

LIVING CONDITIONS

The living conditions of the personnel were comparable to those generally experienced in the advance zone of battle operations, but the tour of continuous duty was of a longer duration than is usual for such service. The average amount of sleep which the personnel procured during the entire sixty-two days was limited, due to adverse conditions, to about five and one-half hours per day.

Aside from this, much inconvenience and at times even hardship was experienced due to the almost continuous and excessive amount of strenuous work, insufficient rest and sleep, lack of shelter, ration difficulties, lack of bathing facilities, and at times the scarcity of even drinking water. Other conditions such as alternate extremes of temperature, rain, high winds, excessive dust, sand storms, and the rarefied and the extremely dry atmosphere of the arid western region combined to make a condition that only military discipline as administered by the commanding officer could overcome and insure the success of the expedition.

