

Unclassified
Authorization:
SECRETARY AFSC
13 Jan. 1955

ALLIED FORCES HEADQUARTERS

8 March 1944.

SUBJECT: Operation ANVIL.

TO : Major General Alexander M Patch, Jr.,
Commanding General Seventh Army.

1. In accordance with instructions of the Combined Chiefs of Staff an operation in conjunction with OVERLORD will be launched against the South of FRANCE, with the object of establishing a bridgehead in the area and subsequently to exploit towards LYON and VICHY. With a target date in early June.

2. The code name allotted to this operation is ANVIL. Copies of the Appreciation and Outline Plan for ANVIL, which have been prepared by the Joint Planning Staff at AFHQ, have been furnished the Planning Staff (designated as Headquarters Force 163), which are conducting detailed planning at ECOLE NORMALE, BOUZEAUX. Detailed planning is currently under the direction of Brigadier General Garrison H. Davidson, Headquarters Seventh Army.

3. You are hereby appointed Commander of the ground forces taking part in the operation and will assume responsibility for detailed planning jointly with Naval and Air Commanders.

4. Operation ANVIL will be launched with a two divisional assault. The ground forces will be composed of Headquarters 7th Army, one American Corps of three infantry divisions and Two French Corps consisting of five infantry divisions and two armored divisions, as outlined in P/122 (Appreciation and Outline Plan, Operation ANVIL) previously furnished Headquarters Force 163, which still applies. In addition the equivalent of at least two regiments of Parachute infantry with sufficient lift for one regiment (less one bn) at a time will also be available. Further details in this regard can be secured by your staff from these Headquarters.

5. Brigadier General Davidson has been previously informed of details regarding assault shipping and craft, other shipping allocated, and mounting areas.

6. Naval and Air Forces for the operation will be provided by the Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean and Air Commander-in-Chief respectively. The Naval Commander appointed for this operation is Vice Admiral H. Kent Hewitt, U.S.N. Major General J.K. Cannon, U.S.A., is charged with preparations of the tactical air plans. Responsibility for provision of fighter cover and close support of ANVIL forces has been placed upon Brigadier General G. P. Saville, 12th Air Support Command, by General Cannon.

7. Nominations of U.S. and French formations to take part in the operation are as yet incomplete. Progress and firmness in regard to nominations must of necessity depend to a large extent upon the progress of the battle in ITALY. Appropriate members of your staff should maintain close liaison with these headquarters in this connection.

Report Documentation Page

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8. You will complete your outline plan for ground operations by 1 April 1944. You, the Air Task Force Commander and the Naval Task Force Commander will be prepared to submit coordinated outline plans to the Supreme Allied Commander MEDITERRANEAN Theatre by 15 April 1944.

9. The command of this operation will be in accordance with the principle of joint command. The Naval Commander will have command of the entire seaborne expedition until the Army is firmly established ashore, after which he will become responsible to you for the continued sea maintenance and support of the army until all need for maintenance over beaches has ceased.

By command of General WILSON:

LOWELL W. ROCKS,
Major General, G.S.C.,
Deputy Chief of Staff.

Copies to:

C-in-C Med
Air Cin-C Med

BIGOT - ANVIL.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Office of the Chief
of Staff.

28 March 1944.

SUBJECT: Operation ANVIL.

TO : Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean
Air Commander-in-Chief MAAF.

1. A directive for Operation ANVIL was issued to Commanding General Seventh US Army on 2 March 1944 which called for the submission to this Headquarters of a coordinated outline plan by 1 April. This directive was transmitted to you by memorandum from this Headquarters dated 11 March, requesting that you take the necessary steps to advise the Commanding General Seventh Army of the Naval and Air aspects of his problem and to implement your portion of the coordinated plan.

2. The directive to Commanding General Seventh Army has been amended, a copy is attached herewith for your information.

3. It is requested that you issue the necessary instructions to your subordinates to assist the Commanding General Seventh Army in carrying out the provisions of the amendment to his original directive, in order that the coordinated outline plan may be submitted to this Headquarters by 15 April.

4. The Mediterranean Allied Air Force outline air plan should be submitted to the Supreme Allied Commander by 1 April 1944.

By command of General WILSON:

(Sgd.) Lowell W. Rooks

for J.A.H. GAMMELL,
Lieutenant General,
Chief of Staff.

N.B. MAAF advises that paper required by paragraph 4 has been completed and will be delivered upon receipt of this directive.

(Copy)

BIGOT - ANVIL.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS

24 March 1944.

SUBJECT: Operation ANVIL.

TO : Major General Alexander Patch, Jr.,
Commanding General Seventh Army.

The following amendments have been made to the directive of 2 March 1944 which has been issued to you:

1. a. Paragraph 3 is changed to read: "You are hereby appointed Commander of the ground forces taking part in the operation and will assume responsibility for detailed planning jointly with Naval and Air Commanders."
b. The following addition is made to the directive of 2 March 1944: "The command of this operation will be in accordance with the principle of joint command. The Naval Commander will have command of the entire seaborne expedition until the Army is firmly established ashore, after which he will become responsible to you for the continued sea maintenance and support of the army until all need for maintenance over beaches has ceased."
2. The second sentence of Paragraph 6 is changed to read: "The Naval Commander appointed for this operation is Vice Admiral H. Kent Hewitt."
3. Paragraph 8 is changed to read: "You will complete your outline plans for ground operations by 1 April 1944. You, the Air Task Force Commander and the Naval Task Force Commander will be prepared to submit coordinated outline plans to the Supreme Allied Commander MEDITERRANEAN Theatre by 15 April 1944."

By command of General WILSON:

(Sgd.) J.A.H. GAMMELL.

Lieutenant General,
Chief of Staff.

BWH/wrs

Copies to:

C-in-C. Med.

Air C-in-C. MAAF.