

ROBERTS, JOHN W R

RANK: MARINE (COXSWAIN)

DECORATIONS:

YEARS OF SERVICE: 1956-Mid 60's

SHIPS:

OPERATIONAL SERVICE: CHRISTMAS ISLAND H-BOMB TESTS, FAR EAST

UNITS: 4th RAIDING SQUADRON, HQ 3 COMMANDO BRIGADE

Born 1938, Wales; enlisted May 1956 – Deal (657 Squad) followed by Infantry Training and Commando Course at Lympstone. Portsmouth and HMS *Vanguard* for Seamanship Training and Eastney for Kings Badge training. Landing Craft specialisation – 4th Raiding Squadron. Flown to Christmas Island (HMS Resolution) to prepare for H-Bomb trials (Op Grapple). Landed 6 August 1957, had 10 LCM Mk 7 plus 2 pontoons to ferry stores etc., from ship to shore. Roberts was only Coxswain for part of time. Describes LC uniform and use of HMS Messina.

First trial: Description of protective equipment/location during trial; aircraft dummy runs, explosion and effects.

Before second trial, pontoon was used to transport 50-ton loads. Roberts then contracted food poisoning - sent to US military camp at Honolulu for R&R.

Second Trial: Was involved in monitoring fish stocks/condition.

Returned to Stonehouse and hospital with weight loss problem. Then to Singapore with 3 Commando Brigade, working in Officers Mess (Mentions John Mottram). Returned to Poole as Landing Craft Storekeeper for final 18 months.

Remainder consists of personal stories of barrack and home life prior to, and following, discharge.