

List of military operations in the West European Theater during World War II

Summary: == Western Front ==

Includes land and sea operations relating to north-west Europe, but excludes:

purely naval operations in the adjoining waters (see: List of World War II military operations - Atlantic Ocean)

operations in Scandinavia (Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden), Iceland and Greenland (see: Military operations in Scandinavia and Iceland during World War II)

operations in the Mediterranean and Italy (see: World War II operations in the Mediterranean region)....

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1935 1938

Fall Rot ("Case Red") (1935) overview of defense planning in tandem with Fall Blau. Rot covered defence in the west in the event of military action in the east (Fall Blau).

Fall Blau ("Case Blue") (1935) overview of defense planning in tandem with Fall Rot.

Fall Otto ("Case Otto") (1937) plan to occupy Austria.

Fall Richard ("Case Richard") (1937) Contingency planning for Soviet/communist takeover in Spain.

Fall Grün ("Case Green") (1938) plan for invasion of Czechoslovakia.

1939

Fall Weiss ("

Case White") (1939) invasion of Poland

1940

Aerial (1940) Allied retreat from France using ports between Cherbourg and the Spanish frontier.

Ambassador (1940) commando raid on Guernsey

Attila (1940) German seizure and occupation of Vichy France, without Italian support. See also Fall Anton ("Case Anton") and Lila.

Cycle (1940) British and Allied evacuation from Le Havre

Dynamo (1940) British & Allied evacuation from Dunkirk.

Fall Gelb ("Case Yellow") (1939 40) offensive against the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg.

Fall Rot ("Case Red") (1939 40) an invasion of France and rout of British Expeditionary Force

Gr n pfeil (Green Arrow) (1940) invasion of British held Channel Islands (1940)

Granit (Granite) (1940) Fallschirmj ger capture of Fort Eben-Emael in Belgium

Mondscheinsonate ("Moonlight Sonata") (1940) Luftwaffe raid on Coventry

Royal Marine (1940) Dropping of naval mines into the Rhine (originally Operation Marine)

Seel we ("Sealion") (1940) planned invasion of Britain

Adlerangriff ("Eagle Attack") Axis effort to destroy the RAF prior to invasion. Preceded by attacks on shipping known as "Kanalkampf" (Channel Battle). Aerial battles during the period were later dubbed the Battle of Britain.

Fall Gr n ("Case Green") (1940) planned invasion of Ireland as part of Seel we

Herbstreise ("Autumn Journey") planned/diversionary invasion of Scotland as part of Seel we.

Tannenbaum ("Christmas Tree") (1940) planned invasion of Switzerland.

XD (1940) a series of demolition operations to prevent the capture of oil installations and stocks by the Germans

1941

Chess (1941) commando raid on Ambleteuse, Pas-de-Calais, France

Colossus (1941) Feb. 10, commando raid on Tragino aqueduct near Calitri, Italy.

1942

Aflame (1942) commando raid on Berck in France

Aquatint (1942) commando raid on Normandy in France

Barricade (1942) commando raid on Pointe de Saire south of Barfleur in France

Basalt (1942) commando raid on Sark in the Channel Islands

Batman (1942) commando raid near Cherbourg in France

Biting (1942) commando raid on Bruneval radar site in France

Bolero (1942) build-up of US forces and materiel for Roundup. Later utilized during Torch and Overlord.

Branford (1942) commando raid on Burhou in the Channel Islands

Zerberus ("Cerberus") (1942) break-out of German capital ships from Brest later dubbed the "Channel Dash".

Chariot (1942) British raid on Saint Nazaire.

Dryad (1942) commando raid on Casquets lighthouse in the Channel Islands

Fahrenheit (1942) commando raid at Pointe de Plouezec on the north Brittany coast

Fall Anton (1942) German occupation of Vichy France: Attila renamed, with Italian support.

Frankton (1942) commando raid on shipping in Bordeaux.

Jubilee (1942) repelled raid on Dieppe. See Also Operation Rutter.

Abercrombie (1942) raid on Hardelot in preparation for Jubilee.

Cauldron (1942) raid on Varengeville in support of Jubilee.

Lila (1942) plan to capture French fleet at Toulon.

Millennium (1942) British 1000 bomber raid on Cologne.

Outward (1942-44) ; free balloon attacks on Germany.

