

PESKETT, JOHN

RANK: CORPORAL

DECORATIONS:

YEARS OF SERVICE: 1947-1953

SHIPS: HMS VICTORIOUS & HMS BIRMINGHAM

OPERATIONAL SERVICE: KOREA 1951-1953, POW

UNITS: ME 41 INDEPENDANT COMMANDO

Enlisted 1947, joined *Victorious* (Home Fleet Training Squadron). Gunnery training at Whale Island; 6" guns loader and 4.5" gun-layer. Joined *Birmingham*, involved in quelling riots in Mogadishu.

Completed Landing Craft Course at Fort Cumberland. Describes the fort, Eastney and surrounds also landing craft, raiding boats and DUKWs. Coxswain qualified. Volunteered for Korea, 41 Commando. Took part in raids from Mado Island into Wansong Bay coast. Mentions Peter Thomas. Peskett amongst those captured when craft were damaged.

Descriptions of interrogations/beatings. Caught dysentery and beriberi; nursed by a Korean woman. Passed through N. Korean Interrogation Centre where Marine Aldrich died. Captain Farrer-Hockley (Glosters) joined them before long march north. Describes camp conditions, locations and treatment. Mentions Regimental Sergeant Major Baines, Cpl Brady, Sergeant Major Day, Hicks, Marine Cox and Banfield. Farrer-Hockley was a strong influence. Peskett started a concert party.

41 Commando disbanded before Peskett reached Eastney (6th December 1953). Became despondent and scruffy, describes depression and recovery. Served at Poole (LCMs) then left Corps and joined Police. Unsuccessful attempt to re-join Corps when Suez began. Remained active with Poole RMA.