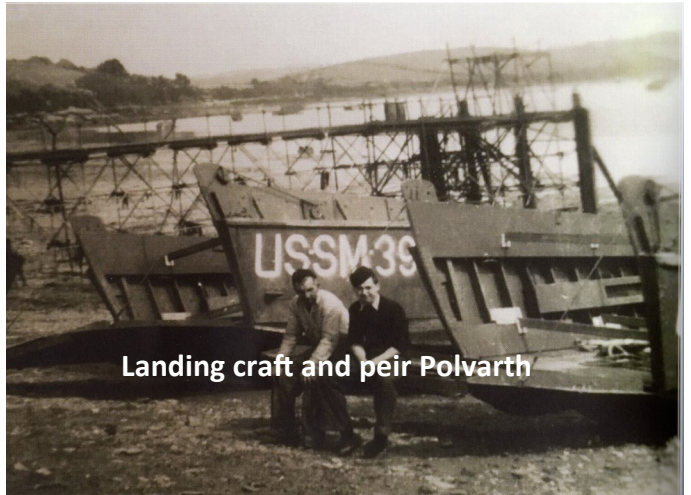


D Day St Mawes 2

St Mawes pier, quay and harbour were designated as the US Navel Advance Amphibious Training Sub-Base and weather permitting at low tide, daily boat handling exercises took place with 6 wheeled (DUCK) amphibious landing craft and LCM's (Landing Craft Mechanised). They rehearsed beaching the craft on to the sand in the harbour and at Polvarth, where a long pier was built, as if they were landing on the Normandy beaches.



During this time life changed for St Mawes residents with locals finding new jobs supporting the visitors. Rene Wulchuk washed and ironed 20 US naval uniforms by hand every day for 1 shilling (5p) and Melville Chester repaired shoes in his shop on Hillhead. Locals also benefitted from the exotic American goods arriving in the village having been on rations for several years.

The camp base was decommissioned before D Day, after only 9 months. The craft and personnel left over night and suddenly the village fell quiet again and returned to a sleepy fishing village once more.

