

Appx G

Climatic Conditions: Throughout the month the Bn occupied static Defensive posns. This fact made the normal Egyptian Summer condition more trying. Occasionally the first two hours of light were attended by slight mists which were followed by burning hot sun and cloudless blue sky. About 1400 hrs there were generally sand storms which lasted throughout the afternoon, reducing visibility to Zero and consequently Arty activity was on a reduced scale. AS a general rule the mid day heat was intense which was enervating especially for A and C Coys who had to reduce movement to a minimum. Even more trying than the heat were the flies which infested the area in countless thousands. They were everywhere, shared our meals committed suicide in our tea, and used our bodies as playgrounds for the remainder of the day. As is usual in the desert the nights were a compensation for the trials of the day. Brilliant moonlight nights and cooler temperatures and absence of flies were much appreciated.

TOPOGRAPHY: The area which the Bn occupied during the month was comparatively flat with occasional shallow wadis. To the West was the EL MARIER Depression occupied by the Enemy and to the North, dominating the landscape was EL RUWEISAT RIDGE. The area was stony with occasional patches of desert shrubs, camel thorns etc.

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QUARTERS OCCUPIED: In the early part of the month the men occupied shallow slit trenches with a ground-sheet over the top, to afford some protection from the sun. Later these trenches were deepened and with the exercise of a little initiative, quite comfortable bivvys were made. A and C Coys were compelled to remain in their trenches all day, since they were in view of the enemy coming out at night for exercise and strengthening of their Coy posns.

SCALE OF WATER: This varied from 1 gal. to 1½ gals per man per day, all water having to be transported considerable distance in 2 gal containers. The supply was supplemented by frequent visits to HAMMAM STATION by the BN water carts.

RATIONS: The supply of rations continued to be good. In the early part of the month the experiment was made of fresh meat and vegetables, which proving successful continued throughout the month. This was a welcome change since the men had been living on tinned rations for a considerable period. Owing to the extra ordinary number of flies handling of fresh rations was difficult, ^{but} this difficulty was overcome, by exercises of additional precautions. Commencing about 10 Aug. and every week thereafter, extra rations, cabbage kumara etc., were bought in Alexandria out of Regimental Funds. On order from Bde BN reserve rations were built up to 5 days.

CHANGES IN DRESS: Dress continued to be Summer scale the only new issue being "head veils", an invention which arose out of the miriads of flies which infested the area. Very good facilities were made available for exchanges of dirty clothing for clean clothing, men being permitted to exchange as frequently as they desired.

GIFTS: At the end of the month there was a Patriotic Gift issue of 2 oz of cigarette tobacco, 50 cigarettes and 2 boxes of matches.

CHANGES IN G 1098: Bn was issued with four Spigot Mortars and 600 bombs. By the end of the month some useful enemy weapons had been salvaged mostly LMGs and 2" mortars. Several trucks were salvaged and returned to O.F.P.