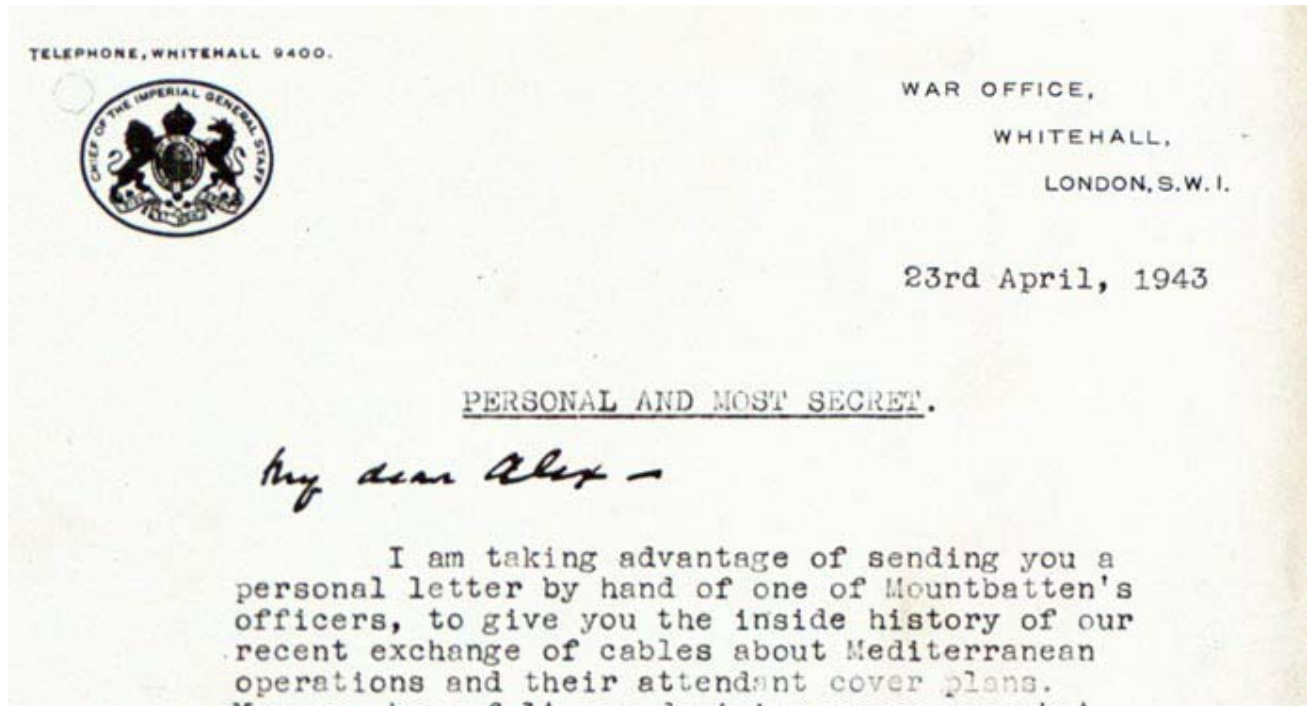


MED & N.AFRICA: WHERE WILL THE ALLIES INVADE?

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.