

Description: This is an extract from a COSSAC (which later became known as SHAEF) meeting report. It points out that 1) an outline for a cover plan for Operation Overlord was considered and should be put in place immediately, and 2) that strategic surprise of Overlord was no longer possible, so the cover plan would address the tactical surprise of date, strength of forces, and location.

Date on document: November 30, 1943

Location: Eisenhower Presidential Library  
Box 60: SHAEF Office of Secretary, General Staff: Records 1943-1945  
File 381: Fortitude, Operation Fortitude [1011-1150]

(IKEducation scan #175)

...approved by COSSAC which had the approval of the Chief of Staff, G-2 Officer. It was pointed out that strategic surprise was no longer possible in the matter of "OVERLORD"; our only hope was to obtain tactical surprise as to date, strength of forces employed, and direction of thrust, to which end the cover plan was designed.

THE COMMITTEE:-

Approved the implementation by COSSAC of the particular items of the cover plan for "OVERLORD" as set out in paragraph 3 of his covering Memorandum, it being understood that the visible results, such as the erection of ten acre, etc. in the East of England, should be delayed as long as possible.

REF FILE NO. 311

CENTRAL SECRETARIAT  
2 DEC 1943  
H.Q. C SAC

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED  
TO ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
By ~~COMMISSIONER OF CALA~~  
By J. P. FAYLESLEY  
Major, AGD.  
Date 12 AUG 1945

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Extract from COS (43) 292nd Mtg (O) Item 6 held 30th Nov '43.

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6. "OVERLORD" - COVER PLAN

(Q. O. S. (43) 735 (O)) . (COSSAC (43) 63)

THE COMMITTEE had before them a Memorandum by COSSAC submitting an outline cover plan for operation "OVERLORD". Certain features of the plan required to be put in hand immediately in order to be ready by the target date.

There was general agreement with the limited proposals submitted by COSSAC which had the approval of the Controlling Officer. It was pointed out that strategic surprise was no longer possible in the matter of "OVERLORD"; our only hope was to obtain tactical surprise as to date, strength of forces employed, and direction of thrust, to which end the cover plan was designed.

THE COMMITTEE:-

Approved the implementation by COSSAC of the particular items of the cover plan for "OVERLORD" as set out in paragraph 3 of his covering Memorandum, it being understood that the visible results, such as the erection of ten-acre, etc. in the East of England, should be delayed as long as possible.

SGS - SHEET FILE NO. 311

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