

# List of World War II military operations

*Summary: This is a list of known World War II era codenames for military operations and missions commonly associated with World War II. As of 2022 this is not a comprehensive list, but most major operations that Axis and Allied combatants engaged in are included, and also operations that involved neutral nation states. Operations are categorised according to the theater of operations, and an attempt has been made to cover all aspects of significant events. Operations contained in the Western Front category...*

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Flags used are those of the time period.

## Africa

Excludes North African campaigns

Chronometer (1941)    Anglo-Indian capture of Assab

Composition (1941)    FAA attack on Massawa

Ironclad (1942)    Allied landings on Madagascar

Streamline Jane (1942

)    ground campaign on Madagascar

Menace (1940)    seaborne Free French and British attack on Dakar, French West Africa (Senegal)

Postmaster (1942)    SOE operation to capture three Axis vessels in the neutral Spanish island of Fernando Po

Supply (1941)    Allied anti-submarine naval patrol off Madagascar

## Atlantic Ocean

Includes North Sea and Arctic Ocean operations and actions against naval vessels in harbour

Alacrity (1943) Allied naval patrols around Azores

Berlin (1941) Atlantic cruise of Scharnhorst and Gneisenau

Catechism (1944) final RAF air attack on Tirpitz

Cerberus (1942) escape of German capital ships from Brest to home ports in Germany (Channel Dash)

Croquet (1944) Allied anti-shipping off Norway

Cupola (1945) British anti-shipping operation off Norway

Deadlight (1945) postwar scuttling of U-boats

Dervish (1941) first of the Arctic Convoys to the Soviet Union

Domino (1943) second aborted Arctic sortie by Scharnhorst, Prinz Eugen and destroye

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Doppelschlag ("Double blow") (1942) German anti-shipping operation off Novaya Zemlya by Admiral Scheer and Admiral Hipper

Drachenh hle (1944) aborted attack on Home Fleet at Scapa Flow, using Mistel composite aircraft

Drumbeat (1942) part of "Second Happy Time" (Paukenschlag)

EJ (1941) British anti-shipping operation off Norway

Enclose (1943) British anti-submarine air offensive in Bay of Biscay (also Enclose II)

Foxchase (1945) British anti-shipping operation off Norway

Fronttheater (1943) first aborted Arctic sortie by Scharnhorst, Prinz Eugen and destroyers

Goodwood I, II, III and IV (1944) sequence of 4 carrier-borne air attacks on Tirpitz

Holder (1943) British special naval transport to Murmansk

Husar (1943) cancelled German anti-shipping operation in Kara Sea by Lutzow

Leader (1943) antishipping operation off Norway by USS Ranger

Lucid (1940) attempt to destroy German invasion barges

Mascot (1944) failed carrier-borne air attack on Tirpi

tz

Nordseetour ("North Sea Tour") (1940) first Atlantic operation of Admiral Hipper

Obviate (1944) RAF air attack on Tirpitz

Ostfront (1943) final operation of Scharnhorst to intercept convoy JW 55B

Paderborn (1943) third and successful transfer of Scharnhorst and destroyers to Norway

Paravane (1944) RAF air attack on Tirpitz

Paukenschlag ("Drumbeat", "Beat of the Kettle Drum", "Second happy time") (1942) German U-boat campaign against shipping off the United States east coast

Planet, Brawn and Tiger Claw (1944) cancelled carrier-borne air attacks on the Tirpitz

Posthorn (1944) British naval air attack on shipping off Norway

Potluck (1944) Allied anti-shipping patrol off Norway

Primrose (1941) capture of U-110's Enigma cypher machine and documents by HMS Bulldog

Regenbogen ("Rainbow") (1942) Germany failed German attack on Arctic convoy JW 51B, by Admiral Hipper and Lutzow

Rheinbung ("Exercise Rhine") (1941) Germany planned German attacks on Allied shipping conducted by Bismarck and Prinz Eugen

Rösselsprung ("Knights Move") (1942) German naval operation (including Tirpitz) to attack Arctic convoy PQ 17

Roundel (1945) British convoy escort to Murmansk

Source (1943) British X class submarine (midget submarine) attacks on German warships based in Norway

Sportpalast (1942) aborted German naval operation (including Tirpitz) to attack Arctic convoys PQ-12 and QP-8

Zauberflöte ("Magic Flute") (1942) return of damaged Prinz Eugen from Trondheim to Germany

Stonewall (1943) Allied operation to intercept blockade runners in the Bay of Biscay