Roundup (1942) plan to invade Europe in the event of German or Soviet collapse. Later abandoned in favour of Torch landings. Planning for Roundup included;

Sledgehammer (1942) establishment of beachhead in Cherbourg or Brest.

Roundhammer revised planning for Roundup.

Sickle (1942) build-up of US air forces in UK

Torch (1942) Allied invasion of North Africa.

Plan W (1942) planning between Allies and neutral Ireland to deal with Fall Grenada.

1943

Bellicose (1943) British bombing mission against Friedrichshafen and La Spezia.

Bolero (1943/1944) build-up of US forces and materiel in preparation for Allied invasion of France.

Chastise (1943) the bombing of Ruhr area dams popularly known as the "Dambusters" raid.

Corona (1943) bombing raid on Kassel, Germany.

Constellation (1943)

3) one of several proposals to retake the Channel Islands;

Condor (1943) proposal to retake Jersey

Concertina (1943) proposal to retake Alderney

Coverlet (1943) proposal to retake Guernsey

Crossbow (1943 1944) plan to destroy rocket production and launch sites. See Also Pointblank.

Hydra (1943) bombing of Peenemünde rocket research center.

Double Strike (1943) bombing of Regensburg and Schweinfurt.

Huckaback (1943) commando raid on Herm in the Channel Islands

Husky (1943) Allied invasion of Sicily.

Project Habakkuk (1943) project to construct an aircraft carrier from pykrete.

Pointblank (1943) umbrella for bombing offensive by USAAF and RAF in preparation for Overlord.

Gomorrah (1943) sequence of air raids on Hamburg.

Rankin (1943) planned liberation of the Channel Islands

1944

Abel (1944) harassment of German retreat in France

Astonia (1944) assault on Le Havre

Axehead (1944) proposed assault crossing of the lower Seine and capture of Le Havre and Rouen (superseded by Astonia)

Benson (1944) reconnaissance mission by Belgian SAS near Amiens

Bergbang (1944) unsuccessful mission by Belgian SAS east of River Meuse

Brutus (1944) mission by Belgian SAS in Ardennes to arm local resistance and reinforce SAS forces

Bulbasket (1944) SAS operation to prevent German reinforcements moving from southern France to Normandy

Bunyan (1944) disruption mission by Belgian SAS in Chartres area

Caliban (1944) mission by Belgian SAS near Leopoldsborg to disrupt German communications

Chaucer (1944) Belgian SAS operation near Le Mans to harry German retreat

Clipper (1944) Allied assault on Siegfried Line at Geilenkirchen.

Constellation (1944) occupation of Venray and Venlo by British VIII Corps.

Aintree (1944) occupation of Overloon and Venray by British 3rd Infantry Division.

Cooney (1944) French SAS operation in Brittany to cut railway lines

Derry (1944) SAS operation near Le Mans to disrupt German retreat to Brest

Diver (1944) Defence of London against V-1 attack.

Fabian (1944) Belgian SAS reconnaissance operation around Arnhem (also involved in the recovery of British paratroops after Operation Market Garden)

Franklin (1944) French SAS operation in the Ardennes in support of the US VIII Corps

Fusilade (1944) capture of Dieppe

Gaff (1944) SAS operation near Rambouillet to kill or capture Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, but which instead destroyed trains and attacked a German headquarters

Gain (1944) SAS successful SAS operation southwest of Paris to disrupt enemy communications

Gatwick (1944) precursor of Operation Veritable

Gobbo (1944) Belgian SAS intelligence gathering operation in northern Holland, near Drente

Guildford 15th (Scottish) Infantry Division capture of Blerick

Haft (1944) Special Air Service (SAS) intelligence gathering mission near Le Mans.

Haggard (1944) SAS operation near Bourges

Hardy (1944) SAS information gathering operation near Dijon

Harrod (1944) French SAS operation in the Saone et Loire in support of the US 3rd Army

Houndsmith (1944) Special Air Service (SAS) action near Dijon.

Houndsworth (1944) Special Air Service (SAS) campaign in and around Morvan.

Hurricane (1944) Bombing of Ruhr. See Also Chastise.

Independence (1944) clearance of German garrisons on the Gironde estuary (postponed, later revived as Operation Venerable)

Infatuate (1944) capture of Walcheren Island final phase of the Battle of the Scheldt.

Jedburgh (1944) Airdrop of operatives into France, Belgium and the Netherlands to conduct sabotage and guerrilla warfare, and to lead the local resistance forces in actions against the Germans.

