

SAS BRIGADE OPERATION INSTRUCTION
NO 5

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Copy No 8.

31. Mar 44

Operation OVERLORD

Ref Maps GSGS 2738 and 4042 (FRANCE and NW EUROPE 1:250,000)

GENERAL

1. The following instruction does not represent your final tasks since dispositions and information will change between now and D day, but sufficient information is now provided to enable you to begin preliminary planning.
2. The majority of the specific tasks contained at Appx B will be required but some may be altered or others added.
3. You will inform me as soon as possible :
 - (a) The number of parties that you consider necessary to undertake the tasks specifically mentioned in Appx B
 - (b) The number of parties which will then be available for strategic use after D day.

INFORMATION

4. 3 French Para Bn will come under your command for operations and you will assume executive command from the moment that units move SOUTH to airfields. The combined force will be known as "S" Force.
5. The exact date and location of the main seaborne assault will NOT yet be disclosed to you. You have been informed verbally of the approx date and area.
6. All relevant information will be issued to you as it becomes available.
7. A summary of the existing information regarding the probable dispositions and intentions of the enemy is attached at Appx A.
8. You have received copies of the instructions issued to Lt Col MAYNE and Capt BLONDELL about whose operations you require detailed information.
 - 4 French Para Bn will be operating in BRITTANY.

TASK OF 'S' FORCE

9. (a) You will provide a force, to be known as 'C' Force, of about 20 parties which will drop on the night D-2/D-1 and will do everything possible to delay the movement in a SW direction of the enemy reserve division which will probably be located in the area AMIENS N 05. It is vital that this movement be delayed to the maximum possible extent.

The division is at present 2 Panzer Division, recently arrived from RUSSIA.
- (b) You will arrange for this force to provide information
 - (i) on movements past certain specific defiles
 - (ii) on certain specific demolitions
 - (iii) General information regarding:
 - movement through the area
 - strength and action of resistance groups
 - (iv) Targets specially suitable for bombing.

Task of 'S' Force, etc

10. The majority of the remainder of your force will be held in reserve for use on strategic tasks from about D+21 onwards. Small parties may be required for special tasks at short notice from D+4 onwards.

11. I consider that there is most scope for strategic operations in the area

NAMUR J91 - STRASBOURG - BELFORT - DIJON 0 06 - CLERMONT N 10.

You will therefore make primary study of road and rail communications in this area and you will now consider all preliminary steps which can now be taken to facilitate operations in this area at short notice after D day.

You must be prepared to establish one or more re-supply areas in EAST FRANCE and will arrange recce of such areas by parties dropped on the night D-2/D-1.

METHODLimiting factors

12. All parties of 'C' Force will drop on the night D-2/D-1. No offensive action will be taken by any parties until the night D-1/D.

No reinforcing parties can be sent in before approx D+4.

No gliders can be used before D day.

No personnel who have taken any part in planning or who know more than the task of their own stick will be dropped before D day.

13. 'C' Force(a) Telecomms and rds

The first task of the majority of parties will be to cut all possible telephone and telegraph comms simultaneously throughout the AMIENS area during the night D-1/D. These parties will then carry out tasks designed to hinder road movement by the use of road blocks, craters, attacks on convoys, etc. Details are shown in Appx B.

Arrangements must be made for the telecomms to be cut again as soon as repaired.

(b) VPs

The first or subsequent task of certain parties will be attacks on petrol dumps or similar VPs and on rly comms. Details are shown in Appx B.

(c) Roadwatching

Special roadwatching parties will be established to cover certain defiles. These parties will remain concealed as long as possible in order to provide continuous information. They will NOT take offensive action unless forced to do so in self-defence. Details are shown in Appx B.

14. 'S' Force

'S' Force (less 'C' Force) will remain in transit camps near airfields in the SOUTH of ENGLAND until required to be used. You will detail a few parties to drop on the night D-2/D-1 to recce suitable areas for resupply and to give general information regarding the local situation, resistance groups etc in the EAST of FRANCE.

These parties can be reinforced by a few more recce parties on or after D+4 (including some jeep patrols) but you will retain at least 60 parties (average strength 5 men) for use as required under orders of 21 Army Group.

Method, etc15. Resupply

(a) A resupply area for 'C' Force will be selected in the northern part of the area designated for your subsequent operations. This can probably be found in the area CHAUNY N22 - RHEIMS T38 - TROYES Y27 - MELUN S20 - CLERMONT N10. At least one party must be dropped in this area during the night D-2/D-1 with WT comms in order to

- (i) select suitable resupply areas for main group
- (ii) contact local resistance groups
- (iii) select SDPs.

Each party will carry EUREKA, flares etc.

On about D+4 the above parties will be reinforced in accordance with the information they send back and you will designate an officer to take command in the area and endeavour to convert it into a major centre of resistance to which supplies can regularly be sent and from which parties can continue to operate.

If it is impossible for SAS parties to continue to operate the officer commanding 'C' Force will arrange evacuation by sea in accordance with instructions which will be issued later.

(b) The remainder of 'S' Force when deployed will either be resupplied from the area used for 'C' Force or new resupply bases must be established.

16. Escapes

(a) All parties will continue to operate offensively in the area as long as possible.

(b) All parties will then make their way to one of the force resupply areas where they will either be re-equipped and given fresh tasks or will be got out by sea.

ADMINISTRATION

17. All men will carry 7 days' special rations and will be equipped in accordance with the task they have to carry out.

18. No attempt can be made to resupply parties actually operating in the battle area.

19. Supplies of food, ammunition, explosives, medical comforts, clothing, arms, equipment etc are being held at special depots near British airfields and all articles most likely to be required will actually be ready packed. You may assume that your force can and will be resupplied by air providing it is possible for you to select suitable DZs on which supplies can be dropped without interference.

INTERCOMUNICATION

20. Every party will be equipped with one MCR 1 receiver on which to listen to a Broadcast from Base Signals. The batteries should last 100 hours continuous use and should therefore last at least 7 days if used carefully.

21. Each party will probably carry one pigeon which will be released on D+1 or D+2 with information regarding the success or failure of the first operations.

22. You will provide one really good terminal in each of the resupply areas, and you will in addition find as many terminals as possible for allotment as required.

23. The detailed signal plan will be issued later.

Interchmn, ctd

24. Until the bulk of your force is committed in EUROPE you will establish your HQ alongside mine, in order to facilitate the rapid issue of orders and to assist planning.

25. The contents of this instruction will at present only be disclosed to :

- 2 SAS Regt - CO. 2 i/c IO one clerk
- 1 SAS Regt - CO.

It will in NO circumstances be disclosed to any FRENCHMEN.

ACKNOWLEDGE

Home Forces
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RWIA/MF

R/S M. L...
Brigadier,
Commander,
SAS Troops.

DISTRIBUTION

	Operation Instruction	Copy Numbers			
		Appx A	Appx B	Trace to Appx B	Appx C
Lieut-Colonel W STIRLING	1	1	1 & 2	1	1
Lieut-Colonel R B MAYNE DSO	2	2	3	-	-
Lieut-Colonel R BROAD ME	3	3	4	2	-
HQ Airborne Troops(Main)	4 & 5	4 & 5	5 & 6	3	-
File	6 & 7	6 & 7	7 & 8	4 & 5	2
War Diary	8 & 9	8 & 9	9 & 10	-	-

Spine in file 10-19

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Ne sera en AUCUN cas divulgué à aucun FRANÇAIS