

# BIGOT

COSSAC (4A) 10

11th January, 1944

Copy No. **77**

SUPREME ALLIED HEADQUARTERS

SUBJECT: Operation 'OVERLORD'



TO : Commanding General, First Army Group

GENERAL

1. The object of Operation 'OVERLORD' is to secure a lodgment area on the Continent from which further offensive operations can be developed. The lodgment area must contain sufficient port facilities to maintain a force of some twenty-six to thirty divisions, and enable that force to be augmented by follow-up shipments from the UNITED STATES and elsewhere of additional divisions and supporting units at the rate of three to five divisions per month.

2. The operation will be carried out in two phases:-

Phase I - The effecting of an assault landing on the NORMANDY beaches between the limits of QUINEVILLE in the WEST and CABOURG-JEZ-BAINS in the EAST, to be followed by the early capture and development of airfield sites and the capture of the port of CHERBOURG.

Phase II - The enlargement of the area captured in Phase I so as to secure the whole of the CHERBOURG, LOIRE and BRITANY group of ports.

TARGET DATE

3. The Commanders mentioned in paragraph 5 are jointly to report, after examination, the earliest possible date after the 1st May, 1944, on which, in their opinion, the operation can be successfully undertaken.

COMMAND AND CONTROL

4. The Supreme Allied Commander is to co-ordinate and control the planning and execution of the operation as a whole.

5. The Allied Naval Commander, XP, the Commander-in-Chief, 21 Army Group and the Air Commander-in-Chief, ARAF, are to be jointly responsible to the Supreme Allied Commander for the planning of the operation and for its execution when so advised.

6. The Commander-in-Chief, 21 Army Group, is to command all land forces engaged in the operation until such time as the Supreme Allied Commander allocates an area of responsibility to the Commanding General, First Army Group.

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Authority J.C.S. MEMO  
Date 7/5/72  
By DJH, NARS Date 11/16/73

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7. The allocation of an area of responsibility to the First Army Group is to be effected by the designation of an appropriate boundary line, the general principle being adopted that UNITED STATES forces will be on the right and BRITISH/CANADIAN forces on the left of the line throughout the operation. The effective date for the allocation of an area of responsibility to First Army Group will be when, in the opinion of the Supreme Allied Commander, the number of UNITED STATES troops landed on the Continent warrants their control being exercised by the First Army Group Commander.

8. Except in emergency, and then only for the shortest possible time, a BRITISH or UNITED STATES formation lower than a corps is not to be placed under command of another nationality.

#### ALLOTMENT OF FORCES

##### Naval forces

9. An estimate of the landing ships and craft likely to be available for the operation is shown at Appendix 'A'.

10. Other naval forces which will be available will be designated later.

11. An estimate of merchant shipping likely to be available is shown at Appendix 'B'.

##### Land forces

12. An estimate of the UNITED STATES and BRITISH/CANADIAN land forces which will be available in the UNITED KINGDOM for the operation on 1st May, 1944, is attached at Appendix 'C'.

13. The following UNITED STATES forces are to be placed under the command of the Commander-in-Chief, 21 Army Group, until such time as the Supreme Allied Commander allots you a sphere of responsibility:-

First Army reinforced by:-

a. Such UNITED STATES airborne troops as are required for the operation consistent with the lift available.

b. Such ranger battalions as the Commander-in-Chief, 21 Army Group, may require for the operation.

c. Such First Army Group troops as the Commander-in-Chief, 21 Army Group, may require for the support and maintenance of UNITED STATES forces.

d. An attached supply and maintenance organisation to support the UNITED STATES forces to consist of a base section headquarters and such SOG troops and personnel as are necessary. These troops will pass to your control when your headquarters is set up on the Continent.

##### Air forces

14. An estimate of the air forces likely to be available on 1st May, 1944, is shown at Appendix 'D'.

15. An estimate of the air lift likely to be available on 1st May, 1944, for the operation is shown at Appendix 'E'. It is being assumed for planning purposes that sufficient transport aircraft and crews will be provided to assure the lift of one airborne division on D day followed by a second within approximately twenty-four hours.

TASKS

16. You will work in close co-operation with the Commander-in-Chief, 21 Army Group, with whom direct communication is authorized, during the planning, preparation and mounting of the operation.

17. You will arrange for the troops mentioned in paragraph 15 to be placed under the command of Commander-in-Chief, 21 Army Group, at a time to be mutually agreed upon.

18. You will attach to Headquarters, 21 Army Group, a suitable staff and signals increment from First Army Group, at a time to be mutually arranged. This increment will rejoin Headquarters, First Army Group, when the latter is established on the Continent.

