

lays down the policy to be adopted for the defence of Cyprus against attack by airborne and seaborne forces.

2. *Appreciation.*—In order to launch a large scale attack on Cyprus by airborne and seaborne forces, it is necessary for the enemy to be established in Southern Anatolia. Without this he cannot give fighter cover to his troop-carrying aircraft or sea convoys, nor can he give them air support for their landings and subsequent operations. The possibility of an attack will become apparent when the enemy begins an advance into Anatolia.

3. The probable scales of attack are given in Appendix A.*

While the enemy is not established in Southern Anatolia only small scale raids by parachutists or landing parties are to be expected.

4. *Object.*—My object is to secure Cyprus so as to ensure the use of air bases on the island for ourselves and to deny them to the enemy.

5. *Forces available.*—The forces available for the defence of Cyprus against the scales of attack given in Appendix A are detailed in Appendix B.* They will be known as the "Approved Garrison."

6. *Intention.*—Should an attack on Cyprus develop, my intention is that the garrison shall meet the enemy with a mobile and aggressive defence based on secure keeps and prepared positions astride the main lines of approach inland from the coast.

Method—

7. *Command.*—You will take command of all troops in Cyprus and become Commander 25 Corps. The present Commander 25 Corps and staff will remain in Cyprus at your disposal and his functions will be decided as a result of recommendations to be made by you as soon as possible after receipt of this Instruction. You will submit your recommendations to G.H.Q. for approval, including any possible reduction or adjustment of his staff.

8. Your task is to revise and adjust the defence scheme of the island according to the principles laid down in succeeding paragraphs. In making this plan every consideration will be given to the present layout of R.A.F. and administrative installations. The plan will be submitted to G.H.Q., M.E.F. for approval, and when approved will not be altered without reference to G.H.Q.

9. The highest possible proportion of the "Approved Garrison" must be made available for mobile operations against enemy landings. Mobile columns must, however, be based on secure keeps, which must be held by nucleus garrisons until the tactical situation requires their reinforcement up to the full garrison for which they are designed.

10. The security of aerodromes is important both to ensure their use by our own air forces and to deny them to the enemy. It is not possible to provide from the resources available sufficient troops for adequate protection of all aerodromes now in existence, but in the siting of defended keeps and mobile reserves due consideration will be given to the security of R.A.F. landing grounds. Any landing grounds which are not required by the R.A.F. will be demolished now. Any which are essential to

the R.A.F. for operating seawards will be thoroughly mined and kept ready for destruction at shortest notice.

11. The A.M.E.S. stations in Cyprus must be kept in action to enable our air forces to operate with maximum efficiency. They must, therefore, be protected against damage by saboteurs, raiding parties from the sea, and parachutists. Their siting and protection will be reviewed in consultation with the R.A.F.

12. The siting of dumps and installations in places near the coast to which access from the sea is easy will be avoided unless they are given adequate protection, and their location will be planned to take advantage of the protection afforded by the general layout of the defences of the island.

13. The use of underwater obstacles at beaches favourable for enemy landings will be examined in consultation with the naval authorities, and they will be installed where useful and practicable.

14. *Administration.*—Ammunition and supplies for the "Approved Garrison" for 90 days will be held in the island.

15. Equipment and transport for any units of the "Approved Garrison" which are not yet in Cyprus will be kept in good condition and ready for issue at three days' notice.

16. The garrison will be made up to the approved strength as soon as possible. In order to ensure that incoming units will be ready for operations without delay, you will submit to G.H.Q., M.E.F. on the first of each month a statement in terms of the "Approved Garrison", showing units strengths, unit equipment, units transport, reserves of ammunition, reserves of supplies and petrol (in days), ordnance reserves, medical reserves.

Deficiencies will be made good as soon as possible.

17. *Evacuation.*—Should the strategic situation require the evacuation of Cyprus, the existing plan for complete evacuation will be put into effect. It is not my intention to attempt evacuation once battle has been joined in the island.

T. W. Corbett, Lieutenant-General,
for C.-in-C., M.E.F.

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G.H.Q., M.E.F., Operation Instruction
No. 134.

22nd July, 1942.

(This Operation Instruction cancels Operation Instructions 123, 129 and 133.)

Introduction.—This Operation Instruction is designed to cover the improbable case where the enemy is strong enough to launch a large scale offensive against Eighth Army before the latter can itself resume the offensive.

2. *Information.*—Our positions at El Alamein are being rapidly strengthened with a view to giving battle in this area should the enemy take the offensive.

3. Defensive positions are being prepared in the Burg el Arab and Wadi Natrun areas and are being prepared and improved on the general line western edge of the Delta from inclusive Alexandria to inclusive Cairo Bridge-head.

* Not reproduced.