

MED & N.AFRICA: WHERE WILL THE ALLIES INVADE?

The key question:

Where are the Allies going to invade in 1943?

Major Martin of the Royal Marines

Catalogue ref: WO 214/19



This is a photograph of the body of Major Martin of the Royal Marines. His body was washed ashore on the coast of Spain in April 1943. Major Martin was carrying important documents about Allied plans to invade German held Europe in 1943. The Germans did not know where the Allies would invade but the documents Major Martin was carrying appeared to give them vital information.

MED & N.AFRICA: WHERE WILL THE ALLIES INVADE?**Your task**

You work for the German intelligence services. What conclusions do you draw from the evidence in the sources about the allied invasion in 1943?

Use the report to record your conclusions.

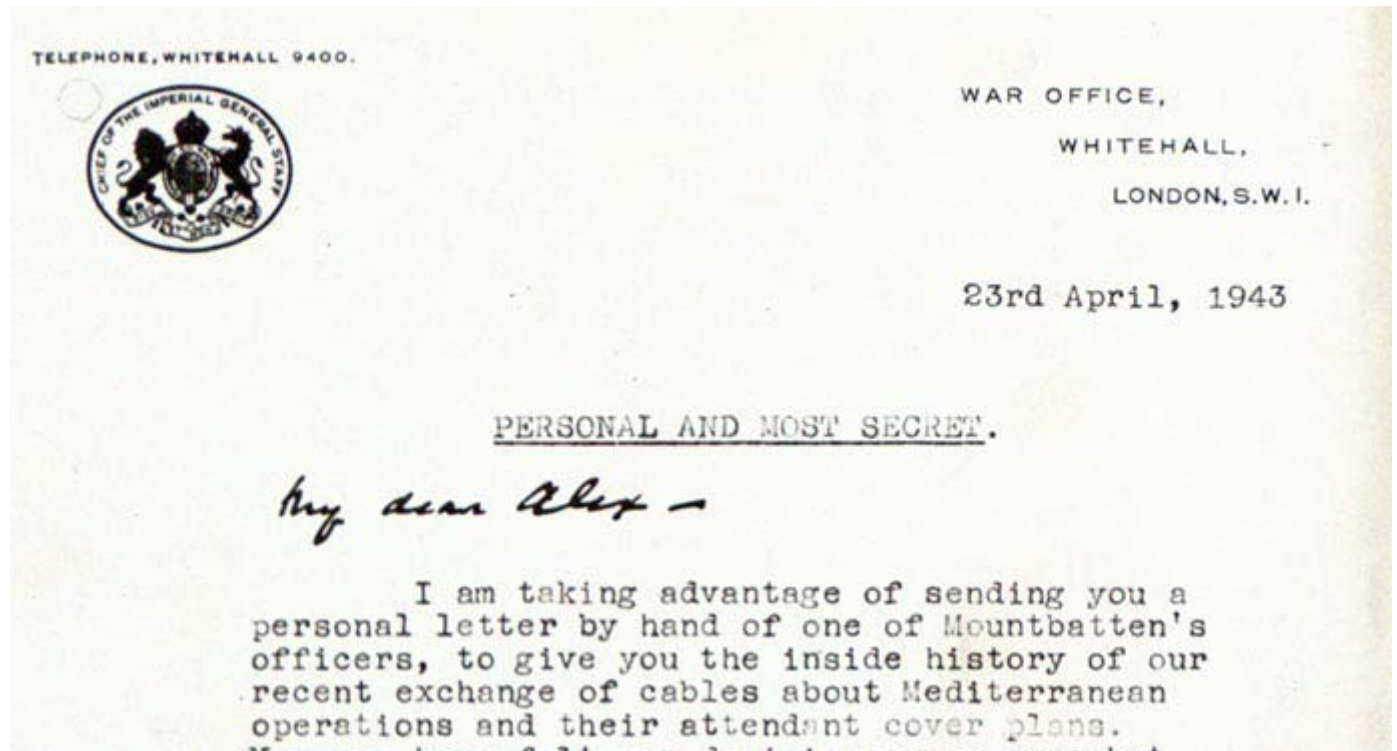
When your report is done, unlock the safe to find out more about these events. You must answer three questions based on the sources in the box to open the safe..

MED & N.AFRICA: WHERE WILL THE ALLIES INVADE?

Letter from General Sir Archibald Nye to General Sir Harold Alexander April 1943.

Catalogue ref: WO106/5921

Source a



MED & N.AFRICA: WHERE WILL THE ALLIES INVADE?

