

cleared to him then than later decided to take his friend - from another By - home per Breen Cannon. He then decided for similar reasons to stay the night & arrived back this morning both he & the Cannon wearing a derelict & shame-faced look. He was rebuffed to pay only 6 days pay but his candour saved him. Then I pottered about, spent a couple hours working out & giving orders for this practice attack & as long in selecting a mountain range in the wild country in front of our wire. Planes have been very busy all day but nothing has come near us.

A month or more ago the whole attitude was different & we expected a desperate fight. But our old acquaintances, 1st & 2nd Libyan Divs, 62nd & 63rd Metropolitan, 1st & 2nd Blackburn, Libyan Armoured Div, have come no closer & gradually the time is changing. The practice attacks now. When, a while ago, they were expected daily, we were going to put in a furious counter-attack and I had the main force with the 20th. It was a real desperate show though we would have made a hell of a dint - I couldn't see us getting back. But I had the whole Bn wound up to go & it has been bitterly disappointing as the weeks have passed without anything. Now the talk is that we won't be used until the whole Div is assembled & trained to our pitch and we are very annoyed with Bernard & <sup>with</sup> Median fluent force, who at this moment we suspect of having a show on while we wait in reserve. The air is full of rumours of an advance but we are still twiddling our thumbs. This has sort of knocked me out, I'll write more tomorrow when we may know what's happening.

Tuesday.

We are almost speechless with monotony. We are