

# Devon D-Day



**A World War II Heritage Trail of the  
North Devon Coast**

# Devon D-Day

WHAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT WORLD WAR II? THE LONDON BLITZ? CHURCHILL'S FAMOUS SPEECHES? D-DAY AFFECTED ALL PARTS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND EVERY LOCATION AND COMMUNITY PLAYED ITS PART. NORTH DEVON HAS MANY IMPORTANT WORLD WAR II STORIES TO TELL - IF YOU KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.

**This Heritage Trail booklet highlights some of the most important military and cultural sites of World War II North Devon. It includes locations connected to the work of British forces in North Devon alongside sites related to the American preparations for D-Day in the Assault Training Center - and the presence of thousands of American GIs in the area.**

It's hard to imagine this peaceful corner of Devon and these beautiful beaches saw such explosive activity and harboured so many secrets vital to the success of D-Day, 6th June 1944.

Many innovative weapons used in the Normandy beach assaults were tried, tested and perfected here in North Devon as well as the incredible idea of pumping fresh water and petrol in pipes under the English Channel to the French coast.

American forces swamped the area in 1943 as they trained in new techniques and prepared to launch the invasion of Europe in the greatest amphibious operation in military history. Soldiers stormed ashore at Woolacombe and Saunton with smoke, live explosives and ammunition recreating the confusion, sounds and smells of combat they would face on

the beaches of Normandy. But today listen to the happy squeals of children splashing in the sea where once thousands of US Army soldiers had pounded ashore to perfect their deadly art of war. The US Navy trained their landing craft skippers here too - those that were destined to be the first to hit the Normandy beaches.

But all this was overshadowed by the very event it had created and made possible - D-Day 6th June 1944.

**Richard Bass**  
May 2019

Cover photograph:  
Soldiers at Woolacombe, by courtesy of  
Mortehoe Museum

Mortar training at Braunton Burrows.  
Courtesy Tony Koorlander/North Devon Coast AONB

*'If Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton, surely the sands of the North Devon beaches contributed importantly to the success of the assault over the Normandy beaches'*

Paul W Thompson, Brigadier General, US Army



# Devon D-Day

## USING THE TRAIL



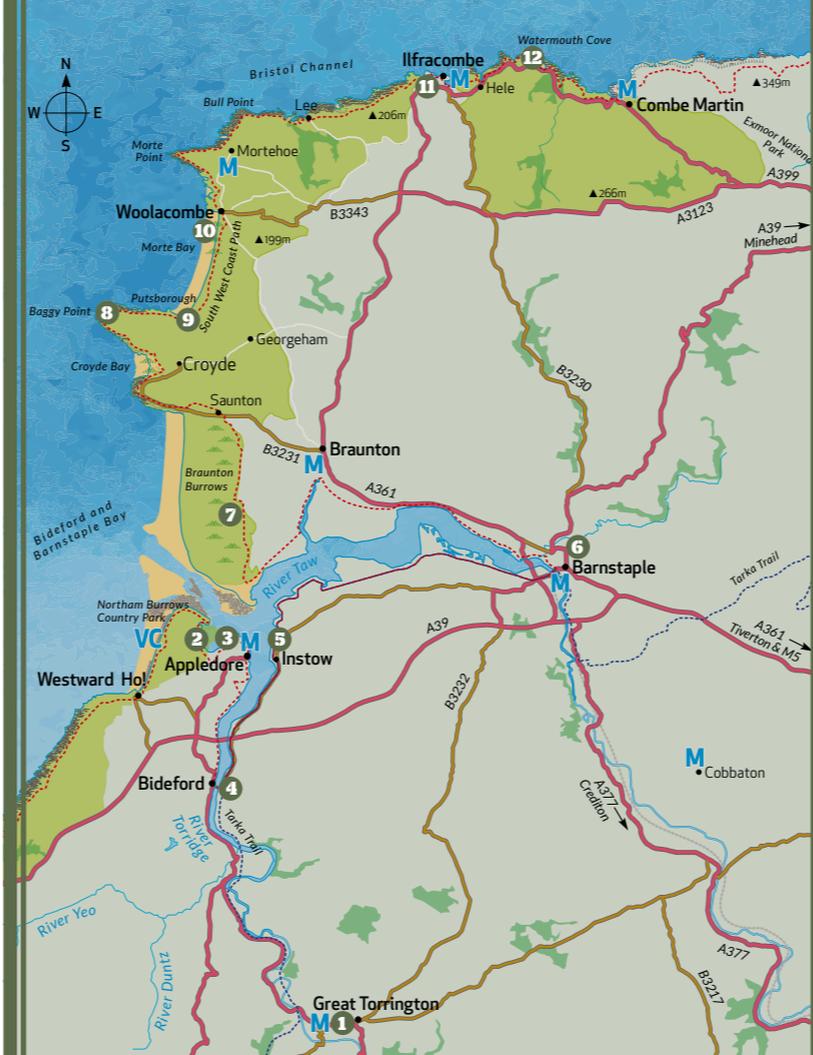
Almost all of the North Devon coastline between Westward Ho! and Woolacombe was used by the British and American Army in preparation for D-Day, the largest amphibious assault in history.