Teardrop (1945) anti U-boat operation

Tungsten (1944) carrier-borne air attack on Tirpitz

Tunnel (1943) standard British plan to intercept German blockade runners

Wiking (1940) foray by German destroyers into the North Sea

Wunderland (1942) German anti-shipping operation in Kara Sea by Admiral Scheer

Zarin (1942) German mining action off Novaya Zemlya by Admiral

Hipper and destroyers

Eastern Front

Mediterranean Sea

South West Pacific and Pacific Ocean

China

Manchukuo (1931-1942)

Chongqing (1938-1943)

Mission 204 (1942-1944)

Sank (1942-1944) Japanese campaign in five provinces of northeastern China to crush the Chinese resistance following the Hundred Regiments Offensive

Sei-go (1942)

Gangnam (1943)

Ichigo (1944) Japanese campaign in eastern China to secure overland routes to Indo-China and airfields

TO (1942) plan to capture US airfields at Hengyang, Lingling, Lweilin and Liuchow

Alpha (1944) improvement of the defences of Kunming against Japanese threats

Matterhorn (1944) establishment of bases for US B-29 bomber aircraft

South West, South, and South East Asia

Includes operations in Iraq, Syria, Iran, India, Burma, Malaya and Indo-China, and the Indian Ocean

Anakim (1943) proposed strategy to retake Burma and reopen the land route to China

Bajadere (1942) German special forces operation in India, including Free India Legion personnel

Balsam (1945) photographic reconnaissance of southern Malaya and airstrikes against Sumatran airfields

BAN (1943) defensive scheme for Mandalay and Meiktila

Birdseed (1944) anti-shipping raid against Ramree harbour area

Boarding Party (1943) raid against German ships interned in neutral port of Goa.

Boomerang (1944) air raid on Palembang

C (1942) major Japanese naval incursion into Indian Ocean

Canned (1944) search and destroy operation for German supply tanker

Capital (1943) Allied capture of northern Burma

Cockpit (1944) Allied naval airstrike on Sabang, Sumatra

Operation Musketeer I, II, III (1944-1945) American and Filipino campaign to defeat and expel the Imperial Japanese forces occupying the Philippines.

Collie (1945) naval airstrikes against the Nicobar Islands and air cover for minesweeping forces near Phuket Island

Corkscrew (1944) anti-shipping raid against Gwa area

Countenance (1941) Allied invasion of neutral Iran

Dover (1941) occupation of Abadan

Crackler (1941)

Marmalade (1941)

Mopup (1941)

Rapier (1941)

Bishop (1941) mopping up of Abadan Island

Crimson (1944) Allied naval airstrike and bombardment of Sabang, Sumatra

Culverin (1943) proposed allied invasion of northern Sumatra

Curtain (1944) naval bombardment of coast near Indin

Dracula (1945) British amphibious assault on Rangoon, Burma.

Bishop (1945) covering operation for Dracula

Diplomat (1944) Allied exercise in preparation for joint operations against the Japanese

Dukedom (1945) British search and destroy operation for Japanese cruiser Haguro

Exporter (1941) British and Commonwealth invasion of Vichy French-held Syria

Foil (1945) cutting of submarine telephone cables off Hong Kong

Franz (1942) proposal to establish sabotage teams in Iran

Ha-Go (1944) Japanese action to isolate and destroy Anglo-Indian forces in Burma

Jaywick (1943) Anglo-Australian  
attack on Japanese shipping in Singapore harbour

Krohcol (1942) British move into Thailand to pre-empt expected Japanese action

Lentil (1945) naval air attack on refineries on Sumatra

Livery (1945) naval air strikes on northern Malaya and air cover for minesweeping operations

Longcloth (1943) Chindits advance into Burma

Matador (1941) Planned British pre-emptive move into Siam from Malaya

Matador (1945) British occupation of Ramree Island

Meridian (1945) naval air attacks on installations on Sumatra

Pamphlet (1943) convoying of Australian troops from Suez to Australia

Pike (1940) planned air attack on Soviet oil installations at Baku

Pioneer (1944) aborted anti-shipping raid against Kyaukpyu harbour

Rathunt (1944) naval patrol of coast near Gwa

Rimau (1942) anti-shipping raid by special forces on Japanese shipping in Singapore harbour

Sabine (1941) British and Commonwealth invasion of the Kingdom of Iraq to restore government ousted by Rashid Ali; including;  
Regatta 21 Brigade advance from Basra by boat up the Tigris.

Regulta "Euphrates Brigade" (20 Indian Brigade) deployment from Basra to Kut by steamer and barge.

