

The top photo is of an inflated dummy assault landing craft, known as a “wetbob.” The bottom photo is a whole flotilla of fake tank landing crafts, known as “bigbobs.”

Every available landing craft was used for the real invasion. So, under Operation Quicksilver III, large numbers of dummy Landing Craft Tanks (LCT's) kits were produced. The idea was to simulate the assembly of an invasion fleet in East Anglia and its gradual move down the coast to Dover and Folkestone in readiness for the final assault on Calais. Two infantry battalions, 4th Battalion the Northamptonshire Regiment and the 10th Battalion The Worcestershire Regiment - were sent to a special training school and set up at the village of Waldringfield on the River Deben to be taught how to assemble, float and maintain dummies. The dummies themselves, officially called Devices No36 and No52, but code named Bigbobs, comprised of canvas stretched over a lightweight tubular steel frame, floating on an array of 45-gallon oil drums.

Building the Bigbobs was very labor intensive, each kit had over 500 parts, filling six or seven 3-ton trucks, and took 20 men 6 hours to assemble. When complete, it weighed eight tons and looked convincingly like a real Landing Craft Tank Mark II, (Device #36) or Mark V, (Device #52).

Source: “Timeline 1944.” World War II Remembered. 2009. Online. 2014. http://www.oocities.org/ww2_remembered/1944.html

