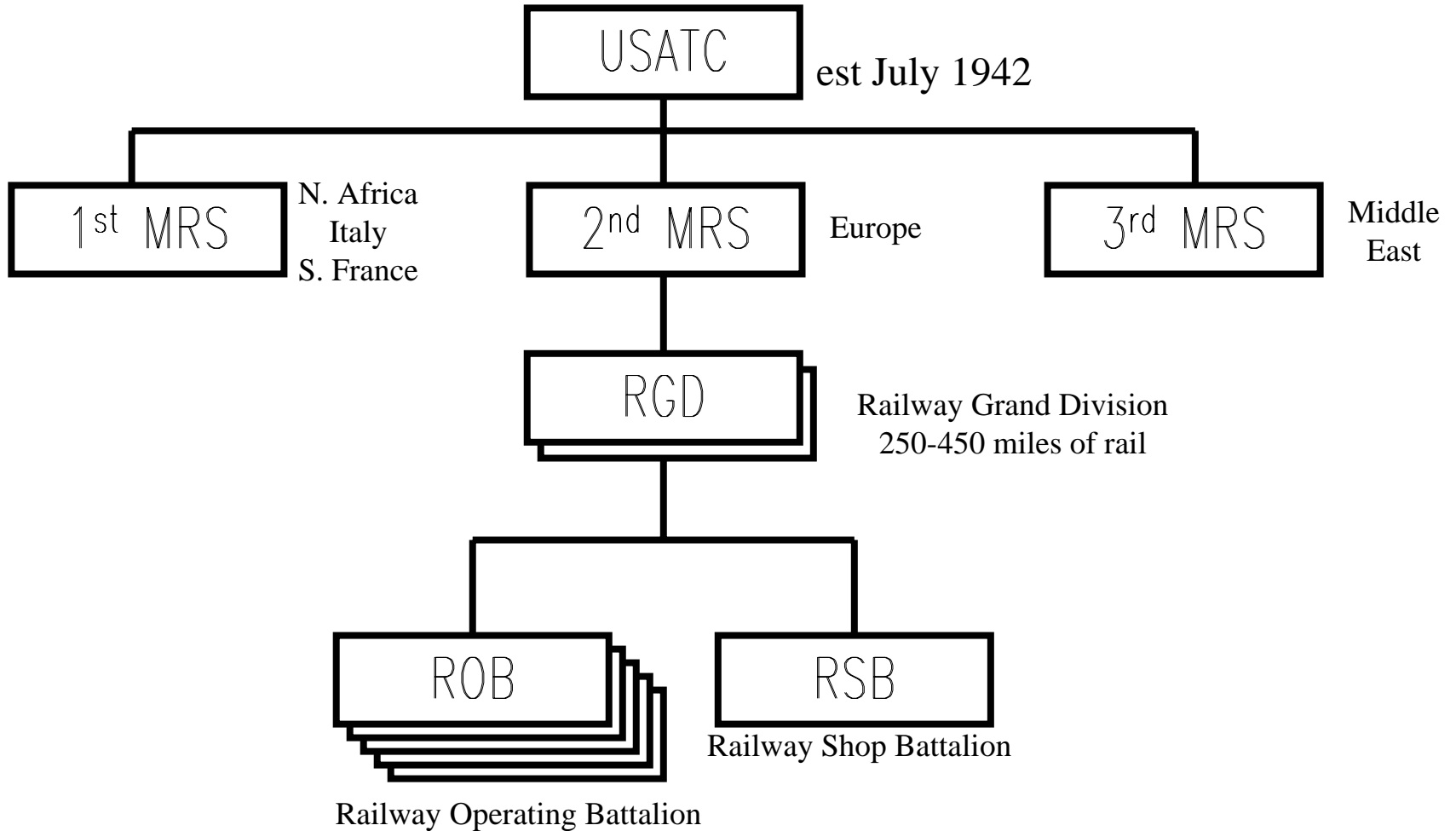


American Railway Operation Battalions in ETO During World War II



The USATC in WW II

Organization



Recruiting for the USATC in WW II



The need for the MRS

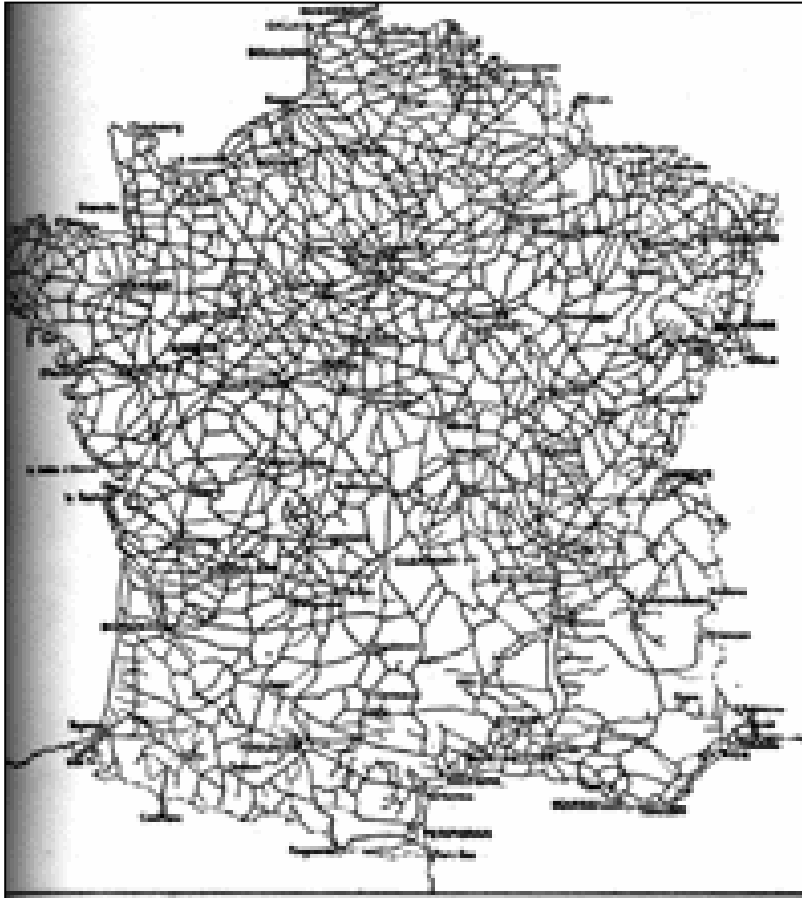
Supply Problems

- Patton's Third Army
 - required an average of 350,000 gal/day
- The Red Ball Express
 - consumed 300,000 gal/day itself
- 28 Aug – Patton's fuel allocation falls 100,000 gal short
- 31 Aug – No fuel arrives, Patton grinds to a halt
- Increased use of larger caliber artillery adds to supply problems



The need for the MRS

Railway Infrastructure Destroyed



The Railways of France before World War Two – 1936

Map from *Railways in Wartime*, by E. F. Carter, Fred. Muller, Ltd.