Sabre (1945) cutting of submarine communications cable off Saigon

Sankey (1945) landings by Royal Marines on Cheduba Island

Screwdriver (1944) combined operations raid against a Japanese headquarters at Sitaparokia Rock

Scupper (1944) anti-shipping sweep north of Gwa

Sheikh Mahmut (1943) failed attempt to establish bases in Iraq

Sleuth (1944) pursuit of German commerce raider in Indian Ocean

Struggle (1945) destruction of IJN cruiser Takao in Singapore harbour, using midget submarines

Talon (1945) Anglo-Indian capture of Akyab island and construction of supply airbase in support of Burma campaign

Lightning (1945) landings on Akyab island

Thursday (1944) Chindits operation in Burma

Transom (1944) Allied naval air raid on Surabaya, Java

Turret (1945) Anglo-Indian landings and capture of Taungup

U-Go (1944) Japanese assault on Imphal and Kohima

Zipper (1945) Planned British seaborne landing in Malaya.

Slippery (1945) deception operation for Zipper

Broadsword Planned offensive to northern Malaya following Operation Zipper.

Mailfist Planned offensive to liberate southern Malaya and Singapore following Operation Zipper.

## Scandinavia and Finland

### Axis

Birke ("Birch") (1944) German plan to withdraw from northern Finland prior to the Lapland War.

Birkhahn (1945) German evacuation from Norway.

Büffel ("Buffalo") (1940) German operation to relieve troops in Narvik, Norway.

Hokki ("Calk") (1944) Finnish plan to destroy railroad tracks to deny the Soviets their supplies.

Holzauge ("Wood knot") (1942) activities in Greenland.

Ikarus (1940) planned German invasion of Iceland in response to British Operation Fork.

Juno (1940) German naval operation to disturb allied supplies to Norway.

Kilpapurjehdus ("Regatta") (1941) Finnish naval operation for the militarization of the island islands.

Lachsfang (1942) Proposed combined German and Finnish attack against Kandalaksha and Belomorsk.

Nordlicht ("Aurora Borealis") (1944) German withdrawal from the Kola Peninsula into Norway.

Silberfuchs ("Silver Fox") (1941) German and Finnish operations in the Arctic, including:

Blaufuchs 1 ("Blue Fox 1") (1941) Staging of German forces from Germany to northern Finland.

Blaufuchs 2 ("Blue Fox 2") (1941) Staging of German forces from Norway to northern Finland.

Platinfuchs ("Platinum Fox") (1941) Joint German-Finnish attack towards Murmansk from Finnish Petsamo.

Polarfuchs ("Polar Fox") (1941) Joint German-Finnish attack towards Kandalaksha from Finnish Lapland.

Rentier ("Reindeer") (1941) German occupation of Petsamo.

Sizilien (1943) German raid upon allied occupied Spitsbergen (Svalbard).

Tanne Ost (1944) failed German attempt to capture Suursaari from Finland.

Tanne West (1944) planned German

an attempt to capture land from Finland.

Weser bung ("Weser Exercise") (1940) German invasion of Denmark and Norway.

Weser bung Nord ("Weser Exercise") (1940) German invasion of Trondheim and Narvik.

Weser bung Sud ("Weser Exercise") (1940) German invasion of Bergen, Kristiansand and Oslo.

Zitronella ("Lemon flavour") (1943) German raid against a Norwegian/British station on Svalbard.

## Allies

Alphabet (1940) evacuation of British troops from Norway

Archery (1941) British commando raid on Vågsøy, Norway

Anklet (1941) raid on German positions on Lofoten Islands, Norway

Banquet (1940) Reallocation of RAF training aircraft

Carthage (1945) RAF bombing of the Gestapo headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark

Catherine (1939) British plan to gain control of Baltic Sea

Claymore (1941) British raid on Lofoten Islands, Norway

Freshman (1942) attempted raid on a Norwegian heavy water plant at Vemork, see Gunnerside

Grouse (1942) Norwegian guide party for Freshman

## Gu

Gunnerside (1943) 2nd raid on the Norwegian heavy water plant at Vemork

Fork (1940) Invasion of Iceland by British.

Gauntlet (1941) raid on Spitsbergen

Ibrog (1945) cancelled SAS raid to destroy railway bridge near Trondheim

Halfback (1945) Naval operation that led to the action of 28 January 1945

Jupiter (1942) suggested invasion of Norway

Muskatoon (1942) British/ Norwegian destruction of a power station in Norway

Primrose (1940) Planned British landing at Ålesund, Norway

R 4 (1940) Planned British invasion of Norway

Source (1945) British response to German Operation Sizilien

The Sepals/Perianth Operation (1944) OSS supported operation in Sweden

Wilfred (1940) British plan to mine the Norwegian coast

## Other

R dda Denmark ("Save Denmark") (1945) Swedish plan to liberate Denmark before the country was occupied by the Soviet Union (cancelled because of German surrender)

R dda Sj lland (1945) Swedish landings on Zealand

R dda Bornholm (1945)

Swedish landings on Bornholm

Western Front

Technology

Axis

Caesar (1945) transfer of technical plans and strategic materials to Japan, using U-864.