Source b

We have had recent information that the Bosche have been reinforcing and strengthening their defences in Greece and Crete and C.I.G.S. felt that our forces for the assault were insufficient. It was agreed by the Chiefs of Staff that the 5th Division should be reinforced by one Brigade Group for the assault on the beach south of CAPE ARAXOS and that a similar reinforcement should be made for the 56th Division at KALAMATA. We are earmarking the necessary forces and shipping.

Jumbo Wilson had proposed to select SICILY as cover target for "HUSKY"; but we have already chosen it as cover for operations "BRIMSTONE". The

Source c

C.O.S. Committee went into the whole question exhaustively again and came to the conclusion that in view of the preparations in Algeria, the amphibious training which will be taking place on the Tunisian coast and the heavy air bombardment which will be put down to neutralise the Sicilian airfields, we should stick to our plan of making it cover for "BRIMSTONE" - indeed we stand a very good chance of making him think we will go for Sicily - it is an obvious objective and one about which he must be nervous. On the other hand, they felt there wasn't much hope of persuading the Bosche that the extensive preparations in the Eastern Mediterranean were also directed at SICILY. For this reason they have told Wilson his cover plan should be something nearer the spot, e.g. the Dodecanese. Since our relations with Turkey are now so obviously closer the Italians must be pretty apprehensive about these islands.

I imagine you will agree with these arguments.
I know you will have some...

MED & N.AFRICA: WHERE WILL THE ALLIES INVADE?**What would German intelligence have known at the time?**

They would have known that Sir Archibald Nye was a senior British general trusted by Churchill.

They would have known that General Alexander was commander of British forces in the eastern half of the Mediterranean.

They would have known that "Jumbo" was Sir Henry Wilson. He was commander of British forces in the western half of the Mediterranean. He was based in North Africa.

They knew Operation Husky was the Allied invasion of southern Europe but they did not know where it was going to be.

They had never heard of Operation Brimstone before.

What would they have learnt from this document?

1. Is this an important document?
2. What have the British found out about what the Germans were doing in Greece and Crete?
3. What has this encouraged the British to do?
4. Does it look as though the Allies are going to invade Sicily?
5. Are they attacking anywhere else?
6. What has Field Marshal Wilson been told to do?

Use the table to record your conclusions.

MED & N.AFRICA: WHERE WILL THE ALLIES INVADE?

Letter from Lord Louis Mountbatten to Admiral Cunningham April 1943.

Catalogue ref: WO106/5921

Dear Admiral of the Fleet,

I promised V.C.I.G.S. that Major Martin would arrange with you for the onward transmission of a letter he has with him for General Alexander. It is very urgent and very "hot" and as there are some remarks in it that could not be seen by others in the War Office, it could not go by signal. I feel sure that you will see that it goes on safely and without delay.

I think you will find Martin the man you want. He is quiet and shy at first, but he really knows his stuff. He was more accurate than some of us about the probable run of events at Dieppe and he has been well in on the experiments with the latest berges and equipment which took place up in Scotland.

Let me have him back, please, as soon as the assault is over. He might bring some sardines with him - they are "on points" here!

Yours sincerely

Louis Mountbatten

MED & N.AFRICA: WHERE WILL THE ALLIES INVADE?**What would German intelligence have known at the time?**

1. They would have known who Lord Louis Mountbatten was a senior British naval commander and a relative of the royal family.
2. They would have known that Admiral Cunningham was commander of British naval forces in the Mediterranean.
3. They would have known about Dieppe. This was a raid on the French port of Dieppe in August 1942 involving 6000 troops and tanks landing on the French coast from specially built invasion barges.
4. They would have known that 'on points' means that an item is rationed.

What would they have learnt from this document?

1. Why was Major Martin flying over the Mediterranean?
2. Does this letter explain why the letter written by General Sir Archibald Nye to General Alexander (in the box of sources) was carried by hand and not sent by signal?
3. Does the last paragraph provide any clues about the Allied plans?

Use the table to record your conclusions.

MED & N.AFRICA: WHERE WILL THE ALLIES INVADE?

Identity papers of Major Martin.

Catalogue ref: WO 106/5921

Page 2. *Issued in lieu of N° 09650 lost.* Page 3. Navy Form G.1511

**NAVAL
IDENTITY CARD No. 148228**

Surname **MARTIN**

Other Names **WILLIAM**

Rank (at time of issue) **CAPTAIN, R.M.
(ACTING MAJOR)**

Ship (at time of issue) **H Q
COMBINED OPERATIONS**


Place of Birth **CARDIFF**

Year of Birth **1907**

Issued by *A. C. Jones*

At **ADMIRALTY**

Date **2nd February 1943.**



Signature of Bearer
W. Martin

Visible distinguishing marks
NIL.

