

**Robert Ellison**

**Landing at Salerno**

We didn't quite hit the beach and we were waist high in water going in, having to keep all your equipment up above. And as we were coming off the boat there was people trying to get back on. One was our sergeant-major, Baker they called the bloke at that time, they'd got off and ran up the beach. We were going off in order off the LSI and they'd hit land mines. Maybe four or five were killed at that point, and six or seven of them were coming back on the boat with blood coming off them and so on. So it was a bit of a shambles, they were trying to get up the planks as we were going down, which was totally wrong but what could you do? We were told to go to the left as we got off the beach and not to go forward because of the mines. Obviously we'd landed somewhere that hadn't been cleared. So we landed and were lying on the beach and the noise was horrendous, both from the Germans and from us. And you could see guns up on the cliff sides of Salerno. You could actually see guns. They were Italian ones actually, some of them. And if they'd have used them all they'd have blasted us off the face of the earth, but they weren't all used as it happened.