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READERS

# D-DAY LANDINGS

THE STORY OF THE ALLIED INVASION



RICHARD PLATT

## A hard life

Life in 1930s

Germany was not easy.

Germany had to pay for the damage from World War I. The people suffered as they did not have enough money to buy things. They even had to line up to get handouts of free food.

# The world fights

At dawn on September 1, 1939, German tanks rumbled through the mist into Poland. Their invasion started World War II, which killed millions in land, sea, and air battles.

Germany's leader, Adolf Hitler, led his country into war to win back power, wealth, and land. Twenty years earlier, Germany had lost all of these after being defeated

in World War I.

The German people were poor and angry.



Top secret Intelligence documents revealing the location of the D-day landings were marked with the code name "Bigot." Only people with security clearance were shown these documents.

*An example of a "Bigot" document providing details about the layout of the German's coastal fortifications.*

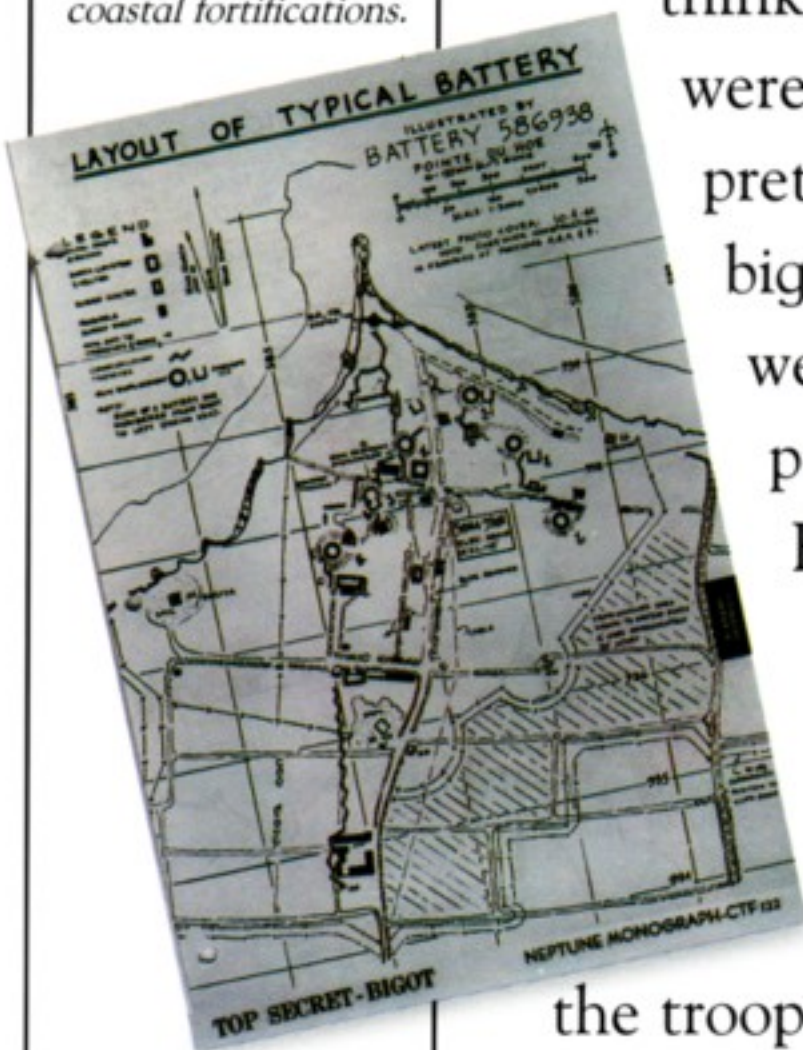
## The fake invasion

Operation Overlord was a dangerous gamble. If Axis generals found out about the plan they would rush tanks to Normandy. With extra troops and guns there, they could stop the invasion.

To avoid a D-day disaster, the Allies decided to deceive Hitler with a plan they called "Operation Fortitude." They wanted him to think the Normandy landings were just a rehearsal. They pretended that a much bigger raid would come six weeks later at Calais—the point where France and England are closest.

The real plan had to be top secret, so people were kept away from the British coast where

the troops were training, and the troops could not leave their camps.

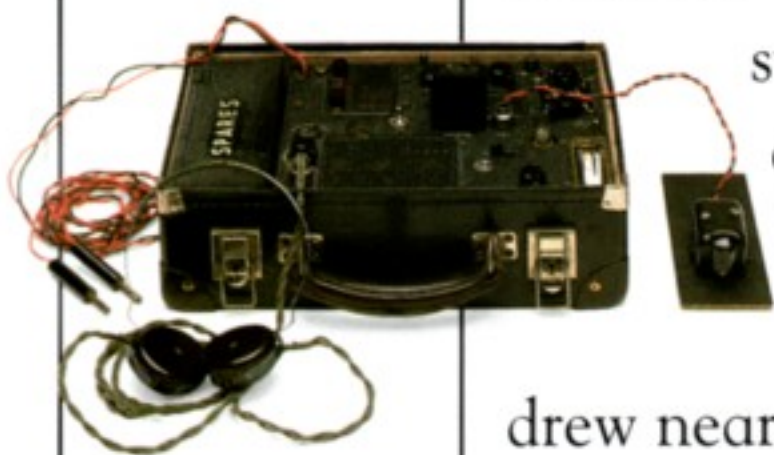


### **Tuning in**

During the war, national radio was used to broadcast coded messages, such as those hidden within poems.

### **Radio receiver**

Radios used by spies had to be made small enough to fit inside everyday objects, such as suitcases.



### **What is radar?**

Radar works by picking up signals sent out from huge radio masts. The signals bounce off aircraft and ships, revealing their positions.

The smartest part of Operation Fortitude was to let the Germans find out for themselves about the invasion so they would think it was real. Captured German spies were forced to report made-up rumors about the attack to their authorities.

Radio signals also spread false news. U.S. radio operators broadcasted from 22 dummy radio stations. They knew the Germans were listening and

swapped bogus messages about training for a Calais invasion.

As the real invasion drew near, the Allies anxiously watched their enemies on the French coast, using radar to check the Axis location. To their relief, German commanders believed the spies' fake reports and the dummy army. They kept their troops around Calais and in nearby Holland.

Witness the Allied forces storm the beaches at Normandy and see them march to victory.



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