



The oasis. At right - after the cloud-burst.

At Baggush I was selected as a member of the 26 Bn. Intelligence Section, or I. Sec. (Officer, Sgt., Corporal and 5 Privates. I was a Plt. - pay 75C. a day. The previous I. Sec. were all wounded or P.O.W. during the first Libyan offensive.



The new I. Sec (L. to R.) Ewart May Cpl. Ch. Ch. Solicitor. Frank Coe - farmer, Cant., Dudley Piper Lt. Bank clerk, (Cm. -aru. Ray Madden, Ch. Ch. Com. artist Ben Coury (Sgt.) Ralph Newburgh, Ch. Ch. Accountant. Self (Ab. John Keown)

We took over their 8-wt Chev. truck, with bullet & shell holes in windscreen & body. Found the previous Sgt's diary behind the front seat. (Jack Fraser (P.O.W.) School-Teacher - Timaru Main School.) We lived like rabbits, underground in "dug-outs."



A freak cloud-burst - Baggush - night before Xmas Eve. Many dug-outs flooded. We had 2' of water in ours.



Xmas parcels - 1941 - from home. Part of 75 sacks full, brought from Cairo by truck. (Soup, tinned oysters, ox-tongues, lamb & green-peas, peaches & pineapple, chewing-gum, coffee & cream, fruit-cake, razor-blades (Giem), Gibbs dentifrice, tooth-brush. We always shared our parcels.