What would German intelligence have known at the time?

1. They would have known what British identity papers looked like.
2. They would have known it was common to lose a pass and get it replaced.
3. They would have known that the Combined Operations department was where important politicians, officials and military commanders planned the war effort.
4. They would have seen the dead body of Major Martin (you can see a picture of the dead man at the opening this task).
5. They would have seen the post mortem report that said that he drowned.

MED & N.AFRICA: WHERE WILL THE ALLIES INVADE?

What would they have learnt from this document?

1. Does this seem to be a genuine document?
2. Does the photograph on this I.D. card match the picture of the dead man (you can see this at the opening this task)?
3. What conclusions do you think the Germans reached after studying this document?

Use the table to record your conclusions.

MED & N.AFRICA: WHERE WILL THE ALLIES INVADE?

Personal letter found on Major Martin when his body was washed ashore in April 1943.

Catalogue ref: WO 106/5921

Source a

Office.
Wednesday 21st

The Bloodhound has left his kennel
for half an hour so here I am
scribbling nonsense to you again.
Your letter came this morning
just as I was dressing out - madly
lets as usual! you do write such
horribly ones. But what are these
horrible dark hints you're throwing
out about being sent off somewhere -
of course I won't say a word to
anyone - I won't do when you tell
me things but it's not clear
is it? Because I won't have it
I won't tell them so from me.
Darling, why did we go & meet in
the middle of a war, such a silly

MED & N.AFRICA: WHERE WILL THE ALLIES INVADE?

Source b

Thing for anybody to do - If it
 wasn't for the war we might have
 been nearly married by now, going
 round together choosing curtains etc.
 And I wouldn't be sitting in a damn
 government office typing idiotic
 minutes all day long - I know the
 future sort of work I do doesn't make
 the war our minds shorter -

 Dearest Bill, I'm so thrilled
 with my ring - scandalously
 extravagant - you know how I
 adore diamonds - I simply can't
 stop looking at it.

 I'm going to be rather merry
 dance to night with Jack & Hazel,
 I think they've got some other men
 coming. You know what this

MED & N.AFRICA: WHERE WILL THE ALLIES INVADE?