Beethoven (1941 1945) German programme to develop composite aircraft (Mistel)

Pr fstand XII ("Test stand") (1945) German programme to develop submarine-launched V-2

Allies

Alsos ("Grove") (1940 1945) Allied efforts to gather data on German nuclear fission developments.

Big (1945) capture of an atomic pile at Haigerloch.

Harborage (1945) US sweep up of German atomic assets ahead of French occupation.

Epsilon (1945) Eavesdropping on incarcerated German scientists.

Aphrodite (1944) The use of B-17 bombers as radio-controlled missiles.

Backfire (1945) launches of captured V-2 rockets.

Hawkeye (1944) Radar research by US Navy.

Lusty (1945) US actions to capture German scientific documents, facilities and aircraft.

Manhattan Project (1941 1945) program to build an atomic bomb.

Most III ("Bridge III") (1944)

transfer of captured V-2 components from occupied Poland to Britain. Also known as Wildhorn III.

Paperclip (1945 ) capture of scientists, technical and German rocketry. Originally Operation Overcast sometimes called Project Paperclip.

Surgeon (1945 ) Similar to Paperclip; program to exploit German aeronautical scientific advances.

Stella Polaris (1944 ) transfer of Finnish SIGINT, equipment, and personnel to Sweden following end of the Continuation war in 1944.

TICOM ("Target Intelligence Committee") (1945 ) seizure of intelligence apparatus, in particular cryptographic assets.

See also Stella Polaris.



## Special Operations Executive

Operation Jedburgh (1944) SOE, OSS, and Free French-Belgian-Dutch exiles parachuted into France, the Netherlands and Belgium to perform guerrilla warfare.

## Partisan operations

Includes some operations by regular forces in support of partisans

Anthropoid (1942) assassination of Reinhard Heydrich in Prague.

Burza ("Tempest") (1944) a series

of local uprisings by the Polish Home Army

Ostra Brama (1944) battle for Wilno (Vilnius)

Canuck (1945) SAS operation near Turin to train and organise Italian resistance fighters.

Carpetbagger (1943) US airdrops to several national Resistance forces

Gwizda ("Heads") (1943-1944) a series of assassinations of Nazi personnel by the Home Army

Borki (1943) assassination of Franz Bork

Hunting (1944) assassination of Ludwig Fischer

Kutschera (1944) assassination of Franz Kutschera

Montagnards (1944) FFI action to establish base in Vercors Massif

Cadillac (1944) airborne supply operation to FFI in Vercors Massif

Eucalyptus (1944) airdrop into Vercors Massif of liaison teams

Zebra (1944) airborne supply operation to FFI in Vercors Massif

Josephine B (1941) Free French attack the transformer station at Pessac

Savannah (1941) Free French attempt to ambush and kill Luftwaffe pathfinder pilots in France

Tamara ("Belt") (1943-1944) action of the Home Army

against German border guarding stations

Wieniec ("Garland") (1942) action of the Polish Zwyzek Odwetu against German railway transport

Zamojski Uprising (1942-1944) series of operations of the Polish resistance against the Germans

## Anti-partisan operations

### Intelligence

#### Axis

Bernhard (1944) German plan to damage British economy using forged British banknotes.

Elster ("Magpie") (1944) landings of German agents on the US east coast with objective of gathering intelligence on

## Manhattan Project

Haudegen ("Broadsword") (1944) German intelligence collection in Spitzbergen, Norway

Hummer ("Lobster") series (1940 onwards) insertion of German agents into Britain. See also Hummer I

Kadella (1945) airdrop of agents near Marseilles

Plan Kathleen (1941) plan sent by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) to Germany seeking support for activities. Dubbed "Artus" by German Foreign Ministry. See IRA Abwehr World War II for all IRA Abwehr involvement.

Karneval (1945) airdrop of agents

near Brussels and Waal

Mosul (1944) air drop of agents and supplies near Mosul

Pastorius (1942) separate landings of German agents on the US east coast with objective of industrial sabotage.

Perlen-fischer (1945) airdrop of agents near Paris

Salaam (1942) insertion of German agents into the British-occupied Kingdom of Egypt

Seem we ("Seagull") series (1940 onwards) insertion of German agents into Britain and Ireland. See also Seagull I and Seagull II.

