

Date on Document: June 28, 1944

Description: This is a letter from General Eisenhower to the British Chiefs of Staff requesting that the Visitors' Ban on Great Britain continue.

Eisenhower, Dwight D., Pre-Presidential Papers, 1916-1952; Principal File; Box No. 60

File: Ismay, Hastings (3) [June 1943-July 1946]

Scans: 259-260

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Sup ~~e~~ Commander's Copy.

BCOS

28 June 1944

SUBJECT: The Visitors' Ban.

TO : The Secretary
Chiefs of Staff Committee
Offices of the War Cabinet
Great George St., S. W. 1.

1. At a meeting on the 13th June the War Cabinet agreed in principle that special OVERLORD Security restrictions, including the Visitors' Ban, should be removed at the end of June subject to the retention of any particular restriction if good cause were shown for this.

2. I am writing on the subject of the Visitors' Ban which I am most anxious to see extended beyond the end of June for vitally important operational reasons. The case for the retention of the Visitors' Ban is that, as long as it continues, it provides an excellent aid to the success of the cover plan. As the Chiefs of Staff will be aware, this plan has up to the present proved successful, and has been largely instrumental in inducing the enemy to keep a considerable portion of his strategic reserves away from our present battle area. The most important element in the plan is the threat to the PAS DE CALAIS area maintained by a notional army group in South-East ENGLAND and I feel that we can no longer hope for continued success of this plan if the Visitors' Ban is removed.

3. It might be argued that the removal of the Diplomatic Ban on the 19th June has already given the enemy an indication that we intend to relax our security precautions. This may affect our cover plan adversely and I am firmly of the opinion that if the removal of the Diplomatic Ban were followed at the end of June by the lifting of the Visitors' Ban, we could no longer expect to deceive the enemy.

4. I would naturally prefer that no change at all be made in the Visitors' Ban as it operates at present. I do, however, appreciate the anxiety of those who are responsible for civilian welfare in this country to relax the restrictions as soon as possible. I would therefore be content if the ban were maintained in full effect

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within the area from the WASH to, and including, SOUTHAMPTON and in the Scottish area until the end of July. I would, moreover, be agreeable that this matter be reviewed again on the first of August to see whether the situation has so altered by then as to make further concessions possible.

5. My request is reinforced by a message which I have just received from General MONTGOMERY who wishes to make a special appeal for the retention of the ban as essential for the success of his future operations.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER,
General, U. S. Army.

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