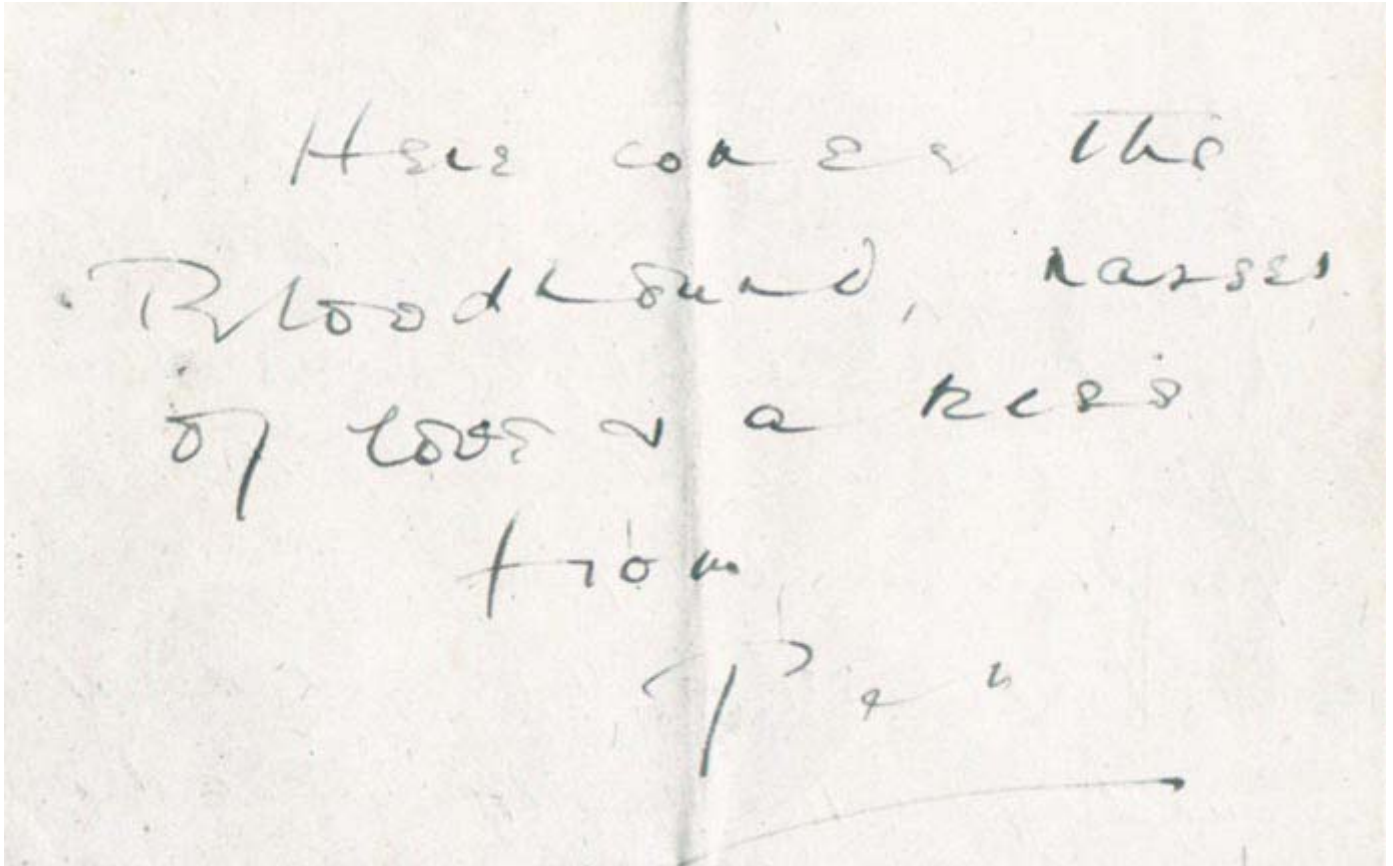
Source c

friends always turn out to be like,
 as if I have the sweetest little
 Adam's apple & the shiniest bald
 head! How beautifully & magnificent
 of me, but it isn't really that -
 you know - don't you?

 Look darling, I've got next
 Sunday & Monday off for Easter.
 I shall go home for it of course,
do come too if you possibly can,
 or even if you can't get away from
 London I'll dash up & we'll
 have an evening of spitzly - (By
 the way Aunt Maria said to
 bring you to dinner next time
 I was up, but I think that
 right dear?)

MED & N.AFRICA: WHERE WILL THE ALLIES INVADE?

Source d



What would German intelligence have known at the time?

1. They would not have known who the woman was, but they probably would have guessed.
2. They would have been able to understand the letter. The Bloodhound mentioned in the woman's letter is her boss.
3. They would have been shown copies of the post mortem on Major Martin that showed that he drowned (see opening of task).

Use the table to record your conclusions.

MED & N.AFRICA: WHERE WILL THE ALLIES INVADE?

Photograph found on Major Martin when his body was washed ashore in April 1943.

Catalogue ref: WO 106/5921



What would German intelligence have known at the time?

1. They would not have known who the woman was, but they probably would have guessed.
2. They would have been shown copies of the post mortem on Major Martin that showed that he drowned (see opening of task).

What conclusion do you think they reached after studying this photograph?

Use the table to record your conclusions.

MED & N.AFRICA: WHERE WILL THE ALLIES INVADE?

Possessions found on Major Martin when his body was washed ashore in April 1943.

Catalogue ref: WO 106/5921



What would German intelligence have known at the time?

1. They would have been able to check if these items were genuine.
2. They would have been shown copies of the post mortem on Major Martin that showed that he drowned (see opening of task).

What conclusion do you think they reached after studying this photograph?

Use the table to record your conclusions.

MED & N.AFRICA: WHERE WILL THE ALLIES INVADE?

A photograph of Major Martin's gravestone in Spain

Catalogue ref: WO 106/5921



What would German intelligence have known at the time?

1. They would have known that British soldiers killed in action are usually buried near the place that they fell.

MED & N.AFRICA: WHERE WILL THE ALLIES INVADE?

2. They would have watched British officials at the funeral service and visiting his grave to lay flowers.
3. They would have seen Major Martin's death and a sympathy notice listed in The Times newspaper a few weeks later. They looked out for this sort of thing.

What would they have learnt from this gravestone?

Use the table to record your conclusions.

MED & N.AFRICA: WHERE WILL THE ALLIES INVADE?

Where will the Allies invade?

Evidence [List here]	This evidence is/not reliable because
<p>The allies intend to attack..</p> <p>I think this because...</p>	