

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.