19. You will keep the Commander-in-Chief, 21 Army Group, informed in regard to the status of UNITED STATES forces mentioned in paragraph 15 and of any major deficiencies in the requirement of men and material which cannot be met through normal channels.

20. You will be prepared to set up your Headquarters on the Continent when, in the opinion of the Supreme Allied Commander, the number of UNITED STATES troops landed on the Continent warrants it. You will from that time be responsible for operations on the Continent within a sphere allotted to you by the Supreme Allied Commander.

21. You will prepare plans, in close collaboration with the Commander-in-Chief, 21 Army Group, and Ninth Air Force, for the assumption of command as indicated in paragraph 20 and for the deployment of UNITED STATES Army forces not already committed.

LATER INSTRUCTIONS

22. Additional instructions regarding the cover plan, administration, training, signal communications and civil affairs will be issued later.

SUBMISSION OF PLAN

23. You will keep the Supreme Allied Commander informed of the progress of your planning.

CANCELLATION OF PREVIOUS DIRECTIVE

24. The previous directive issued to the Commanding General, First Army Group (COSSAC (43) 75) is hereby cancelled.



*F. B. Morgan*  
 F. B. MORGAN,  
 Lieutenant-General,  
 Chief of Staff to the  
 Supreme Commander (Designate)

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to COSSAC (44) 10

TABLE "A"

ESTIMATE OF LANDING SHIPS AND CRAFT AVAILABLE  
FOR THE ASSULT IN A CROSS-CHANNEL OPERATION

Item No.	Type	1st MAY		1st JUNE plus half 'NVIL' allocation		Remarks
		Gross	Nett.	Gross	Nett.	
		(a)	(c)	(d)	(e)	
1.	LSH	4	4	5	5	
2.	AKA	6	6	6	6	
3.	APA & XAP	7	7	10	10	
4.	LSI(L)	14	14	17	17	
5.	LSI(H)	3	3	4	4	
6.	LSI(S)	6	6	6	6	
7.	LSI(H)	21	21	21	21	
8.	LCA	343 <sup>δ</sup>	343	387 <sup>δ</sup>	387	δ columns (b) and (d) spare craft are in operational pooled reserve.
9.	LCA(HR)	72	72	72	72	
10.	LCS(H)	70	70	70	70	
11.	LCS(S)	8	8	8	8	
12.	LCVP	302	242	362	290	
13.	LCH	9	8	9	8	
14.	LCI(L)	133	113	188	160	
15.	LCI(S)	38	32	38	32	
16.	LST	192	173	227	204	
17.	LCT(3)	5 flot	5 flot*	11 flot	11 flot*	
18.	LCT(4)	29 1/2 flot	29 1/2 flot*	31 1/2 flot	31 1/2 flot*	
19.	LCT(5) & (6)	18 flot	18 flot*	21 1/2 flot	21 1/2 flot*	
20.	LCF	28	28	28	28	
21. (a)	LCG	31	31	31	31	
21. (b)	LCT(CB)	5	5	5	5	
22. (a)	LCT(A)	48	48	48	48	
22. (b)	LCT(HS)	16	16	16	16	
23. (a)	LCS(L) (1)	4	4	4	4	
23. (b)	LCS(L) (2)	10	10	10	10	
24.	LCT(R)	37	37	37	37	δ columns (b) and (d) spare craft are in operational pooled reserve.
25.	LCP(L) smoke	144 <sup>δ</sup>	144	144 <sup>δ</sup>	144	

TABLE 'B'

ESTIMATE OF LANDING SHIPS AND CRAFT AVAILABLE FOR  
PURPOSES OTHER THAN THE ASSAULT IN A CROSS-CHANNEL OPERATION

Item No.	Type	1st MAY		1st JUNE		Remarks
		Gross	Nett	Gross	Nett	
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	
26.	LCH(3)	374	317	374	317	
27.	LCH(1)	143	122	153	133	
28.	LCP(S)	100	85	100	85	
29.	LCV	50	43	50	43	
30.	LCE	6	5	6	5	
31.	LBV	240	204	240	204	
32.	LBE	60	51	60	51	
33.	LBO	100	85	100	85	
34.	LBI	20	17	20	17	
35.	LEF	15	15	15	15	
36.	LCA †	32	27	82	70	
37.	LCVP † or LCP	853	726	853	726	

† LCA, LCVP, LCP figures are not yet final.

OPERATION 'OVERLORD'

ESTIMATE OF MERCHANT SHIPPING AVAILABLE



MT shipping

1. 160 MT ships can be made available for the operation. In addition a maximum of 82 MT coasters can be made available, from the allotment of coasters for stores shipping, during the first few days of the operation. These will revert thereafter to stores carrying.