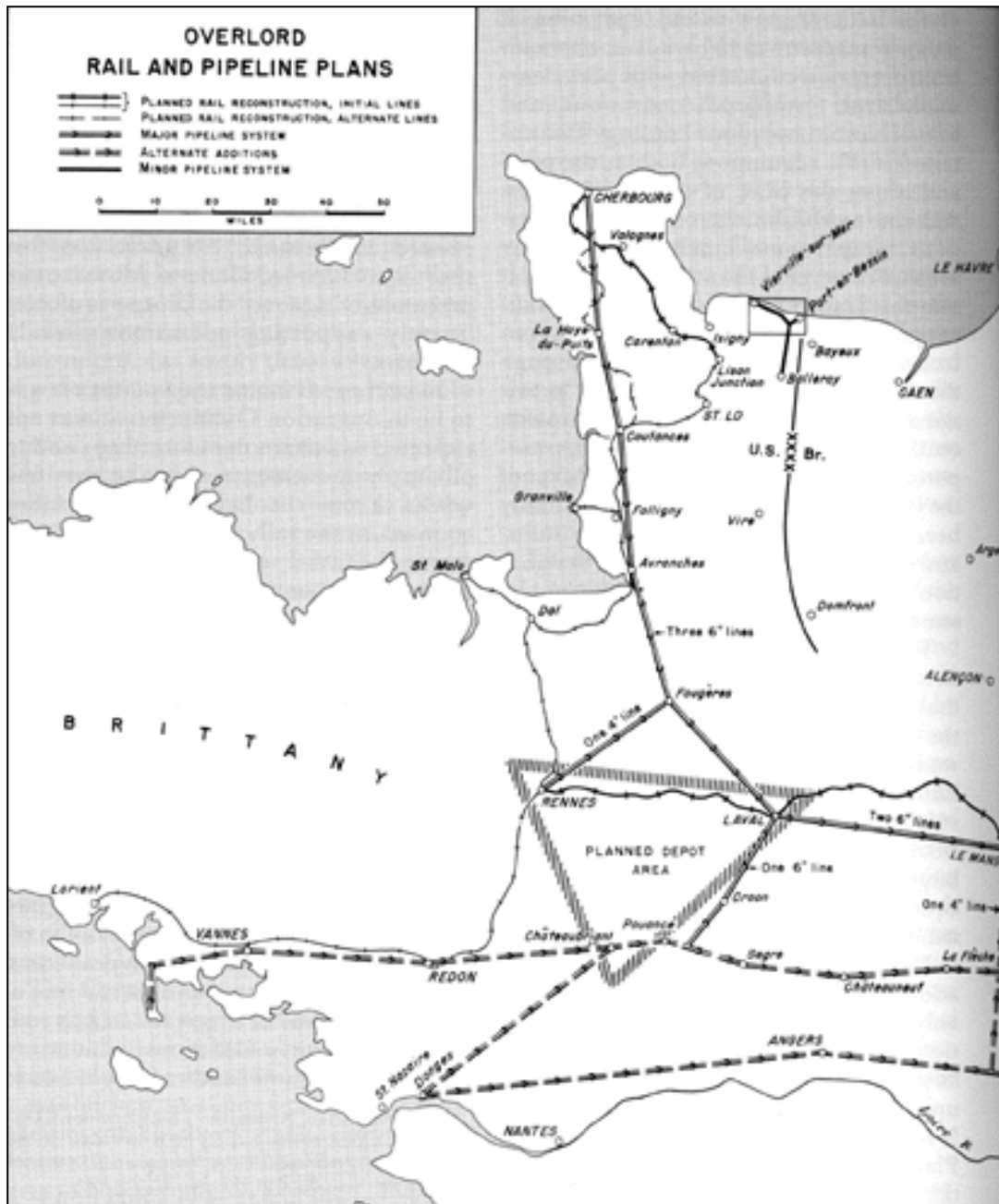


The Railways of France at the time of Liberation, 1944

Two photos, *Railroad Magazine*

Railway Infrastructure Destroyed





Operation Overlord was sustained by rail and pipelines constructed by Allied Engineers, extending inland from the Normandy beachhead, the French Port of Cherbourg, and Vannes and St. Nazarre on the south shore of Brittany



U.S.-BUILT WORLD WAR I LOCOMOTIVES
at the roundhouse in Cherbourg.





**American flat cars
being unloaded
from an LST onto a
specially
constructed rail
pier head**



American LST lower bow ramp equipped with rails for unloading railroad rolling stock



