



Name: Peter Conacher

Position: Lance Corporal

DOB-DOD: 1919- 9 September 1943

Peter Conacher, Lance Corporal for the Royal Signals 231st Brigade, British Army, died during the period of Allied invasion of the Italian mainland.

The Allied invasion of Sicily was to be the first of three amphibious assault landings conducted by the 231st Brigade during the war. The brigade was constituted as an independent brigade group under the command of Brigadier Roy Urquhart (later famous as commander of the 1st Airborne Division which was destroyed at Arnhem in September 1944). After some hard fighting, including the 2nd Devons at Regalbuto amongst the foothills of Mount Etna, the Germans were driven from Sicily and the Allies prepared to invade Italy.

The 231st Brigade's second assault landing was at Porto San Venere on 7 September 1943, when the Allies invaded Italy. They were now experienced amphibious assault troops, however during this period Lance Corporal Peter Conacher died.

After the September assault, the 231st Brigade became an integral part of the veteran 50th (Northumbrian) Infantry Division and was recalled to England with the division, to prepare for the Allied invasion of Normandy, scheduled for the spring of 1944. In February 1944 Brigadier Sir A.B.G. Stanier assumed command of the brigade.

Peter was remembered by his parents Hugh and Marion Conacher of Dundee. He is buried in Salerno War Cemetery and his name is also recorded on a memorial situated in Dundee Telephone Hse having joined PO Engineering in March 1942. His parents provided a very touching and deeply moving inscription in memory of their son "THOUGH ABSENT HE IS EVER NEAR STILL MISSED, STILL LOVED EVER DEAR".



Troops of the 231st Brigade resting beside a bulldozer after fighting a fire on a landing craft which was hit during a surprise landing in the enemy's rear at Porto San Venere, Italy, 8 September 1943.