This booklet serves as a guide to some of the key locations where activities were carried out in North Devon. It aims to tell a story, not just of the military training operations, but of the sites where American GIs were stationed. Using the map and location information, you will find a series of plaques with the D-Day symbol. At each location reading the guide will help you to imagine the events and activities that went on here.

At some locations you will also find an information panel, and at others physical remains of structures built as part of the Assault Training Center. These include pillboxes, observation stations and practice landing craft.

In most cases parking is available nearby but do bear in mind that some of the locations involve a walk of varying length and terrain. Please bear this in mind when planning a trip. Most sites are accessible from Public Rights of Way. Braunton Burrows is an environmentally sensitive area of private land and is at the core of a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Please refer to on-site information and guidelines.

Map © www.lathwell.com



# Devon D-Day

## POINTS ON THE TRAIL

LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
1. Great Torrington	GI accommodation and snack bar	7
2. Northam Burrows	Anti-invasion obstacles and COXE (Combined Operations Experimental Establishment)	8-9
3. Appledore	HMS Appledore (and special operations training)	10-11
4. Bideford	Officers' accommodation	12-13
5. Instow	Practice ground for amphibious landings	14-15
6. Barnstaple	Dance Hall and GI accommodation	16-17
7. Braunton Burrows	Ground assault exercises	18-19
8. Bagg Point	Cliff assault training site	20
9. Putsborough	Practice aerial bombing range	21
10. Woolacombe	American Red Cross centre and Memorial	22-23
11. Ilfracombe	Ilfracombe synagogue	24-25
12. Watermouth Cove	PLUTO (experimental pipeline)	26-27

## NORTH DEVON AND D-DAY

**When Germany occupied France in 1940, Great Britain evacuated its troops from the continent. Back on home soil, British forces needed a way to develop raiding operations against occupied Europe. In North Devon, the army, navy and air force worked on ways they could work together in 'combined assaults' against the enemy across the channel.**

Eventually the tide of the war began to turn. The Allied Forces began to prepare for a full-scale invasion of the continent. 10,000 American soldiers lived and trained on the North Devon coast in 1943-44.

As World War II moved towards its final months, the soldiers used the area's beaches, estuaries and sand dunes to get ready to invade occupied Europe.

The presence of the Americans temporarily changed the coastal landscape, and had a big impact on those who lived in it. Some traces of their time here are still visible today.



## HERITAGE TRAIL

### 1 SNACK BAR AND DANCE HALL FOR GIs



**The Town Hall, Torrington**

**High Street, Great Torrington,  
EX38 8HN**

**Grid Ref: SS495191;**

**How to find: The town hall is in the middle of the High Street.**

Torrington women were remembered as generous hostesses by the GIs. They met soldiers at the station with coffee and doughnuts, organised dances at the Town Hall and provided snacks from an adjacent snack bar.

As well as standing guard mount in the town square, GIs congregated there before going to a dance or the local pub.

In 1944, the 265th Field Artillery Battalion of the United States Army arrived in Torrington by train from their port of arrival at Liverpool.

As well as dancing at the Town Hall, GIs frequented the Black Horse pub across the road – some claiming to have drunk the pub dry.

Another story recalls the GIs accidentally starting a fire when they had a barbecue on the Town Hall steps.

265th Field Artillery Battalion left Torrington later that same year, travelling in convoy via Okehampton to cross the English Channel for 'Utah' beach in Normandy and on into France and Germany.



American GIs and locals socialising, South West England, 1944. © IWM

Left:  
Assault section landing, by courtesy of Morteheo Museum

## HERITAGE TRAIL

### 2 ANTI-INVASION OBSTACLES



#### The Skern, Northam Burrows

Grid Ref: SS449308

**How to find:** Look for a South West Coast Path waymark post near a layby overlooking mudflats and saltmarsh.

At the outbreak of World War II, German forces overran much of mainland Europe leading to fears of an imminent invasion of Britain. The south coast of England was considered highly vulnerable and substantial fortifications were built to resist attack. The risk that North Devon might be seen as an easier point of entry led to the development of defences along this coastline.

On Northam Burrows the natural barrier formed by Westward Ho's pebble ridge – a two mile long ridge of pebbles fallen from the cliffs of Bideford Bay and pushed North Eastwards by the Atlantic waves - was reinforced by barbed wire fencing and mine fields in the sand dunes. Further inland, trenches were dug into the grassland and posts installed to repel gliders and paratroopers.

