

# Operation Jedburgh



## B2 Spy Set house in a drop case for parachuting

The Jedburgh Operations coordinated French resistance actions with the allied strategic and tactical plans in order to slow down German forces during the Normandy landing. Equipment and personnel belonging to the Special Operations Executive (SOE) were parachuted into local French resistance networks.

The British, experts in commando operations, initiated the project in the autumn of 1943 with a small number of hand-picked members of the Special Air Service (SAS).

Colonel Wilkinson of the S.O.E. gave the code name "Jedburgh" to these small teams trained to work alone and deep into enemy territory. The term "Jedburgh" comes from the name of a town located on the Scottish border, near which many exercises were organized.

A Jedburgh team were composed of three personnel: the chief (a British or American officer), his deputy (an officer of the country where the team is deployed) and a radio operator.

The Jedburgh command was established at the beginning of 1944 at the Special Forces Headquarters (SFHQ) in Baker Street, London, and the first Jedburgh operation was carried out on the night of June 4 to 5, 1944 in Châteauroux, France, as part of the preparation for Operation Overlord.

The mission of these teams was to get in touch with local resistance networks in enemy territory to inform them of impending Allied actions and provide them with training, supplies of weapons, communications and ammunition.

During the Battle of Normandy, 93 teams were deployed in French territory from June to December 1944. Other units were engaged in Southeast Asia in 1945.