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# Jewish RASC Units in Thick Of Fighting

## LETTERS RECEIVED FROM ITALY

Jewish transport companies of the R.A.S.C. took part in the Eighth Army landings and are at present serving in Italy, stated Mr. M. Shertok, head of the Jewish Agency's Political Department at a press conference in Jerusalem yesterday.

Letters written home by Palestinian Jewish soldiers now up in the forward battle areas indicate that they are in the thick of the fighting.

Most of the men write that their spirits are high in spite of the fierce artillery shelling. "It was a fairly quiet day and we bathed in a nearby creek, in water as cool as in Galilee beneath Hermon," wrote one. "We had an Italian barber in today and had hair-cuts, the first in several weeks. Our hats fit better now! Several more of our detachments got here today and brought mail."

One soldier wrote: "The guns are firing from among our parked vehicles. In other words, we are up at the front. The noise is terrific. We are, of course, being bombed but our spirits are high."

Another man in a Jewish transport company, reporting that an unexploded shell fell 50 yards away, said they just moved back twenty yards and dug new fox-holes for the night.

### In Great Heart

"Our men are in great heart and battle-proved," was another letter. "Several times at our jobs we have seen men falling some yards away, never to get up, but we have gone on."

Another man, speaking of preparations for the New Year holidays, said they bought wine, plums and apples, prepared several hundred bars of chocolate, and had cigarettes, and were intending to celebrate the festival in the open air to the noise of the artillery. "Next year we hope to be at home!" he ended.