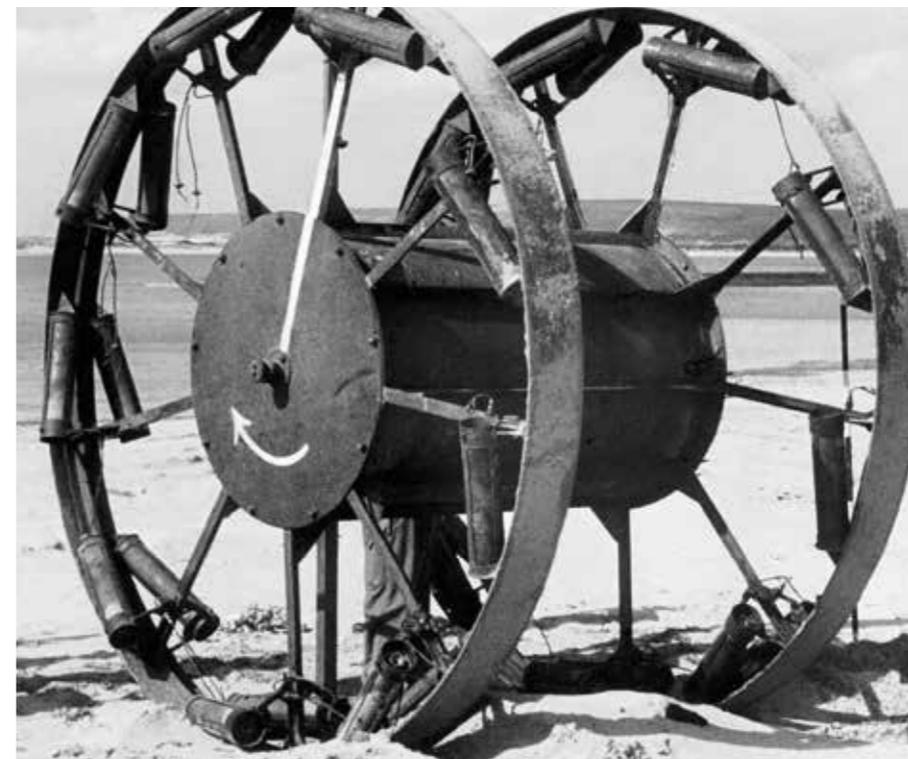
The estuary side of Northam Burrows was protected by an artillery battery at Appledore.

Look closely out towards the Skern - a horseshoe shaped bay on the north side of the burrows - and you may see the remains of a number of concrete pyramidal-shaped structures.



Dragon's Teeth' at Northam Burrows, by courtesy of Sarah Gallifent

The 'dragon's teeth' are the remains of anti-tank obstacles; initially built as a defence these were subsequently used to train Allied troops and various landing craft in preparation for D-Day.



The Great Panjandrum © IWM

During the war Northam Burrows was a hive of military activity. In the Burrows Visitor Centre you can learn more about the Radar Station located here between 1941 and 1944 and how the beach, pebble ridge and Burrows landscape were an ideal practice ground for testing various experimental vehicles to be used on D-Day.

These included the Hobart Funny Tank as well as some weird inventions such as the Great Panjandrum - a rocket propelled giant "Catherine Wheel" that was designed to destroy concrete defences.

## HERITAGE TRAIL

### ③ HMS APPLIEDORE (AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS TRAINING)



Appledore harbour slipway

Grid Ref: SS459309

**How to find:** Look for a waymark post next to the lifeboat station.

In 1942 the Combined Operations Experimental Establishment, or COXE, was set up on this site. Known as HMS Appledore, the establishment was commanded by Rear Admiral H G C Franklin RN. It investigated problems likely to be encountered on the beaches of France during an invasion of Europe, particularly in relation to landing armoured vehicles, stores and supplies.

Hobart Funnies – a kind of modified tank - were also tested here and at nearby Westward Ho!, as the beach, ridge and dunes offered the ideal ground conditions.

Four Royal Navy and six Royal Marine units, each consisting of one officer & eleven men were deployed on D-Day to clear the underwater obstructions on the Normandy beaches. Of these two were killed in action and ten were wounded.

Following the successful invasion of Normandy in 1944 many of the men who had been trained at HMS Appledore went on to make a vital contribution to the success of many other amphibious operations.

Right:  
Frogmen from HMS Appledore ascending the slipway at Appledore. © IWM



Hobart Funny "Crab" tank, © IWM

## HERITAGE TRAIL

### 4 OFFICERS' ACCOMMODATION



The Royal Hotel, Bideford

Barnstaple St, Bideford EX39 4AE

Grid Ref: SS457264

**How to find: The Royal Hotel is at the East end of the old Bideford Bridge.**

Bideford is a quiet market town in North Devon where the pace of life is gentle – yet during World War II it played a vital part in the war effort.

In early 1943 US Army units arrived to develop waterproofing processes on amphibious vehicles and landing craft due to be used on D-Day. Once these were perfected, huge numbers of US troops came to Bideford in batches for six weeks of training in using the new vehicles on the nearby Westward Ho! and Instow beaches.

