

Operation Market Garden

Teacher Guide

OPORD Paragraph One

Intelligence

Glossary:

- Bigot - Highest classification, very limited distribution before D-Day
- Enemy Order of Battle and Enemy Defenses are not included in this set of documents
- D+1 (looks like a / with a - through it) - the day following D-Day; D+2 is two days following D-Day and so on.
- ASP - Army Signal Platoon, higher level communications at Army level
- VHF - Very High Frequency radio wave
- G-2 - Intelligence Staff Section
- PW - Prisoner of War
- Bridge Classification - How much weight can a bridge support
- Blackout - Means not using lights at night (small markers on trucks so you can see the rear end of them at night, the lead truck has modified head lights)
- CIC - Counter Intelligence Center

Teacher's Notes:

- Note on the main order that the British 1st Airborne Division was assigned to seize a bridge at Arnhem over the Lower Rhine River. The 82nd Airborne Division was assigned to seize bridges over the Maas (Meuse) River and the Waal River.
- Note the date - just four days before the start of the operation. The Allied planners began planning just seven days before the start of the operation. This hasty planning lead to a number of fatal assumptions.
- Note how much emphasis is placed on bridges, ferries, and canal locks.
- Extensive use of photo reconnaissance because very little intelligence was available, so a picture is worth a thousand words.
- Very little time to study the terrain or the enemy situation. It was assumed the German Army was on its last legs and would simply roll over and surrender when confronted with such overwhelming force.

OPORD Paragraph Two

Mission

Glossary:

- D-Day is the day the operation starts.
- D+1 is one day after D-Day (looks like D / with a - thru it, typewriters did not have a plus sign on them).
- A/C is aircraft
- CG4A is a Waco Glider that could carry up to 13 troops or a jeep or small cannon.

Teacher's Notes:

- The big difference between this and Normandy is the size and complexity of the operation.
- This was going to be launched in broad daylight. It was the largest airborne operation conducted in World War II.
- All of the bridges had to be captured (i.e. all the dominoes had to fall into place for this to work). Failure to capture a bridge and/or hold the roadway open could (and did) result in catastrophic failure.

OPORD Paragraph Three

Operations

Glossary:

- 6 digit #s - 482375 are grid coordinates of a specific place within 100 meters. This system was used before GPS.
- Mines - land mines
- LINNET - is an operation that was cancelled in August when Allied forces moved so quickly across France that the Linnet was overcome by events.
- S-3 or G-3 is the Operations Staff Section of an army unit.

Teacher's Notes:

- The key to this paragraph is the emphasis to move quickly and seize the various bridges and canals.
- Notice that the Division Artillery Commander is responsible for calls for support from British artillery and aviation. Working with an ally complicates things and makes success more problematic.
- Again, make sure students see that the date for this order is just three days before the execution of this operation. It is amazing they even got the planes off the ground on time.

OPORD Paragraph Four

Administration/Logistics

Glossary:

- Class I - Food and water
- K rations - Condensed field ration, like power bars
- D rations - also a meal for the field, but a little more substantial - like Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) into today's military forces.
- Class II - General supplies, batteries, housekeeping material, tents, etc.
- Class III - Fuel
- Class V - Ammunition
- Halazone Tablets - Water purification tablets (yuck!)
- Provost Marshal - Military police
- Blackout lights - Very dim markers used on military vehicles at night to avoid enemy detection.

Teacher's Notes:

- Unlike Operation Neptune, the planners anticipated a longer and larger fight during Market Garden. This is evident by some of the following admin/logistical requirements in the order, such as:
 - temporary cemetery
 - automatic aerial resupply
 - the quantity of materials to be resupplied
 - surplus baggage left in England (they were not coming home soon)
 - use of civilian laborers
- The large number of pages with massive quantities of resupply should clue students into the fact that this was going to be a longer and probably harder fight than Normandy.
- Last but not least, in the Main Order, Paragraph Four states "same as LINNET" - the planners did not have time to plan for this the administrative or logistical support for this operation, so they "cut and pasted" the admin/log support from a previous operation that never took place and figured that things would sort themselves out as the battle unfolded.

OPORD Paragraph Five

Command and Communications

Glossary:

- SIGABA - Is a secure means of communication (like having a satellite phone)
- SOI - Signal Operating Instructions (a code book with frequencies, call signs, and passwords)
- CP - Command Post, the headquarters for an army unit
- Net - Radio/communications network
- SCR - Signal Corps Radio - type of radio. SCR300 is a particular model radio produced for the U.S. Army

Teacher's Notes:

- Code Clerks were British - again having a coalition partner makes coordination and execution more difficult in military operations.
- Note the use of carrier pigeons.
- Yellow and Orange panels are used for visual recognition. Interestingly, orange is the national color of the Netherlands and tons of orange material was displayed by the Dutch as Allied armies liberated them.
- Note the need to preserve telephone facilities, because Allied armies would use local telephone systems to talk to each other because the radios did not always work very well.
- All of the unit code words in the 101st AB Division began with K (Kangaroo was the Division Commander - Kangaroos jump - so do paratroopers).