

APPENDIX G.September.

CLIMATIC CONDITIONS: Weather during the month was much the same ~~with~~ as for August. While the Bn was resting at the beach the cool sea breezes, tempered the burning rays of the sun, so that weather conditions were ideal. The nights were cool and tranquil except for the occasional drone of our night bombers. For the greater part of the month the Bn has occupied a Training Area where the mornings are accompanied by heavy mists which lasts until about 0630 hrs. The Mornings are very warm and in the afternoon there are generally dust storms which lasts till about 1700 hrs. The nights are cool and very pleasant.

TOPOGRAPHY: Whilst at the beach the Bn was about 500 yds from the sea-shore on a white sand ridge running East and West. The Training Area is comparatively flat with low hills to the North West and to the South. The Area is rocky covered with sand patches of which are deep and hard going for M.T. The whole area is covered with stunted desert vegetation inhabited by lizards and scorpions, as many of the men know ~~in~~ through experience.

QUARTERS OCCUPIED: The men live in "bivvys" which is the normal Army issue and find them very necessary owing to the mists, which arise during the early hours of the morning.

SCALE OF WATER: One gallon per man with additional water for washing purposes.

SCALE OF RATIONS: On leaving the line all reserve rations were left in the Fortress Area. Rations for the month were mostly fresh and in good quantities. Fresh meat and vegetables provided a "menu" which was most appetising. During the time spent at the beach, rations were supplemented by extra vegetables purchased in Alexandria, with the Regtl. Funds.

DRESS: No change in clothing scale. Dirty clothing continued to be exchanged regularly for clean clothing. During the month the Bn was fully equipped with clothing, web equipment etc.,

CHANGES IN G 1098: After the action of the night 3/4 Sep. the number of weapons held by the Bn had considerably diminished. Towards the end of the month the Bn received 19 Bren Guns complete with mags. to make up our def.

PATRIOTIC GIFTS: NIL.

Y. M. C. A. The Bn wishes to place on record its deep appreciation for the work done by Mr. C. Bennett and his Staff. During the whole time the Bn was in the front line Mr. Bennett was untiring in his efforts to supply the men with tinned fruit, cigarettes etc., The YMCA van bears mute testimony to the extent of Mr. Bennett's work at the front line. It bears shrapnel marks from German shells received in the Bn area. When the Bn was opposite the El Mreir Depression YMCA supplies were brought forward in a Bren Carrier so that where ever possible the men could be supplied.

Archives New Zealand = Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga.

Ref: 28 NZ (Maori) Battalion Diary, WAI 1 1665 DA 68/1/33, p.93