While they were here, troops stayed in temporary camps and with local people. An American Red Cross Club was opened in a large house (now a private home) called 'Upover', still visible on the hill above the Royal Hotel.

The Royal Hotel itself provided accommodation and a meeting space for US Army Officers. Dances and social events were held in the area, with the Americans interacting with North Devonians and creating many long lasting friendships.



Newspaper cutting from 1944  
by courtesy of Peter Christie

Right:  
Two of the many US troops who were billeted with families in Bideford while training for D-Day  
by courtesy of Peter Christie





A DUKW at sea with American troops, by courtesy of Richard Bass

## HERITAGE TRAIL

### 5 PRACTICE GROUND FOR AMPHIBIOUS LANDINGS



**Instow village and beach**

**Marine Parade, Instow**

**Grid Ref: SS472302**

**How to find: The trail plaque is located at the Bideford end of Marine Parade.**

Instow beach was commandeered by the military to train both American and British Troops for the conditions they might find on D-Day. Marine Parade was sealed off and many buildings were taken over by the forces. The Village Hall became an American canteen; the building that today houses the Boathouse Restaurant became a NAAFI canteen.

Strandfield House, on the site of the Commodore Hotel, was taken over by American Officers and the North Devon Yacht Club at the Roundhouse became an Officers' Club. US Officers' Quarters were also provided in a ship, the MV President Warfield, moored off Westleigh. MV President Warfield was a ferryboat that had been towed to Instow from Baltimore, USA.

The famous six-wheeled sea and land craft known as a 'Duck' was trialled here. Its official title, DUKW, meant Date 1942 Utility All Wheel Drive Dual Rear Axle.

The Arromanches camp was set up in 1939 to test amphibious equipment that was to be used in the D-Day landings. Royal Marines retain a presence at Arromanches Camp today. Their Amphibious Trails and Training Unit continue to practice on the Torridge estuary.



Amphibious Sherman tank off Instow Beach, by courtesy Tony Koorlander / North Devon Coast AONB



## HERITAGE TRAIL

### 6 DANCE HALL AND GI ACCOMMODATION



Queen's Theatre Boutport St,  
Barnstaple EX31 1SY

Grid Ref: SS559332

**How to find:** The trail plaque is located at The Queen's Theatre, on the corner of Boutport Street and Butchers' Row.

Today the Queen's Theatre stands on the site of the former Albert Hall dance hall and cinema. When the Albert Hall burnt down in 1941 its shell was rebuilt to house a British Restaurant, selling basic meals at reasonable prices, off ration.

Left:  
British Land Army girls dancing with  
American forces, 1943

It also housed a dance hall that was popular with GIs and locals alike. Dances were also held in Forester's Hall in Barnstaple High Street, which is now Iceland supermarket. GIs were housed in two buildings across the road from where the theatre now stands.

Both were requisitioned from a furniture warehouse and auctioneer, Symonds. In 1943 the United States was still segregated. White soldiers were in Symon's Warehouse, the building that now houses Wetherspoons pub. Black soldiers were housed in the building next to Barclays Bank.

Each morning the US soldiers paraded in Barnstaple's town square, playing bugles and hanging the American flag from the building that today houses Scoff's fish and chip shop.



The Queen's Theatre in Barnstaple today



US Army invitation to a dance at the Royal North Devon Golf Club, four days before D-Day, by courtesy of Peter Christie

## HERITAGE TRAIL

### 📍 GROUND ASSAULT EXERCISES



#### Braunton Burrows

Grid Ref: SS461331

**How to find:** The trail plaque is located at the concrete landing craft. Look out for a small information panel.

The heart of the Assault Training Center was Braunton Burrows. It was here that GIs practiced all the skills needed to take a defended coast.

One of the surviving structures is a concrete representation of a Tank Landing Craft (LCT) with lowered ramps as if just beached.

While only the bases, jaws and ramps of the LCTs are present, there is evidence that six-foot high scaffold poles stood around the edges with corrugated metal sheeting or canvas curtains hung between them to create the effect of the craft sides.

The original bases were built to the dimensions of the Mk IV LCT, but as landing plans developed it became clear that the Mk V version would be used. Additional aprons were added to the rear of the existing bases to represent the extended deck area of the updated craft. Inscribed in the concrete of one such extension is the mark of its constructors, "146 ECB, Co C, 1st Platoon".

Also on the burrows during World War II were training structures such as an assault course and rocket wall.

Right:  
Americans practising loading a replica Landing Craft Tank on Braunton Burrows, by courtesy Tony Koorlander / North Devon Coast AONB



American troops on practice march across Braunton Burrows, by courtesy of Braunton & District Museum



Training with concrete wall target on Braunton Burrows, by courtesy Tony Koorlander / North Devon Coast AONB

## HERITAGE TRAIL

### 8 CLIFF ASSAULT TRAINING SITE



#### Baggy Point

Grid Ref: SS420405

**How to find:** The trail plaque is located on the waymarker post. Look out for a small information panel towards the furthest reaches of the peninsula.

