Technical Intelligence

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How to Read about Technical Intelligence

- **Technical capabilities are tightly held**
  - Venona intercepts date from early 1940s, but were not declassified until 1995
  - Information about US technical intelligence operations in WWII not released until late 1970s, and some is still classified today
  - Corona satellite program ended in 1972, was not declassified until 1995 — the last such program to be declassified
- **In this realm, be careful what you read**
  - Healthy skepticism is warranted
  - Good sources (publications, books, commentators, etc) acknowledge the unknowns, while poor sources will claim to present "the truth the government wants to keep from you."

IMINT

- Imagery Intelligence (IMINT), also called Photographic Intelligence (PHOTINT)
- Provides a time-slice visual picture of a ground target
- Sometimes, the clarity of a photograph can be its own worst enemy
  - Humans naturally assign top priority to first-hand experiences, or to events we remember as sharp, visual, graphic or intense, whatever its objective value
    - Turkey and *Midnight Express*
  - Less credence to drier information, even when it is more reliable
    - Good statistics
    - Well-researched, but abstract, papers and reports
- Content even of clear IMINT is not necessarily obvious, requiring trained analysts to interpret it

IMINT (cont'd)

- **Corona**
  - First US photo reconnaissance satellite program
  - August 1960 - May 1972
  - Originally 8m (25 ft) resolution, eventually achieving 2m (6 ft)
  - Film jettisoned from satellite in canister, returned to earth and recovered by plane
- **KH-11 launched in 1976 and broadcast digital imagery to ground station, according to published reports**

SIGINT

- **Signals Intelligence (SIGINT)**
  - Communications Intelligence (COMINT), i.e., communications between multiple parties
  - Electronic Intelligence (ELINT), e.g., radar signals
  - Telemetry Intelligence (TELINT), e.g., missile test data
- **Communications — from old fashioned telegrams to email — can be encrypted**
  - SIGINT agencies are generally cryptographic agencies, too
  - For example, America's NSA is responsible for SIGINT, code-breaking, and creation of US ciphers and codes

Techint and Deception: Operation BODYGUARD

- WWII allied deception
- Convince Nazis that:
  - Invasion of Europe would begin with Brit, US, Sov attack through Norway (FORTITUDE North)
  - Attack up through Balkans
  - If invasion of France were to occur, it would be at Calais and not before July 1944 (FORTITUDE South and creation of fake "First US Army Group" — aka FUSAG)
  - If any allied landings occurred elsewhere in France, they would be diversions (FORTITUDE South II)

Techint and Deception: Operation BODYGUARD (cont'd)

- US and British created fake communications, dummy landing craft and airplanes, double agents, etc, to support the FUSAG
  - Germans thought there was a 1 million man army in Dover
- For several weeks after 6 June 1944, German 15th Army refused to move
- Germans reinforced Norway, kept troops in Central Europe awaiting an attack through the Balkans
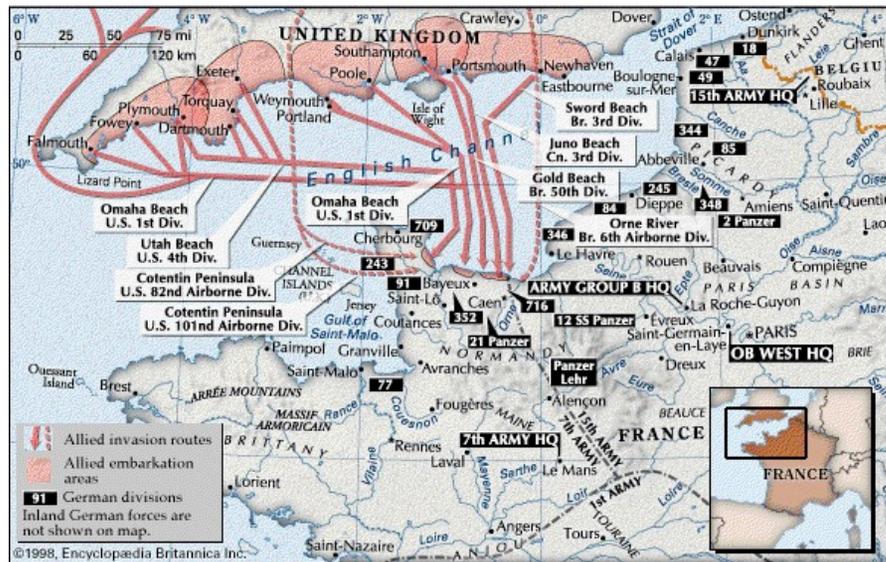
Overlord Invasion Plan and English Channel Coast[20]

Moral: Technical Intelligence is just as vulnerable to deception as HUMINT, perhaps more so.