Taube ("Dove/Pigeon") (1940) mission to transport IRA Chief of Staff Seán Russell from Germany back to Ireland.

Wal ("Whale") (1940) aborted German plan to foster links with Scottish and Welsh nationalist groups.

Walfisch ("Whale") (1940) aborted German plan to land an agent in Ireland.

## Allies

Cornflakes (1945) insertion of propaganda into the German mail system.

SIGSALY (1943 1945) secure speech system for highest-level Allied communications.

MAGIC (1939 ) SIGINT resulting from Japanese cipher system PU

RPLE.

Ruthless (1940) Admiralty plan of Ian Fleming to capture an Enigma encryption machine.

Venona (1940 ) intelligence sharing resulting from spying on Soviets.

Ultra SIGINT resulting from German cipher system Enigma.

Cardinal (1945) OSS team parachuted into Japanese Manchukuo to rescue Allied POWs including General Wainwright

## Uncategorized

Alpenfestung plan for Nazi national Redoubt in Alps.

Werwolf (1945 50) guerrilla force to resist occupation by Allies.

Big Bang (1947) demolition of defences of Heligoland

Bracelet (1942) Churchill's flight to Cairo and Moscow.

Catapult (1940) Royal Navy actions to seize, disable or destroy the French fleet after France's surrender.

Downfall (1945) Proposed Allied plan for the invasion of Japan.

Operation Sunrise (1945) negotiations leading to German surrender in Italy.

Eiche ("Oak") (1943) German rescue from custody of Benito Mussolini

Frantic (1943) The use of Soviet airfields by western Allied bombers

.

Feuerzauber ("Fire Magic") (1936-39) Transfer of planes, engineers, and pilots to nationalist forces during Spanish Civil War.

R gen (1937) Bombing of Guernica.

Bodden (1937-43) Abwehr intelligence gathering system operating from Spain and Morocco.

Ursula (1936-1939) Kriegsmarine U-boat operations in support of Francoist and Italian navies.

Gaff (1944) attempt to kill Erwin Rommel

Halyard (1944) Non-combat Allied airlift behind Axis lines in Yugoslavia

Jericho (1944) Allied aircraft bombed Amiens prison in German-occupied France to aid Resistance prison escape

Keelhaul (1945) forced repatriation to the Soviet Union, by the western Allies, of Soviet prisoners of war

Magic Carpet (1945-1946) American post-war operation to transport US military personnel home

Manna (1945) Allied air drops of food to famine-ravaged Netherlands, with German cooperation

Margarethe (1944) German occupation of Hungary. D me Szt jay, an avid supporter of the Nazis, became the new Hungarian Prime Minister with the aid of a Nazi military governor.

Panzerfaust/Eisenfaust ("Armored Fist") (1944) Kidnap of Hungarian leader Mikl s Horthy's son to prevent defection of Hungary from Axis.

Peking (1939) removal of Polish warships to Britain, in advance of German invasion

Pied Piper (1939) evacuation of children from British cities.

Rabat (1943) Plan to kidnap the Pope and diplomatic corp. from Vatican City.

Regenbogen ("Rainbow") (1945) rescinded order to scuttle Kriegsmarine.

R sselsprung ("Knights Move") (1944) German attempt to capture Josip Broz Tito

Safehaven (1944) allied efforts to capture fleeing Nazis and seize German resources abroad

Symbol (1943) Churchill's flight to Casablanca.

Tabarin (1943) British Antarctic expedition.

Tannenbaum

Operation Walk re ("Valkyrie") (1944) Plan to deal with general breakdown of civil order within Germany following the death of Hitler and the seizure of power by other Nazi officials or the SS; a co

ver for clandestine action by the German resistance.

Worek ("Sack") (1939) Polish naval defence of the Polish coast

Rainbow War Plans (1920s 30s) Global US War planning between the World Wars.

Propaganda, war crimes, and genocide

Himmler (1939) A false flag SS and SD operation. Attacks were made against German buildings, near the Polish-German border, to create the appearance of Polish aggression against Germany. This was to then be used as propaganda to justify the German invasion of Poland.

Reinhard (1943) Phase I of the "Final Solution" targeting Jews across Europe.

Tannenberg (1939) plan to exterminate Polish intelligentsia involving Einsatzgruppen.

Sonderaktion Krakau (1939) Operation to murder members of the intelligentsia at universities in Krak w.

Generalplan Ost (1942) plan for ethnic cleansing across Europe. See Also Barbarossa.

References

External links

WW2DB: List of Axis Operations

WW2DB: List of Allied Operations

Operations lists (contains inaccuracies)

hier auch erscheinen.