The American forces used Baggy Point to practice cliff assault from the sea. The soldiers built a number of Dummy Pillboxes in the area, which they named Training Area F. They also constructed pillbox at Putsborough and Croyde Bay.

The American army only partially built these pillboxes, so they could easily replace them if they were damaged during practice.

The Americans frequently practised using live ammunition.



American cliff scale practice, 1944. Note ships firing grappling hooks onto cliffs. © IWM

Events here prepared US Rangers for the historic capture of Pointe du Hoc, a cliff-top Nazi Germany fortification between the beaches codenamed 'Utah' and 'Omaha'. It was a key strategic victory and helped to tip the odds in the Allies' favour.

The remains of concrete pillboxes are still visible along the headland if you look closely.



Dummy pillbox on Baggy Point, by courtesy North Devon Coast AONB

## HERITAGE TRAIL

### 9 PRACTICE AERIAL BOMBING RANGE



#### Putsborough

Grid Ref: SS442418

**How to find:** The plaque is located on the side of a small concrete building above Putsborough Beach.

At this site you will find the remains of a concrete arrow which was a practice range bombing target indicator. The arrow signalled bombers approaching a floating target in Morte Bay (GR 442,418).

The remaining concrete observation tower was one of three in the bay that were used to calculate the accuracy of bombing, probably by coastal command aircraft from RAF Chivenor, who were employed in an anti-submarine role.

The remains of a pillbox used by the Americans in 1943-44 can also be found at Putsborough. This was in 'Area G' of the Assault Training Center, known to the Americans as 'Woolacombe Blue Beach'. It is the only surviving part of a defensive array of pillboxes and machine gun posts on the cliffs. The pillboxes were only ever partially constructed, so they could be easily rebuilt if damaged during practice.



Concrete arrow target indicator at Putsborough, by courtesy North Devon Coast AONB



Floating target used in bombing practice in Morte Bay. It was designed to resemble a submarine's periscope and conning tower, by courtesy of Mortehoe Museum



## HERITAGE TRAIL

### 10 AMERICAN RED CROSS CENTRE AND ESPLANADE MEMORIAL



#### Woolacombe

Grid Ref: SS454438

**How to find:** The trail plaque is located near the memorial stones on the greensward, below the coast road between Woolacombe and Morteohoe.

Before the Americans' arrival in late 1943, Woolacombe beach was used by the British Army to train Home Guard officers and Non Commissioned Officers.

Left: Landing craft accident at Woolacombe. Fourteen men lost their lives. By courtesy Morteohoe Museum

The requisitioned Woolacombe Bay Hotel became the Headquarters of the U.S. Assault Training Center. Many officers were billeted in local houses. The hotel was used for administration, lectures, exercise briefings and occasional social events.

The building that today houses the Red Barn pub was a social centre for enlisted men to enjoy the facilities provided by the American Red Cross. It was known to American soldiers in 1943 as "The bungalow café".

Woolacombe beach was used for the trainee troop's final seaborne exercise at the conclusion of their three-week training course.

Tragedy struck in December 1943 when three tank-carrying landing craft were swept off course and capsized with the loss of fourteen American soldiers and sailors. The bodies were laid out on the steps of the Red Barn.

The remarkable similarity between Woolacombe and "Omaha" beach in Normandy was not realized until D-Day itself.



Presenting the Thanksgiving Turkey at the Red Barn, Woolacombe, by courtesy of Morteohoe Museum



Woolacombe Memorial, by courtesy North Devon Coast AONB

## HERITAGE TRAIL

### ① ILFRACOMBE SYNAGOGUE 1940-45



17 St James' Place

Ilfracombe

EX34 9BJ

SS522478

**How to find:** Number 17 is on the left-hand side of St James' Place when heading towards Ilfracombe harbour.

During World War II coastal towns such as Ilfracombe and Westward Ho! became home to Jewish refugees fleeing occupied Europe. In Ilfracombe, two families founded a synagogue above a hotel at 17 St James' Place.

Today the building houses a restaurant and hotel.

During 1940-42 Ilfracombe was the base for a Pioneer Corps training centre, receiving exiles and refugees from Nazi-occupied Europe. These men carried out practical tasks for the Allied war effort. Most were Jewish and included musicians, writers and six Nobel Laureates.

With the arrival of the US forces, many of whom were Jewish, Ilfracombe's congregation grew again to over 100 people. The rabbi was a British army chaplain. Bar mitzvahs were performed here as well as regular services. The only known Jewish wedding to have ever taken place in Ilfracombe took place here in 1945.

Ilfracombe's 1000-seat Garrison Theatre hosted the most important Jewish festivals at New Year and Yom Kippur.