Stores shipping

2. The following is the maximum stores shipping likely to be available:-

<u>No</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Cargo capacity at 80 cubic feet</u>	<u>Total cargo availability</u>	<u>Total shipping tonnage</u>
80	Small	200 tons	16,000 tons	32,000 tons
150	Medium	450 "	58,500 "	117,000 "
90	Large A (Medium U/T)	900 "	81,000 "	162,000 "
90	Large B (Large U/T)	1,750 "	157,500 "	315,000 "
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			313,000 tons	626,000 tons
			<hr/>	<hr/>

Note a. The coasters used as MT coasters as in paragraph 1 above must be deducted from these figures.

Note b. By D plus 42 it will be necessary to release the large proportion of the coasters; but 100,000 shipping tonnage may be retained from that date onwards. The loss of lift entailed will be replaced by stores ships as necessary.

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to COSSAC(44) 10OPERATION 'OVERLORD'ESTIMATE OF LAND FORCES AVAILABLEON 1st MAY, 1944

Formations	US		BRITISH and CANADIAN	Remarks
	Present in UK	Operationally available		
Infantry divisions	12	10(a)	10(a)	(a) Includes two from MEDITERRANEAN
Armoured divisions	5	5(b)	4(b)	(b) Includes one from MEDITERRANEAN
Airborne divisions	2	2 (less 1 RCT) (c) (d)	2(c)	(c) Includes one from MEDITERRANEAN (d) (RCT) Regimental Combat Team
L of C divisions:			1	
Separate parachute regiments	4(e)	4(e)		(e) Pending provisional re-organization this figure may be reduced to 3
Tank and Armoured brigades			10(f)	(f) Includes:- One Flail brigade, One CDL brigade, Three DD brigades, Two brigades from MEDITERRANEAN
Tank groups composite	4	4		
Tank groups light	1	1		
Commandos			6	
Ranger battalions	2	2		

Summary of formations operationally available 1st May, 1944.US17 divisions (less 1 RCT)  
5 tank groups  
2 ranger battalions

3 or 4 separate parachute regiments

BRITISH17 divisions  
10 tank and armoured brigades  
5 commandos

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APPENDIX 'D'  
to COSSAC (44) 10

ESTIMATE OF THE AIR FORCES AVAILABLE IN THE  
UNITED KINGDOM - 1st MAY, 1944



Type of Squadron	U/R A/C per sqn	Estimated number of sqns. available in UK 1st May, 1944	Possible allocation of AAF sqns to operation 'OVERLORD' 1st May 1944
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
<u>US.</u> (Based on US Flow Chart dated 18 November 1943)			
<u>Eighth Air Force</u>			
(Note 1) Day Bomber Heavy	12	161	-
Day Fighter	25	45	-
Photo. Recce.	12	4	-
<u>Ninth Air Force</u>			
Bomber Medium	16	32	32
Bomber Light	16	12	12
Fighter Day	25	54 (Note vii)	54
Fighter Night	12	3	3
Fighter Recce	18	4	4
Photo. Recce.	12	4	4
(Note ii) Troop Carrier	13	52	52
<u>BRITISH</u>			
Fighter Day	18	59	42 (Note iv)
Fighter Bomber	18	18	16 (Note iv)
Fighter Recce.	18	8	5 (Note v)
Night Fighter	18	22	6 (Note iv)
Bomber Light			
(a) Bomber Command	20	6	-
(b) TAF	18	12	12
Photo. Recce.	18 (1/4 at 20)	8	4
(Note i) Night Bomber Heavy	20 (Note iii)	72 (Note iii)	-
<u>38 Group</u> (Troop Carrier)	20	9	9
<u>British Transport Command</u>	25	6 (Note vi)	-

NOTES: (1) The proportion of the heavy day and night bomber effort to be employed for attacks on targets directly related to the land operations will be decided by the Combined Chiefs of Staff. The Air Commander-in-Chief, Allied Expeditionary Air Force, will advise the Supreme Allied Commander on the employment of the allotted effort and will be responsible for passing requirements in this connection to the U.S. and BRITISH Heavy Bomber Commands.

- (ii) Including four Troop Carrier Groups transferred from W.A.A.F.
- (iii) Figures are an equivalent based on anticipated total number of aircraft. Some squadrons may have more than 20 U/S.
- (iv) May be augmented by a maximum of 9 fighter and 2 fighter bomber squadrons from A.D.C.B. In addition two night fighter squadrons are held in reserve.
- (v) In addition 3 squadrons of Hurricane IVs are held in reserve.
- (vi) Doubt exists as to whether all these aircraft and crews will be available by the date required.
- (vii) Includes three Groups from the MEDITERRANEAN.