

D Day the Liberation of Europe

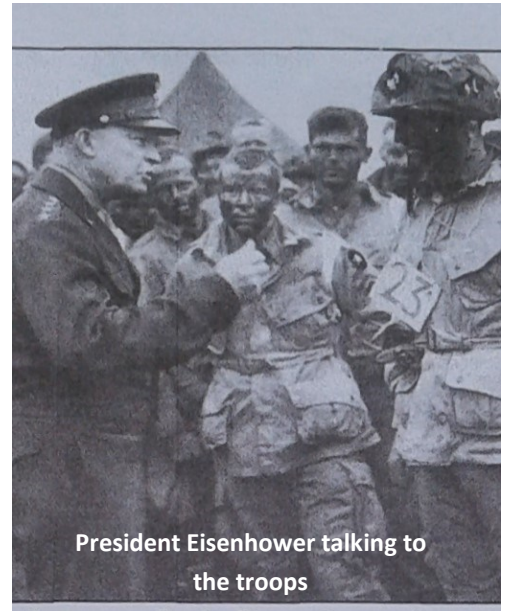
D Day on the Roseland 1

In June 1942 U.S. President Roosevelt and U.K. Prime Minister Winston Churchill realised that the only way that Germany could be defeated was to mount an invasion of Europe. President Roosevelt nominated General Dwight D Eisenhower to be Supreme Allied Commander of the invasion which they called "Operation Overlord." planned for June 4th 1944.

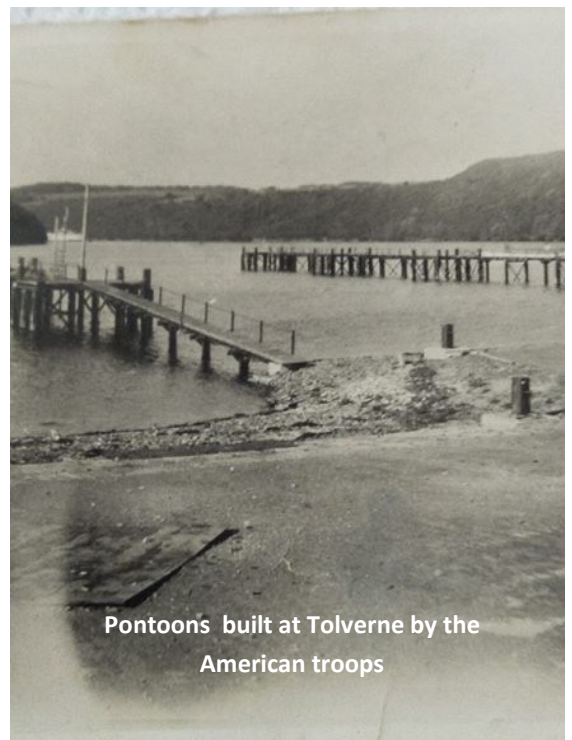
The first task was to set about finding departure points along the south coast. The Roseland shores of the river Fal estuary were chosen as one of the points of embarkation for thousands of soldiers, American, Canadian and British.

Soon the small creeks of the Fal with their overhanging oak trees hid all sorts of odd looking craft, many requisitioned locally, and naval landing craft assembled to transport the troops to Normandy.

Thousands of men from North America had crossed the Atlantic in the Queen Mary and the Queen Elizabeth arriving at Liverpool and were then transported to many areas along the south coast in long convoys. By 1943 there were more than a million US troops in the UK. They probably had no idea where they were as all the sign posts in the country had been removed and there was a blackout after dark. The American soldiers, mostly 18 and 19 year olds, from the 29th Infantry Division, were the ones who came to this area and were sent to Tolverne and Turnaware. These areas had been selected as places where the allied forces could load troops, guns and tanks onto landing craft. At Tolverne hundreds of local men built the hard and a large jetty stretching half way across the river. They also built a hard and 2 jetties at Turnaware. The narrow lanes to both these areas had to be widened and concreted to allow the convoys to deliver the men to the area. The beaches and jetties were strictly guarded with 40mm AA guns as the operation was secret.



President Eisenhower talking to the troops



Pontoons built at Tolverne by the American troops