17 St. James Place, which housed the Ilfracombe Synagogue, by courtesy of Claire Gulliver

Right:  
US Colonel Warner inspecting the Sea Rangers, Ilfracombe, March 1944, by courtesy Ilfracombe Museum



## HERITAGE TRAIL

### 12 EXPERIMENTAL PIPELINE (PLUTO)

Watermouth Cove

Grid Ref: SS548485

**How to find:** The trail plaque is located on the South West Coast Path at Widmouth Head. Look out for a small information panel on a waymark post.

Operation PLUTO (Pipe Lines Under the Ocean) was a World War II experiment organised by British Engineers, oil companies and the British Armed Forces. They wanted to construct an undersea oil pipeline to support the invasion of France.

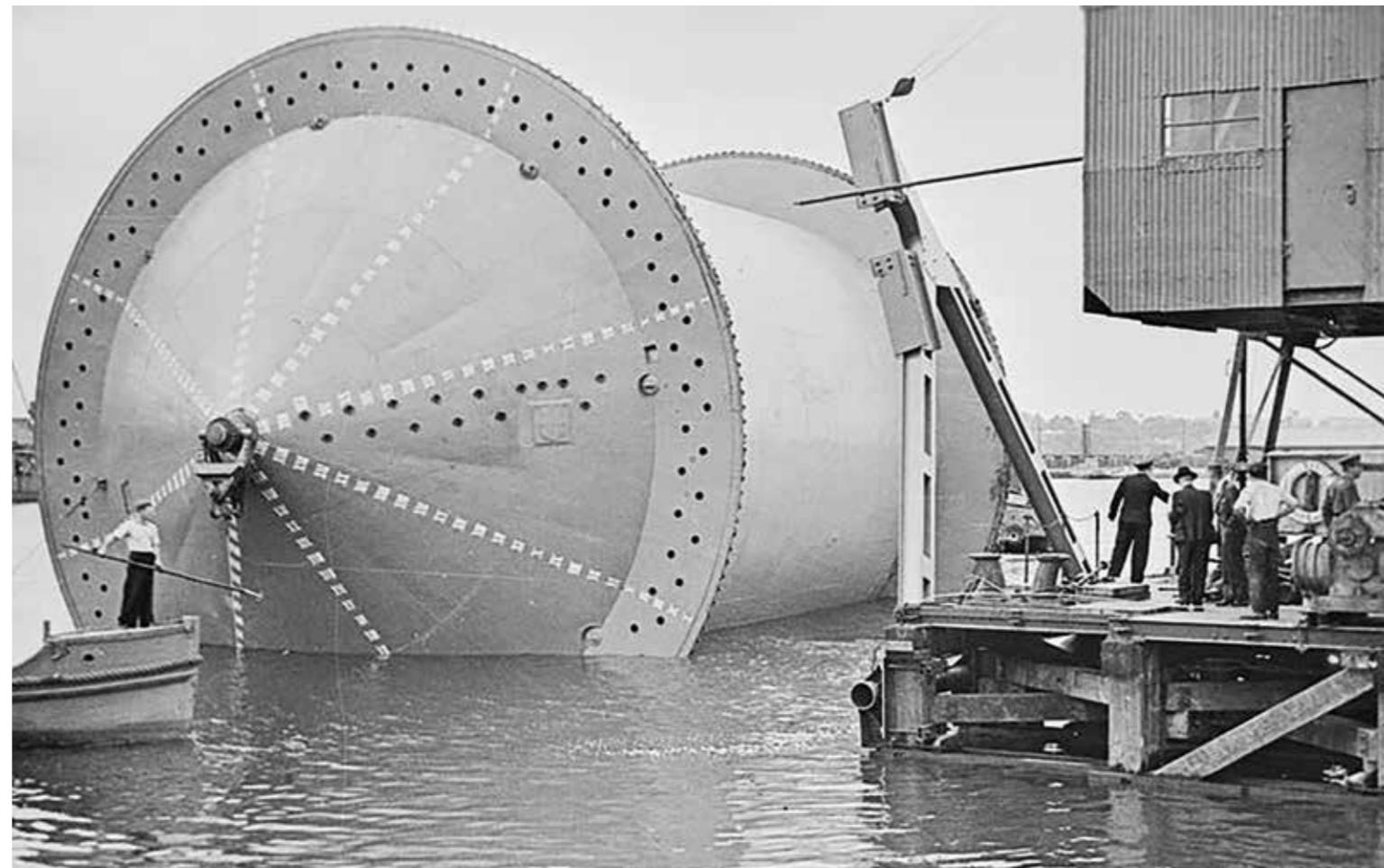


PLUTO pipelines were made from hollow submarine telegraph cable without the central copper core and insulation.

