

AWM52
2nd Australian Imperial Force and
Commonwealth Military Forces unit war
diaries, 1939-45 War

Item number: 8/2/26

26 Infantry Brigade

January 1946

WAR DIARY - JANUARY 1946

HQ 26 INF BDE

3 LSTs sailed from MOROTAI at 1520 hrs 1 Jan, LST 324 leading, followed by 9 and 408. During afternoon and issue of Christmas hampers was made. These hampers had been obtained at MOROTAI.

1500 hrs 2 Jan, passed HMS "GLENLYLE" on its way to MOROTAI. One bottle of beer issued to each man. Heavy rain commenced at 1800 hrs.

During 3 Jan commenced following along coast of NEW GUINEA. Sea very calm. Rain during day.

A guessing competition was held on board - guess the number of miles covered in the 24 hours between 1200 hrs 3 Jan and 1200 hrs 4 Jan. The LST covered 278 miles, the nearest guess being 277½ miles. One bottle of beer issued to each man.

At 2400 hrs night 4/5 Jan, clocks were put forward one hour.

On 5 Jan, sea very calm and LSTs now nearing THURSDAY IS.

At approx 0230 hrs 6 Jan, passed THURSDAY ISLAND. LSTs moving SOUTH-EAST down the coast of Cape York Peninsula inside the Barrier Reef. Sea calm, weather fine and hot.

On 7 Jan, still inside Barrier Reef. At 1700 hrs passed COOKTOWN, and during night passed CAIRNS. Tps received ACF issue of two ozs tobacco. Sea calm, weather fine.

Passed TOWNSVILLE early afternoon 8 Jan. Today was the worst experience so far as there was little sun and occasional showers and wind made things unpleasant. Tps issued with one bottle of beer per man at 1800 hrs.

During 9 Jan, sea rough both day and night. Tps issued with one bottle of beer per man.

10 Jan, weather fine but windy. Sea still rough.

At 1145 hrs 11 Jan, arrived at HAMILTON WHARF, BRISBANE. Tps disembarked at 1330 hrs, and were transported to CHERMSIDE STAGING CAMP. Overnight leave to BRISBANE was granted to all tps. NEI currency changed to Australian.

Meals during the voyage were fairly good.

On 15 Jan, 38 surplus personnel on the HQ were sent to YEERONGPILLY STAGING CAMP for leave, re-posting and discharge.

Unit Cadre remains at CHERMSIDE STAGING CAMP.

On 16 Jan, kit bags were received from Kit Store.

On 17 Jan, unloading of stores and vehicles from LST 408 commenced, and was finished by 1600 hrs. On 18 Jan, stores were unloaded and checked at CHERMSIDE.

On 22 Jan, unit stores were handed over and ~~sent~~ sent to Hedley Park at REDBANK.

Friday 25 Jan, HQ 26 Inf Bde disbanded at CHERMSIDE STAGING CAMP.

Requiescat in pace.
De mortuis nil nisi bonum.