Jericho (1944) air-raid on Amiens prison to release French Resistance prisoners

Jockworth (1944) French SAS operation near Lyons to impede German movements and bolster local Resistance; became active in the fighting in Lyons

Kipling (1944) British SAS action near Auxerre

re to aid Allied airborne landings in Orleans Gap; these were cancelled and the SAS harassed the enemy in support of allied ground advance

Loyton (1944) unsuccessful large SAS action in Vosges mountains.

L tich (1944) German counter-offensive at Mortain.

Mallard (Maas) British XII Corps' advance to the Maas

Marine (1944) Dropping of naval mines into the Rhine

Market Garden (1944) Allied land and airborne attempt to cross the lower Rhine.

Comet (1944) early draft of Market Garden

Berlin (1944) withdrawal of British 1st Airborne.

Marshall (1944) French SAS mission to harass the enemy and stiffen local resistance around Correze

Moses (1944) Free French SAS action around Poitiers

Newton (1944) Free French SAS action in Burgundy, France

Noah (1944) response to blowing of river dykes near Nijmegen and consequential flooding

Nutcracker British VIII Corps' advance to the Maas

Olive (1944) offensive against the Gothic Line.

Overlord (1944) inv

asion of Normandy, France. See also Pointblank.

Aberlour (1944) cancelled follow-up to Mitten.

Astonia (1944) assault on Le Havre

Bluecoat (1944) Launched to support Operation Cobra

Bodyguard deception plan, including:

Fortitude (1944)

Skye

Fortitude (1944) two deception operations to mislead over the location of landings

Glimmer (1944) feint towards Pas-de-Calais

Hambone (1944) also known as Copperhead

Jael

Quicksilver

Zeppelin (1944) deception plan to depict an amphibious landing on Crete, western Greece, or the Romanian Black Sea coast

Charnwood (1944) assault on Caen.

Chicago Allied airdrop

Cobra (1944) breakout from Normandy.

Dunhill (1944) SAS reconnaissance action in support of Cobra.

Cooney (1944) Free French SAS action in St Malo area.

Dauntless (1944) See Operation Martlet

Defoe (1944) ineffective SAS reconnaissance around Argentan in Normandy

Detroit (1944) American airdrop in Normandy

Dingson (1944) Free French SAS operati

on around Vannes to disrupt communications and arm local Resistance

Lost (1944) French SAS team in Brittany to link with Dingson

Epsom (1944) British assault west of Caen, Normandy, aimed at capturing the city

Martlet (1944) Supporting operation launched the day before Operation Epsom

Goodwood (1944) British armoured assault to capture the Bourgu bus Ridge, destroy German armoured reserves and support Operation Atlantic

Atlantic (1944) Operation to capture the remaining sections of the German-occupied city of Caen. Launched side by side with Operation Goodwood

Greenline (1944) diversionary attack by XII Corps designed to draw German attention away from the upcoming assault, out of the Orne bridgehead, codenamed Goodwood.

Pomegranate (1944) diversionary attack by XXX Corps designed to draw German attention away from the upcoming assault, out of the Orne bridgehead, codenamed Goodwood.

Grouse (1944) advance towards Tinchebray (also called Wallop).

Jupiter Briti

sh attack to occupy and hold Hill 112, near Caen

Kitten (1944) British and Canadian advance to the Seine.

Mulberry (1944) the creation of safe anchorages using block ships

Mitten (1944) elimination of German position at Chateau de la Ronde

Neptune landing phase of Overlord

Accumulator (1944) diversionary naval operation near to the Channel Islands

Bravado (1944) mine-laying around Kiel Canal to inhibit German naval reaction

Gambit (1944) use of X-Craft midget submarines as navigation beacons off Sword and Juno beaches

Maple Allied naval minelaying operations to inhibit German naval reaction

Neptune (Seine) 43rd (Wessex) Division's assault crossing of Seine

Paddle (1944) Canadian pursuit of German forces

Peppermint (1944) Precautions against German spreading of radioactive poison materials

Pirate (1944) Anglo-Canadian training exercise prior to D-Day, at Studland Bay, England

Pluto (1944) construction of undersea oil pipelines between England and

France

Postage Able (1944) landing beach surveys using X-Craft and divers

Smash (1944) British training exercise prior to D-Day, at Studland Bay, Dorset, England

Spring Canadian attack on high ground, south of Caen

Sussex insertion of French OSS operatives into France to report German troop movements

Tiger (1944) Allied training exercise prior to D-Day, near Slapton, England

Tonga British airdrop in Normandy, east of the Orne River

Mallard (Airdrop) British air landing follow-up to Tonga

Totalize (1944) Allied advance to capture high ground north of the city of Falaise

Tractable (1944) Attack to capture the city of Falaise, and to help close the Falaise pocket

Trousers (1944) Anglo-Canadian training exercise prior to D-Day, near Slapton, England

Walter (1944) tidy-up operation, using two brigades.