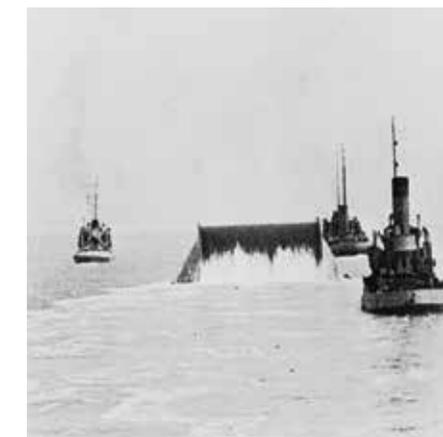
Cable-laying ship The London (later HMS Holdfast) laid a 30-mile pipe across the Bristol Channel between Swansea in South Wales and Watermouth, near Combe Martin in North Devon.

Following D-Day, army engineers laid two pipelines across the English Channel between Britain and France. These supplied eight percent of the allied armies' fuel needs until the end of World War II.

Right:  
PLUTO drum, laying the pipeline under the ocean, © IWM



Watermouth Cove, by courtesy North Devon Coast AONB



A 'Conundrum' being towed across the English Channel, laying out pipe behind it, © IWM



## MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS

### BRAUNTON AND DISTRICT MUSEUM

The Bakehouse Centre

Caen Street

Braunton

**EX33 1AA**

Comprehensive World War II displays include the military training that took place on Braunton Burrows in 1943/4 during the preparations for the D-Day landings.

### MORTEHOE MUSEUM

Mortehoe

**EX34 7DT**

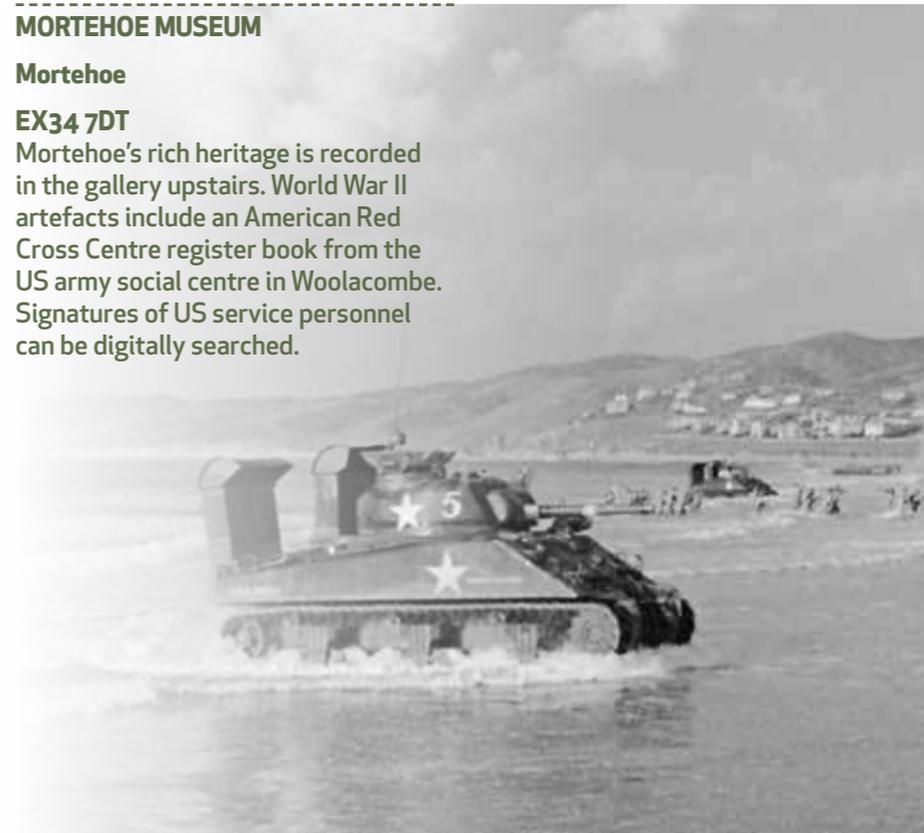
Mortehoe's rich heritage is recorded in the gallery upstairs. World War II artefacts include an American Red Cross Centre register book from the US army social centre in Woolacombe. Signatures of US service personnel can be digitally searched.

Left:

GIs at the American Red Cross Centre in Woolacombe. Now the Red Barn pub, the interior archway in this photograph is visible today. Note the effigies of wartime political leaders, by courtesy of Mortehoe Museum

Right:

US tanks at Woolacombe Beach, by courtesy Tony Koorlander / North Devon Coast AONB



## MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS

### MUSEUM OF BARNSTAPLE AND NORTH DEVON (RE-OPENS LATE SUMMER 2019)

The Square  
Barnstaple  
EX32 8LN

Redeveloped and extended for 2019, The Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon tells the stories of the people and landscapes of North Devon. Collections include everything from ancient rocks to brand new artworks.

### GREAT TORRINGTON HERITAGE MUSEUM AND ARCHIVE

14 South Street  
Great Torrington  
EX38 8AF

#### Next door to the Pannier Market

A friendly, free museum with many fascinating exhibits reflecting the diverse history of this ancient market town. World War II artefacts include a book compiled by the US 265th Field Artillery Battalion which was based in the town en route to France.

