

**Ken Lovell**

**Prayer before Salerno Landing**

Just before the landing we paraded and Woodlands, our platoon commander, we had a weapon inspection. Inspected the water bottles were full and things like this. And then he suggested that it would be a good idea if we commended ourselves to God and asked his protection. And we said The Lord's Prayer together in fact. I don't think I've ever in my life heard it said so fervently as it was on that occasion. Anyway we eventually we were called up deck because we'd been kept below deck from the time we went in to the actual Bay of Naples. We came up on deck and saw this vast invasion fleet. Just to our left there was the, I think it was the *Warspite*, the monitor, blasting away with its 15 inch guns and the shells going through the air making the sound of a railway porter running with his 'devil' along the platform. Most unusual noise.