

In Operation Bodyguard deception and misdirection were important because the real invasion to end World War II was being planned in Normandy, France. The real invasion was called D-Day. D-Day was on June 6, 1944. There are 10,944 Americans who fought in D-Day and other battles buried or memorialized at the Normandy American Military Cemetery in France. This shows how brave the Allied soldiers were during World War II. Operation Bodyguard helped D-Day happen.

In World War II there were two main groups fighting, the Allied forces and the Axis forces. President Franklin D. Roosevelt oversaw the United States, Prime Minister Winston Churchill oversaw Great Britain and Joseph Stalin oversaw the Soviet Union. The Allied leaders were called and known as 'the big three'. The Axis countries were Germany with Adolf Hitler in charge, Italy with Benito Mussolini in charge and Prime Minister Hideki Tojo from Japan.

The innovative technologies and communications strategies in Operation Bodyguard were created and used by the Allies during WWII. Some of the deception was misdirection. The Allies would need to make the Germans think that they were going to attack in different places. In Operation Bodyguard the Allies used visible, sonic, and radio deception and misdirection.

Camouflage and decoys were some of the visual deceptions that the Allies used. They put camouflage over bombs so that the Germans would not spot the real invasion area. The Allies used inflatable tanks and jeeps as decoys to make the Germans think they would attack somewhere else. The Allies also used skilled artists to paint on canvases to fool the Germans so that they thought that the Allies had more weapons. The Germans used cameras on their planes to spy on the Allies. The Allies let the Germans fly over the decoys and take pictures. The Allies

also used bulldozers to make tank tracks to make the tanks look real. This is how visual deception was used.

Sonic deception was also used to fool Hitler. The Allies recorded tanks coming up and down hills and men shouting commands. They also recorded the sounds of soldiers building a bridge because a bridge is something the Allies would need to move tanks across rivers and lakes. The Allies used really big speakers to play the tank sounds to make the tanks and other equipment seem real. This is how sonic deception was important in Operation Bodyguard.

The Allies also used radio deception to fool Hitler by writing scripts. The scripts were written messages saying the Allies were going to attack in a different location away from the actual invasion spot. The hope was the message would be intercepted by the Germans. The Allies were spreading fake information. Radio deception and misdirection was one way Hitler was informed about the Allies plans.

The Allies wanted to try to make the Germans think they were stronger than they really were. This was to trick the Germans to send their army someplace else. Operation Fortitude North and Operation Fortitude South were both parts of Operation Bodyguard. The countries that were involved were Great Britain and the United States.

Operation Fortitude North was to make Hitler think that the invasion would happen in Norway. The Allies used a fake army called the British Fourth Army. The Allies also used fake military equipment like fake Bomber aircrafts. They also sent fake messages by radio from Scotland that an invasion would be in Norway.

Operation Fortitude South made the Germans go further north to Pas de Calais. Hitler knew there would be an invasion on the coast of France. The fake army drove around in vehicles and read false radio messages acting like there was going to be an invasion in Pas de Calais.

The Allies also used spies and tricks to fool Hitler. One group of spies were double agents. A double agent was a spy who was spying on one country then got captured and ended up working for the Allies. The double agents acted like they were still spying for Germany but were telling lies to Hitler. There was also a British Spy group called M15 and the United States Office of Strategic Services (OSS). These groups spread false information and gathered intelligence.

The lessons from Operation Bodyguard are important and useful for us today. Deception and misdirection are important in war because you can trick your enemy into thinking you are stronger than you really are. You can also mislead your enemy to move their troops away from your actual attack area. If you trick your enemy, you have power over them. That is why this lesson is important to us today.

The difference that Operation Bodyguard made to my life is if the Americans did not use deception and misdirection we would probably be under the control of Germany. The German leader in World War II was Adolf Hitler and he wanted to get revenge on the Allies from World War I. After World War I the United States, Great Britain and France made Germany reduce their land and decrease their army. Hitler wanted to take over the democracies in Europe and get rid of Jewish people. It is never okay to hurt people because of what they believe. Operation Bodyguard helped D-Day happen.

Source Material

“ABMF 2024 Past Is Prologue Essay Contest.” *ABMF*, abmf.org/past-is-prologue-essay-contest/.

Accessed 15 Mar. 2024.

Atkinson, Rick, et al. *D-Day / Adapted from the Guns at Last Light*. Henry Holt and Company, 2014.

Burgan, M. (2013). *World War II spies: An Interactive History Adventure*. Capstone.

Demuth, Patricia. *What Was D-Day?* Turtleback Books, 2015.

Demuth, Patricia. *What Was Pearl Harbor?* Paw Prints, 2013.

Dk. (2017). *DK Children's Encyclopedia: The Book that Explains Everything*. National Geographic Books.

Doeden, Matt. *At Battle in World War II*. Capstone Press, a Capstone Imprint, 2015.

Eisenhower Foundation. (2013, June 5). *How did the allies keep D-Day a secret?* [Video].

YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqIACSKI4sI>

History: Exploration to Espionage. (n.d.). In *Smithsonian*. Andrew Macintyre.

Lusted, M. (2014). *D-Day: The Normandy Invasion*. ABDO.

Malam, J., & Salariya, D. (2010). *You Would Not Want to be a Secret Agent During World War II*.

Samuels, Charlie. *Timeline of World War II*. Gareth Stevens Pub., 2012.

The Ghost Army. Directed By Rick Beyer. PBS. 2013.