

so many employed on guards & pickets that it isn't easy to get in much training, but for that matter they are pretty well trained already and a spot of "real soldering" is not doing any harm. We worried about the Japs for a bit but have decided it's no use and ^{that} you people can be depended upon to keep your end up.

I should like to see N.Z. in its present-maintained condition. I hope you are getting the equipment, especially light automatics & mortars & anti tank guns. In N.Z. tanks would do poorly against properly equipped infantry.

It is impossible to imagine finer troops than we have here at present, nearly all are battle experienced & the long intervals between battles, spent under almost devious conditions, have given time for training & to about lessons. Moral is as high as ever & general efficiency, both of staffs & units, very high indeed. The General makes no secret of his opinion "the best troops in the world" & we certainly have no reason to be afraid of any others. We would like a chance to talk with the Japs, especially in reasonably open country, the jungle would no doubt bother us at first.

Our advanced base is now near Tel Aviv. I called in there on the way up & found such a sturdy the very smart efficient & efficient.