

Description: This is an outgoing message from COSSAC (which later became known as SHAEF) to the 1st and 21st Army Groups to observe radio silence between several date ranges. Radio silence is indicative of the start of an invasion, so doing this numerous times could help deceive the enemy because the enemy gets "numb" to the practice of radio silence when it repeatedly does not indicate the invasion.

Date on document: Dec. 9, 1943

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Operations Headquarters, should be observed by those formations and establishments shown at Annexure I.

3. Before the commencement of a period of silence, the imposition of wireless silence may be phased formation by formation over a period of two to three days. Similarly on completion of a silent period, the breaking of wireless silence may be phased over a period of two to three days. In arranging such phasing, care must be taken to avoid giving any indication of the order of battle.

4. 21 Army Group will investigate the possibility of phasing the breaking of wireless silence and simulating sufficient wireless activity, so that the final silence could be broken shortly before D day.

5. During silent periods wireless sets may be used with dummy aerials for training and maintenance purposes. No other wireless transmissions of any kind will be permitted.

Naval

6. The naval assault forces training with military formations will fit in with the programme of wireless silence (paragraph 1) as far as is practicable.

Air

7. Owing to the operational commitments of the air forces the periods of silence will apply only to those air force links working directly with army ground forces.

NOTES:-

- (a) The paragraphs of Appendix 'I' to COSSAC (43) 28 dated 20th November, 1943, under reference are indicated in the margin.
- (b) The letter "A" signifies one hour in advance of GMT (i.e., normal time at date of issue of this Appendix).

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TOP SECRET

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 APPENDIX 'A'
 to COSSAG/2355/One
 dated 9th December, 1943

OPERATION 'OVERLORD'

WIRELESS DECEPTION

WIRELESS SILENCE

Military

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED
 TO ~~TOP SECRET~~
 BY AUTHORITY OF C.A.L.A.
 By...
 Major...
 2 AUG 1945
 28 (a)
 and
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1. The following programme of wireless silence will be imposed. Each period of silence will begin at 0001 hours on the first day and end at 2359 hours on the last day:-

<p>27th 29th February 12th 21st March 7th 9th April</p>	<p>25th - 28th December 24th - 27th January 29th February - 9th March 23rd - 25th March 23rd April - 2nd May</p>	<p>17th - 20th May 5th - 11th June 1st - 4th July 31st July - 9th August 1st - 5th September.</p>
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2. These periods of silence will be observed by the First and 21 Army Groups, and, as directed by HQUSA, the War Office and Combined Operations Headquarters, should be observed by those formations and establishments shown at Annexure I.

3. Before the commencement of a period of silence, the imposition of wireless silence may be phased formation by formation over a period of two to three days. Similarly on completion of a silent period, the breaking of wireless silence may be phased over a period of two to three days. In arranging such phasing, care must be taken to avoid giving any indication of the order of battle.

4. 21 Army Group will investigate the possibility of phasing the breaking of wireless silence and simulating sufficient wireless activity, so that the final silence could be broken shortly before D day.

5. During silent periods wireless sets may be used with dummy aerials for training and maintenance purposes. No other wireless transmissions of any kind will be permitted.

Naval

6. The naval assault forces training with military formations will fit in with the programme of wireless silence (paragraph 1) as far as is practicable.

Air

7. Owing to the operational commitments of the air forces the periods of silence will apply only to those air force links working directly with army ground forces.

NOTES:- (a) The paragraphs of Appendix 'Y' to COSSAG (43) 28 dated 20th November, 1943, under reference are indicated in the margin.
 (b) The letter "A" signifies one hour in advance of GMT (i.e., normal time at date of issue of this Appendix).

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PERIODS OF INTENSE WIRELESS ACTIVITY.

8. In order to emphasize the periods of wireless silence the following periods of intense wireless activity will be observed by those military formations and establishments subject to the periods of wireless silence:-

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 29th - 30th December | 12th - 14th May |
| 20th - 22nd January | 1st - 2nd June |
| 25 th - 26 th February | 7th - 10th July |
| 27th - 28th February | 23th - 29th August |
| 8 th - 11 th March | 20th April |
| 29th - 31st March | 3th September. |

9. During these periods W/T nets will be worked to full capacity and R/T nets for at least eight hours per day.

DECEPTION UNITS

10. Proposals for a BRITISH wireless deception unit are at present being considered by the War Office. It is anticipated that this unit will be formed and trained by 1st March, 1944. Elements of the unit, sufficient to simulate at least two divisions, will then be placed under command 21 Army Group for the purpose of covering the move of the ROSINI force, and for augmenting the wireless facilities of the notional assault and follow-up forces in the South-East.

24, 45
and
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11. It is expected that a US radio deception battalion, capable of simulating a corps of two divisions will be available about March, 1944. Instructions regarding the employment of this battalion will be issued when details of its exact time of arrival in the UK are available.

COMBINED HEADQUARTERS

12. Preparations for simulating the military wireless component of a combined headquarters at CHATHAM will be made by 21 Army Group. This notional combined headquarters will probably be worked from March, 1944, on the same scale of wireless activity as the combined headquarters at DOVER and FORTSMOUTH, but this is subject to final approval of Appendix 'Y' to COSSAC (43) 28 dated 20th November, 1943, by the Chief of Staff.

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ASSAULT TECHNIQUE

13. The deceptive wireless exercises carried out by the assault forces to conceal their tactical methods will be arranged by the army groups concerned. Any increment of staff and signals required to plan and supervise these exercises will be found from the resources of the army groups.

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SUPERVISION OF DECEPTIVE ACTIVITY

14. If possible, arrangements will be made for 'Y' or SIS sections under army group control to intercept deceptive wireless activity. In this way the effectiveness of the deception, and its probable reaction on the enemy intercept, can be gauged.

15. In addition to the above, all deceptive wireless activity will be monitored by the army group concerned, to ensure that it is being carried out according to plan and that the necessary standards of wireless security and discipline are being maintained.