Wallop (1944) advance towards Tinchebray (also called Grouse).

Windsor (1944) capture of Carpiquet.

Dickens (1944) highly successful French SA

S operation around Nantes to disrupt rail lines, gather intelligence and support local Resistance

Pegasus (1944) Allied rescue of troops after the failure of Market Garden

Queen (1944) aerial close-support operation in Hurtgen Forest, east of Aachen

Switchback (1944) taking of Breskens pocket, first phase of the Battle of the Scheldt.

Thunderbolt (1944) , the battle for Fort Driant, near Metz

Totter (1944) combined ROC and RAF anti V-1 efforts

Undergo (1944) assault on Calais

Vitality (1944) taking of South Beveland, second phase of the Battle of the Scheldt.

Wacht am Rhein ("Watch on the Rhine") (1944) counteroffensive in the Ardennes

Greif ("Griffin") (1944) infiltration using troops disguised in Allied uniforms.

St sser (1944) airborne drop in support of the Wacht am Rhein.

Bodenplatte ("Baseplate") (1944) Luftwaffe support raids on Allied airbases. Rescheduled to 1 January 1945.

Wellhit (1944) assault on Boulogne

1945

Amherst (1945) French airborne S

AS raid in north-east Netherlands

Anger (1945) cross the Neder Rijn and capture Arnhem

Barker (1944) French SAS operation to protect exposed right flank of US 3rd Army

Blackcock (1945) clearance of the Roer Triangle by the British 2nd Army

Bremen (1945) occupation of Bremen

Cannonshot (1945) crossing the IJssel

Cleanser (1945) advance to the IJsselmeer

Crosskeys (1945) the establishment of allied coastal and minesweeping forces in Danish waters

Destroyer (1945) clearing the "Island"

Eclipse (1945) occupation of north German ports

Exodus (1945) repatriation of POWs

Goldflake (1945) Canadian 1st Corps moves from Italy to northwest Europe under command of Canadian First Army

Grenade (1945) US Ninth Army advance from the Roer (see also Veritable)

Howard (1945) Special Air Service reconnaissance operation ahead of Canadian 4th Armoured Division advance towards Oldenburg

Keystone (1945) Special Air Service mission to capture bridges over Apeldoorn canal and harass the enemy south of IJsselmeer

Larkswood (1945) Belgian SAS reconnaissance operation ahead of Canadian and Polish units in Holland and Germany

Manna and Chowhound Food droppings in Holland to relieve the Dutch famine.

Nestegg (1945) reoccupation of the Channel Islands

Nordwind ("North Wind") (1945) attempt to open a second front in Alsace

Placket (1945) delivery by sea of essential supplies to Dutch civilians

Plunder (1945) 21st Army Group crossing of the Rhine

Archway (1945) SAS operation to support Plunder and the subsequent advance to Kiel

Flashpoint Ninth US Army element of Plunder

Torchlight British XII Corps element of Plunder

Turnscrew British XXX Corps element of Plunder

Widgeon British 1st Commando Brigade element of Plunder

Varsity airborne element of Plunder

Schneeman (1945) German attempt to open a second front in Netherlands.

Valediction (1945) original plan for Canadian First Army's advance through the Klever Reichswald to Xanten, delayed then renamed Veritable

Venerable (1945) clearance of German garrisons on the Gironde estuary (Operation Independence, revived)

Jupiter (1945) assault on le d'Oleron

Veritable (1945) Canadian First Army's advance through the Klever Reichswald to Xanten co-ordinated with Grenade (formerly Valediction)

Blockbuster (1945) final phases of Veritable

Heather (1945) reinforcement of XXX Corps by British 3rd Infantry Division

Ventilate (1945) cancelled assault crossing of the Meuse (Maas) by British 3rd Infantry Division

See also

List of World War II military operations

References

External links

WW2DB: List of Axis Operations

WW2DB: List of Allied Operations