### DECEPTION



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To deceive Germany about the actual "Overlord" plans for the Normandy Invasion, Allied planners created a subterfuge known as "Operation Bodyguard." It included various landing points, which were given suboperation names (such as "Fortitude North"), to attack German-occupied territory. This map image shows those bogus landing points. Map image by "Errant X." Online via Wikimedia Commons. License: CC BY-SA 3.0.

As they put together "Operation Overlord," the Allies released false information about their real objectives. They hoped the Germans would believe the deception set forth in "Plan BODYGUARD."

Eisenhower and <u>his generals</u> also hoped to <u>divert enemy attention</u> from Normandy to the Pas De Calais <u>area</u>. If Hitler's forces believed the main assault would take place <u>there</u>, near the city <u>closest</u> to Britain, fewer German soldiers would be in place to defend the real landing spots.

The deception worked. Members of the Fuhrer's high command were so afraid to tell their boss about the <u>Allied invasion</u> that they waited until 10 a.m. to wake him on the morning of June 6th.

Meanwhile, Field Marshal <u>Erwin Rommel</u> (a brilliant commander who earlier had <u>troubles in Africa</u> because Hitler would not allow him to evacuate his men) was so confident all was well that he'd traveled away from his troops to <u>celebrate</u> his wife's birthday. The new pair of shoes he gave her marked the last birthday present she ever received from him.

Long before June 6th of the following year, Rommel was <u>dead</u> by his own hand. His <u>forced suicide</u> had been ordered by Hitler.

Nothing Hitler could do, however, could save him or his regime. The Normandy assault marked the beginning of his final rout.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/DECEPTION-Normandy-Invasion

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/DECEPTION-Normandy-Invasion

# **Questions 2 Ponder**

# **Are Lies Ever Necessary?**

Sometimes spreading a falsehood could be a necessary part of defending ourselves in times of war or conflict.

Take "Plan BODYGUARD," for example.

Extremely worried that Hitler and his commanders would figure-out the Allies' plans in "Operation Overlord" - as the Normandy Invasion was called - Overlord planners developed an alternative strategy which was completely false.

The point of "BODYGUARD" was to distract German intelligence with a plan of deception which, despite its falseness, made sense. It was so thorough that made-up landing points were given mission names and bogus maps were created and released.

We grow up being told not to lie and learning, firsthand, the consequences of telling a lie. How would you compare that approach to life in general with the subterfuge which the Allies created with "Plan BODYGUARD?"

After learning about the Allies' plan of deception, to keep Germany from finding-out (or figuring-out) the truth about "Operation Overlord," do you agree or disagree that lies might sometimes be necessary? Explain your answer.

#### Media Stream



### Allied Assault Routes - Map

Map image online, courtesy the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum. PD

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Allied-Assault-Routes-Map



### Eisenhower and his Generals

Image online, courtesy the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum.

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#### Pas De Calais - Map Locator

Map, depicting location of Pas-de-Calais in France, by Marmelad; online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Pas-De-Calais-Map-Locator



### Calais, France - Map Locator

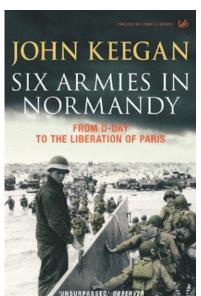
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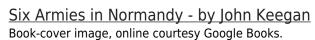
### Map - Depicts England and France Proximity

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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#### Field Marshal Erwin Rommel

Image online, German National Archives.

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#### Rommel - Death by Suicide

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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## **DECEPTION**

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## Rommel's Defeat in Africa

Video, online courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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