Deception tactics and camouflage techniques of World War II to present
• The reason for conducting operations
• History of camouflage
• WWII
• Present day
• Summary
• Conclusion
WHAT IS DECEPTION?

- A deceptive operation embodies all signs of a real assault
- It makes the enemy believe that pretend hostile activities are genuine
- Induces a false sense of danger in one area
Deception is like a good chess game
WHY BOTHER

• Why use deception techniques?
• Any edge, however slight, can prove deadly in time of war, where split second decisions or hesitation can be the difference between life and death

• Camouflaging tactics were taken seriously because they worked part of the time
Camouflage comes from the French word *camoufler* meaning "to blind or veil."
Dazzle paint schemes were employed in both world wars to confuse and obfuscate range, scale and type estimates by enemy submariners peering through periscopes.
World War II

Aerial view of Lydda airfield
World War II

Lydda airfield after camouflage
World War II

Can you spot the 38 aircraft?
A dummy Spitfire: key aspect was to throw a realistic looking shadow
World War II – Libyan Desert

A lifelike Tomahawk fighter
Forres Aerodrome in Scotland
Decoy Refinery Fire

An oil fire, fed by storage tanks
Outside actual refinery in Coventry
Camouflaged Airplane Hangar

A hangar big enough to house two aircraft
Inflatable Decoys

Dummy landing-craft “Big Bobs”
Decoys to match signals deceptions

Sherman tank silkscreen print laid over a ramework
Mobile Frame on Jeep
Inflatables

Inflatable 3-ton truck
Q SITE

Near Formby at Downholland Moss
Present Day
Present Day

Swedish camouflage
SUMMARY

- Deception needs to be part of the plan
- It must appear believable
- Deception is part of every level; visual, SigInt, EliInt, ComINT
- Drawing attention can get you killed
Deception in war is the art of misleading the enemy into doing something, or not doing something, so that his strategic or tactical position will be weakened.

Deception in WWII
References

- Deception in WWII, Charles Cruickshank
- Various on-line media