

= Operation Royal Flush =

Operation Royal Flush was a military deception employed by the Allied Nations during the Second World War as part of the strategic deception Operation Bodyguard . Royal Flush was a political deception which expanded on the efforts of another Bodyguard deception , Operation Graffham , by emphasising the threat to Norway . It also lent support to parts of Operation Zeppelin via subtle diplomatic overtures to Spain and Turkey . The idea was that information from these neutral countries would filter back to the Abwehr ( German Intelligence ) . Planned in April 1944 by Ronald Wingate , Royal Flush was executed throughout June by various Allied ambassadors to the neutral states . During implementation the plan was revised several times to be less extreme in its diplomatic demands . Information from neutral embassies was not well trusted by the Abwehr ; as a result , Royal Flush had limited impact on German plans through 1944 .

= = Background = =

Operation Royal Flush formed part of Operation Bodyguard , a broad strategic military deception intended to confuse the Axis high command as to Allied intentions during the lead @-@ up to the Normandy landings . Royal Flush developed a series of political misdirections in mid @-@ 1944 to support other deceptions between June and July . It evolved from Operation Graffham , a political deception aimed at Sweden between February and March 1944 .

Graffham was suggested and planned by the London Controlling Section ( LCS ) with the aim of convincing the Swedish government that the Allies intended to invade Norway , in support of Operation Fortitude North . During the war Sweden maintained a neutral position , and had relations with both Axis and the Allied nations . It was therefore assumed that if Sweden believed in an imminent threat to Norway this would be passed on to German intelligence . Graffham was envisioned as an extension of existing pressure the Allies were placing on Sweden to end their neutral stance . By increasing this pressure the head of the LCS , Colonel John Bevan , hoped to further convince the Germans that Sweden was preparing to join the Allied nations .

Royal Flush was also intended to support Operation Zeppelin , the 1944 overall deception plan for the Middle Eastern theatre . Zeppelin developed threats against Greece and Southern France between February and July . Its intention was to tie up German defensive forces in the region during the period of D @-@ Day .

= = Operation = =

Royal Flush was planned in April 1944 by Ronald Wingate , deputy controller of the LCS . His theory was based on the idea that the Allied nations might rely on forms of help from neutral countries following any invasions . Having seen the implementation of Operation Graffham , and with the deceptions aimed at Scandinavia and the Mediterranean , he chose Sweden , Turkey and Spain as the targets . For Sweden this was the continuation of Graffham , with demands from the US , UK and Russia that the Germans be denied access to the country following an Allied invasion of Norway . In the case of Turkey this was built on existing pressure , applied from the outset of the war , to join the Allied nations .

In Turkey the plan called for diplomatic pressure on 8 June 1944 , following the Normandy Landings , to allow the Allied forces access to Turkey for the purposes of staging an invasion of Greece ( in support of the story of Zeppelin ) . At the same time the Russians would make a similar request of Bulgaria . However , it was agreed that this risked a pre @-@ emptive invasion of Turkey by German forces . Instead , the Allies took advantage of German warships being permitted , in June , access to Turkish territorial waters to transit to the Aegean Sea . A complaint to the Turkish government emphasised the Allies ' interest in the Balkans and that they did not wish to see the Germans reinforcing the region .

On 3 June , Spain was approached by the US ambassador with a request to use Spanish ports for evacuating the wounded , following landings in southern France . Originally the plan had been to

request access for the purposes of staging the initial invasion . However , this was toned down in light of historical resistance to any foreign occupation of Spanish soil as well as the implausibility of invading France via the Pyrenees . On 5 June the British ambassador reinforced the request , and after some discussion the Spanish government agreed but only after an invasion had occurred , and under the supervision of the Red Cross . To emphasise the change in objective , the Allies followed this up with Operation Ferdinand which threatened an invasion in Italy .

= = Impact = =

Information from neutral countries , such as those targeted by Royal Flush , had limited impact on German plans . In July 1944 a report by the Abwehr identified these countries as " outspoken deception centres " . To make matters worse for the Allies , these political deceptions were not as tightly controlled as the double agents , and so as an overall information channel they could be confusing and disjointed .

The complaint to Turkey had a desired effect locally , with an apology from the country 's government and a commitment to breaking diplomatic ties to Germany if required . However , it failed to elicit a response from Germany . The Allies ' request to the Spanish government was relayed to the Germans , but identified almost immediately as deception and misdirection .