

Operation Mincemeat: The Man Who Carried a False War

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British intelligence planted false invasion documents on a dead man given an invented military identity. German authorities accepted the deception, helping divert attention from the Allies' planned assault on Sicily.

STATUS	Documented wartime deception
CLASSIFICATION	STR
MATERIAL	Spain and the Mediterranean
DISPOSITION	PUBLIC / SOURCED STORY
CATEGORY	Strange Files
RECORD TYPE	Secrets & conspiracies
STORY HISTORY	1943

THE ACCOUNT

A dead man carried a life assembled for him by intelligence officers. In 1943, the British placed false military papers with a body released off the Spanish coast. The identity was fictional, but the discovery was meant to look accidental. The documents pointed German attention toward supposed Allied intentions elsewhere in the Mediterranean, while the real invasion target was Sicily. Personal details helped the carrier appear to belong to an ordinary, interrupted life.

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

Imperial War Museums describes Operation Mincemeat as a documented deception in which the recovered papers reached Nazi intelligence and influenced German deployments toward Sardinia, Greece and the Balkans. The body was Glyndwr Michael, given the identity of Major William Martin. The operation succeeded as a deception, though no single trick by itself explains the full military outcome of the Sicily campaign.

WHY IT STAYS WITH US

The plan relied on the enemy believing it had stolen the truth. Instead, the discovery had been composed for it. The human cost should remain visible beneath the ingenuity: a real person's body became the carrier of a manufactured biography. The story is remarkable because its fiction was carefully made inside an actual operation, then mistaken for authentic evidence by its intended readers.

WHERE THIS TELLING COMES FROM

Spies, Lies and Deception: large-print exhibition guide, Operation Mincemeat

Imperial War Museums

https://www.iwm.org.uk/sites/default/files/files/2023-10/spies_large_print_guide.pdf

The True Story Behind Operation Mincemeat

TIME

<https://time.com/6174289/operation-mincemeat-netflix-true-story/>

RETURN TO THE STORY

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<https://u225x.com/record/STR-SECRET-038>