Positioning LST on temporary quay for unloading rail cars

21

TRANSPORTATION
CORPS
U.S. ARMY
U.S.A.
1917-1922

USA
12323

TRANSPORTATION
CORPS
U.S. ARMY

6
5

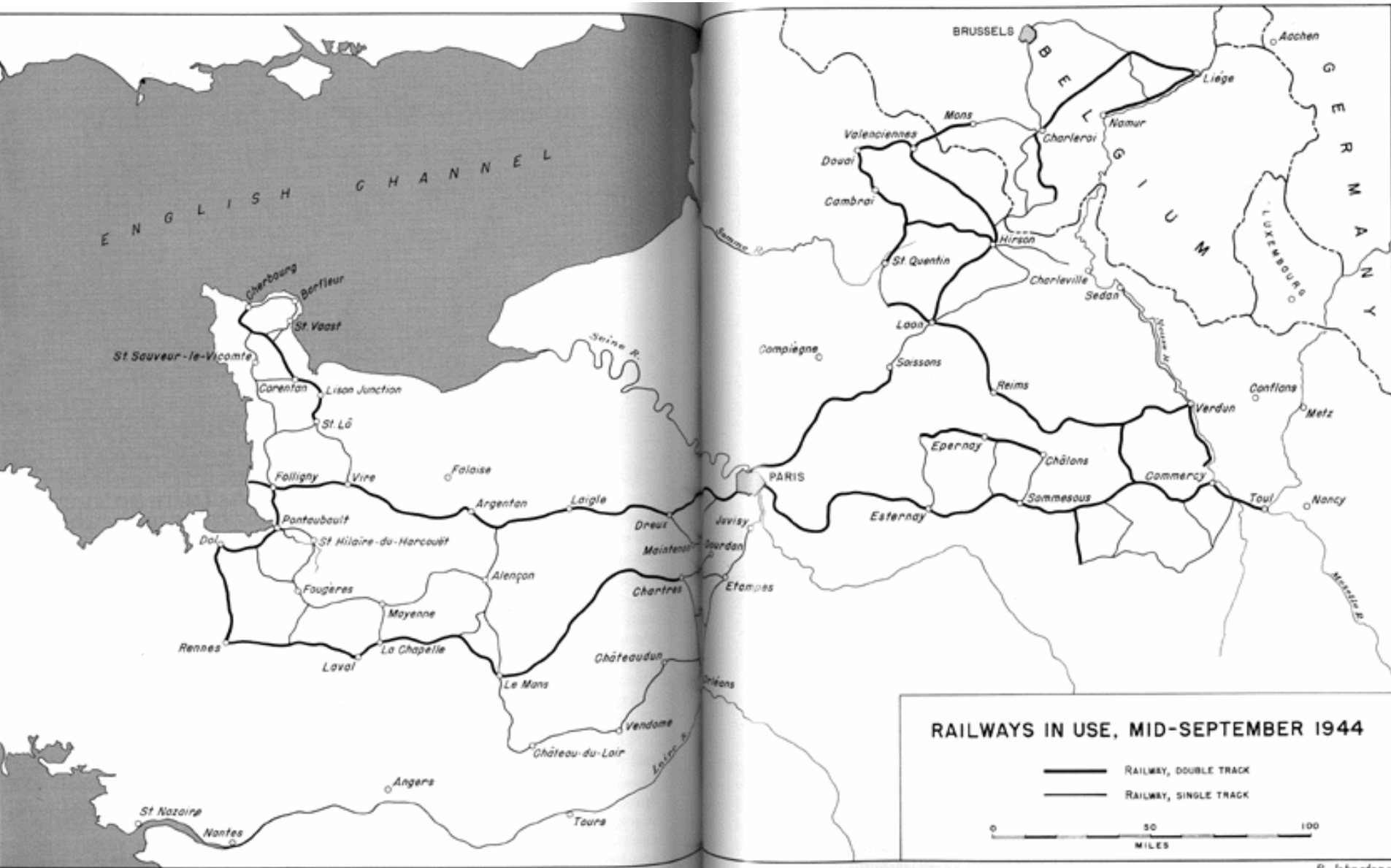




Flat cars rolled onto panel track; note bumpers of English design



Transition ramp for taking rail cars from LST hold onto sections of panel track



R. Johnston

Allied rail support system extended all the way across northern France by Mid-September 1944, just three months after D Day.



By VE Day in May 1945 the Allied rail system extended in Germany, mostly on restored right-of-ways.

The solid lines indicate rail lines restored prior to mid February 1945 while the dashed lines indicate those restored between mid February and May 1, 1945

References

<http://home.att.net/~rwy720th/>

http://homepages.tesco.net/~martyn.witt/milrly/mil_rly_hist_e_0.htm#top_of_page

<http://www2pb.ip-soft.net/railinfo/car-floats/dday-landings.html>