

Cairo

2/6/40

Dear friends,

There is a lot of dirty work going on. France crushed, Italy in for the jackals work, Britain bracing for terrific times, Egypt cut off from the world & we are. You will imagine us on the Libyan frontier, sweltering in the desert, close to action.

We'll wine not, at the moment. We're doing important enough work and having an interesting time, but living in near luxury. My HQ. are in the Kasr el Nil Barracks, I occupy part of the old Khudivial palace, sharing two rooms with a Scots Guards Major, having meals on a mahogany table on the balcony above the Nile, a charming scene with moonlight on the river, candles & palms. By midday I have visited the companies, done anything required in the orderly room and am free to sleep or play. 3 afternoons this week I've played cricket, this I'll write letters. It is not quite a demoralising life, rather a very pleasant respite. & it is quite unexpected.

It is difficult to write without offending against censorship requirements. You will realize that we are isolated here, have had