

DDay in St. Mawes 1

The Officers of the American and Canadian Troops were billeted in St Mawes. Landing craft and personnel started arriving in August 1943 consisting of 25 Officers, 60 boat crews (240 men) and 67 admin staff. They were billeted in the Ship and Castle and Idle Rocks Hotels and in various houses. By November more crews and officers had arrived and suddenly 700 US Naval personnel were living in St. Mawes. Their mission was to assemble, maintain and operate a flotilla of landing craft and give training to the crews handling the craft

To accommodate all these people the US Battalions the 29th US Navel Construction Battalion constructed, within weeks, a small town on the fields above Freshwater Lane. This Included a camp for 661 men, recreation buildings, an armoury, a dance hall, a hospital station, shops, storehouses, gun mounts, a water supply, and other utilities. The American Red Cross provided a reading room in Pomery's Garage. They also built a pontoon at Polvarth on the Percuil river.



Building the accommodation for the 700 American and Canadian troops in a new village in St Mawes, It was where the current Polvarth Estate is now.