### COMBE MARTIN MUSEUM AND INFORMATION POINT

Cross Street  
Combe Martin  
EX34 0DH

A village museum with lots to see and do, including popular Seashore Safaris. Displays highlight the heritage of the busy coastal village of Combe Martin and the surrounding area.

### ILFRACOMBE MUSEUM

Wilder Road  
Ilfracombe  
EX34 8AF

A treasure house of weird and wonderful things telling stories from Ilfracombe and beyond. Extensive and varied collections include a collection of World War II press photographs.

Soldiers at Woolacombe,  
by courtesy of Morteheo Museum

## MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS

### NORTHAM BURROWS CENTRE

Sandymere Road

Northam

EX39 1XS

The Visitor Centre is located in the centre of Northam Burrows and contains information and exhibitions about the Country Park which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

It includes a new World War II display about activities on the Burrows.

### NORTH DEVON MARITIME MUSEUM

Odun Road

Appledore

EX39 1PT

The North Devon Maritime museum offers a fascinating insight into the rich shipbuilding and seafaring history of the area.

Visitors can discover the World War II beach landing experiments, sail and steam vessels, shipwrecks and much more. Displays include photographs relating to COXE and HMS Appledore.

Right:  
Centaur tank at Cobbaton Combat Collection. British forces used Centaur tanks on D-Day, by courtesy of Cobbaton Combat Collection

### COBBATON COMBAT COLLECTION

Cobbaton

Chittlehampton

Umberleigh

EX37 9RZ

Military museum and tourist attraction. This collection covers mostly World War II, but also contains exhibits from the Boer War right up to the First Gulf War, from tanks, guns, helmets, artillery, grenades, and bombs to Home Front ration books and gas masks.



A 'Bobbin' carpet-layer tank for laying tracks across soft beaches © IWM

## FURTHER INFORMATION

### BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

*Spirits of the Sand: The history of the US Army Assault Training Center, Woolacombe* – Richard T Bass (Lee Publishing, 1992) ISBN 0 9518934 0 8

*Illustrations of Old Bideford* – Peter Christie (Edward Gaskell, various volumes and dates) ISBN: 9781906769376

*Jews in North Devon during the Second World War* – Helen Fry (Halsgrove, 2005) ISBN: 1841144371

*North Devon at War: The Home Front* – The Joint Social History Project (Devon Library Services and North Devon Museums Service, 1995) ISBN: 1-85522-455

A schools resource pack is available from the Museum of Barnstaple & North Devon [museum@northdevon.gov.uk](mailto:museum@northdevon.gov.uk)

### WEBSITES

#### North Devon Coastal Heritage Project:

<https://www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk/coastalheritage/world-war-2>

#### Bideford 500:

[www.bidefordheritage.co.uk/life-in-bideford-during-ww2](http://www.bidefordheritage.co.uk/life-in-bideford-during-ww2)

#### Friends of the Assault Training Centre:

<http://www.assaulttrainingcenterfriends.co.uk>

#### Imperial War Museum collections:

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections>

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**This booklet, and the Devon D-Day project of which it is part, is indebted to the work of Richard Bass, upon whose book ‘Spirits of the Sand’ it draws extensively.**

We are grateful to the volunteers from museums across North Devon, many of whom have contributed to the project, including Maureen Connelly, Tom Downie, Martyn Drew, Gwyneth Faye, Amanda Gratton, Gary West and Diana Yendell and many others.

Information about Ilfracombe’s Jewish community is taken from ‘Jews in North Devon during the Second War’ by Helen Fry.

Information about Bideford during World War II is from Peter Christie’s ongoing series ‘Illustrations of Old Bideford’.

Images are reproduced by courtesy of Richard Bass, Peter Christie, Tony Koorlander, Neil Worth, Mortehoe Museum, Ilfracombe Museum, Braunton and District Museum, Saunton D-Day, the Imperial War Museum, Cobbaton Combat Collection and North Devon Coast Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Left:

Re-enactors approaching the beach, by courtesy of Saunton D-Day

# Devon D-Day

DEVON D-DAY IS SUPPORTED USING PUBLIC FUNDING BY THE NATIONAL LOTTERY THROUGH ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND, WITH ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM NORTH DEVON COUNCIL, NORTH DEVON COAST AONB AND NORTH DEVON MARKETING BUREAU.

**Devon D-Day is linked to North Devon Coastal Heritage, a project by North Devon Coast Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).**

Devon D-Day is delivered in collaboration with a range of partners including South West Museum Development, North Devon Marketing Bureau, Saunton Beach D-Day, Friends of the Assault Training Center and the museums on the North Devon coast.



Brian Chugg, Beach Defences, Saunton

Ink and watercolour sketch made on site, 1949, Museum of Barnstaple & North Devon