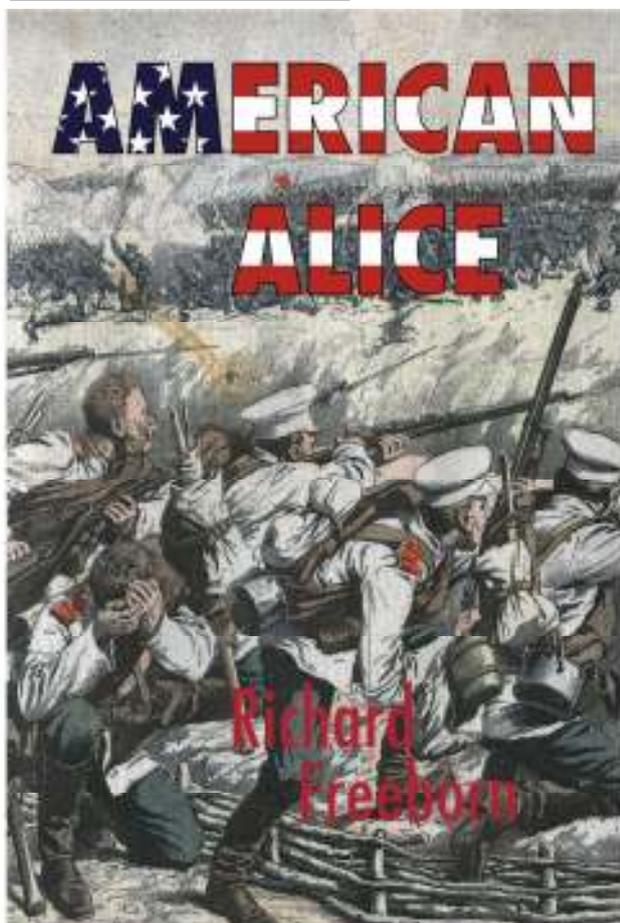




AMERICAN ALICE

Richard Freeborn



A work of fiction based on extensive historical research by the distinguished author and academic Richard Freeborn, this is the story of the passionate and unlikely love affair between the American Alice May and a Russian doctor who fall in love amidst the chaos of the bloody Russian defeat by the Japanese in war torn Manchuria.

The war itself clarifies the characters' feelings. It simultaneously increases a reader's involvement in their love, their hopes and their heroism, by demonstrating how military expediency can be overturned in an instant through the heroine's determination to save as many lives as possible.

Alice, suspected of spying even as she nurses the Russian wounded in the American Mission in Mukden, is outraged by the injustice and inhumanity of the Russian commanders and defies all the perils of their defeat to rescue 'her' wounded. Such boldness earns the respect of everyone round her. When the last train from Mukden evacuates the Russian soldiers she is justly acclaimed by everyone as truly an American Alice who has worked wonders to exemplify true heroic endeavour, not grandiose, but essentially life giving.

Richard Freeborn was Chair of Russian literature at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES). His published translations include Dostoevsky and the major literary works of Ivan Turgenev. He has written many studies devoted to modern Russian history, the rise of the Russian novel and the Russian revolutionary novel. He oversaw the translation of the screenplay of Dr Zhivago for MGM, and Helen Mirren and John Hurt wrote of their success in his translation of A Month in the Country that it was much 'to do with his wonderful translation' as they had 'lived with his words with such pleasure and fun.'

From this conflict the international prestige of the United States as peacemaker emerged - the Treaty of Portsmouth was signed between the warring parties under President Roosevelt's auspices in September 1905. The dominance of the United States in world affairs can be said to date from that moment.

Written succinctly, clearly, with stylistic care and in a manner designed to emphasize the setting, the perilous circumstances and complexities of the characters' lives, it is their emotional response to the overarching fact of a war not of their making and indifferent to their fates.

Previous novels by Richard Freeborn are Two Ways of Life (Hodder, London, 1962), The Emigration of Sergey Ivanovich (Hodder, London, 1963; Morrow, NY, 1965), Russian Roulette (Cassell, London, 1979), and The Russian Crucifix (Macmillan, London, 1987; St Martin's, NY, 1987).

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