division supported by about 50,000 infantry would launch a diversionary landing in East Anglia - a total number of over 270,000 men landing - 6th June 1944 saw just over 156,000 troops land in Normandy

Also rather far-fetched suggestion that thousands of airborne troops would drop into the south east and destroy reserve defences and communication lines

The British saw this version of events as being the most extreme/dangerous version of an invasion - therefore their preparations were focused around this plan and not the less ambitious, actual Operation Sealion

The German Plan - littered with issues

The army wanted the attack to be a broad front - the navy wanted and could only manage a narrow front

It was calculated that to suit the needs of the army and air force, the navy would need 155 cargo ships, about 2,000 barges, 470 tugs and 1,200 motor-boats and coastal craft - this was for the first two waves plus reinforcements and maintenance. Interestingly, the army required 4,500 horses landed with the first wave

Race against time to find the necessary ships and the crews to man them - the effort put into creating and marshalling the invasion fleet was irrefutable proof that preparations for Sealion were being taken seriously.

The acquisition of almost all inland water transport crippled the armaments industry, trade with allies and in some cases greatly hindered food supply to major towns and cities.

4 conditions essential to success as laid out by Hitler and the Commander of the Wermacht

1. Absolute air superiority
2. Clearing of all mines from the invasion corridor and beaches
3. Sealing off of both flanks of the corridor by minefields
4. Occupying the Royal Navy elsewhere
5. Out of control - but the weather

Was difficult to persuade the Army planners to recognise the magnitude of the simple problem of transportation as well as the factors of weather, visibility, navigation, tides, currents, surf and beaches

Observations by naval staff members that the Army was “fired by an unquenchable enthusiasm and determined to ‘put it to the test’. It seemed that their victory in France had filled them with an invincible and reckless confidence in their ability to carry through any task entrusted to them. The soldiers, accustomed to quick victories, were intoxicated by success”