

Geoffrey Charles Long

War Service

C.M.F 23/12/1941 to 07/06/1943

A.I.F 08/06/1943 to 25/01/1946

Unit: Fortress Signals

Trade Group: T.G.2 Lineman

I arrived at Albany on 23/12/1941 after 3 months training in Melville. Was transferred to Rottnest about September 1942 for three months, then returned to Albany. I left Albany late February 1943 for Fremantle.

I was drafted to L of C Signals and went to Melbourne where I spent two weeks before going to Yeerongapilly just out of Brisbane for one week and then to Townsville for a month. All of this travel was by train.

I was then transferred to 25 Line Section New Guinea Force Signals. I left Townsville for Port Moresby by boat and was there for about 3 months working on Army to Airforce lines, then commenced on the beginning of a carrier line which finished going as far as Lae. My next move was by air over the Owen Stanley Range. The pass is 12,000 ft and on the first try in shocking weather after reaching half way we had to return to Moresby. The weather was better the next morning and we made it to Dobodura, where I worked on another section of the carrier line to Owen's corner for one month to 6 weeks. The next move was a walk of around 70 miles to Gona station to start another section – all the gear was dropped by parachute from biscuit bombers. We worked right through to the Wu Wu river just below Morobe. We were then split up into groups of 3 or 4 and worked on maintenance stations.

About June 1944, we were recalled to Dobodura (walked back too) and then sent home by boat, the Lu Line, which later took the first lot of War brides to America. It was like a luxury liner to us. We arrived back in Brisbane in July 1944 and trained to Sydney, then Perth and Albany, arriving there at the beginning of August 1944. Bet and I were married on the 12th of August 1944. I had 52 days leave and then a week in Northam Hospital followed by 3 weeks or so at Claremont. I eventually ended up in Melbourne where I spent 3 months and did a line and cable course at Fisherman's Bend.

The next move was on to the 25th Line Section 1st Airborne Signals reformed unit Melbourne. I went to Brisbane about February 1945 then by boat from Brisbane around New Guinea to Morotai, we were here for three months. We then went to Balikpapan (Borneo) and I was here when the war finished. In December 1945 I travelled home by boat past Celebes, Sumatra, Java, Timor and across to Australia, landing at Brisbane. From here I travelled by train to Sydney then boat to Fremantle.

I received my discharge on 25th January 1946.