

Complicated transport equipments, can shoot - about
 400. are marksmen, can go without sleep & can
 sleep in the heat of the desert sun, which is harder
 & as important, can drill, far better than even I've
 seen N.Z. troops do peace or war. We have rid
 ourselves of the wearings & wasters and all we
 want is a few line wounds. So far I think the
 best thing mine done as a battalion was to put up
 the camp for two British battalions, some 180 ^{small} mangroves
 & over 100 hell tents, temperature about 125° in the
 sun and a blinding glare all day, not only that
 but to clean out their morning huts, purchase vegetables
 & cash & meal & then meet them at the siding with
 transport & band. The British Brigadier would
 say that in all his experience he'd never known
 anything like it.

Generally, the troops are acquiring a very
 good reputation here. An R.S.C. sergeant was sent
 with two boxes of explosives for Engineers near the
 frontier. Off he went, about 300 miles desert road
 completed in the evening. Engineers had gone on -
 would be at a certain map reference - only some
 stones among other stones, 80 miles on. Off again
 checked the map reference - a party there said
 R.E.s were 40 miles further on - actually in Libya,
 couldn't cross desert at night. Would try & die,
 duty delivering explosives to 120 miles past-delivery
 point.

Called away.