

Arabah  
Dec 17<sup>th</sup> 1935

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Dear Mother.

This was to have been a cheery Xmas letter but I am sorry I have no cheerful news to send you, yesterday was a very disastrous day. to put it briefly Otto dislocated his foot & wrist, & I had to get him to the hospital in Bahane & then on to the night train for Cairo. This is what occurred.

Otto was very put out over a little difficulty over matching the lighting on the enlarged photographs he is working on, so I told him leave them for the present as Amice may prefer to have them rephotographed, he agreed it was the best plan & I gave the men instructions to erect his scaffold so that he could stand on another plate. He went off as I thought to our retiring tent at the other end of the passage, & in a very little while I heard him shouting to me to come as an accident

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had happened. I rushed in the direction of his  
 voice & saw him clinging to one of the iron  
 gates, his boot covered with blood & the ankle  
 bone sticking out over the top of his boot,  
 with the men's help I got him on a chair  
 cut his boot off set the bone in place as best  
 I could & bound a slat from a drawing board  
 as a splint to keep it in place, his wrist  
 was all twisted & swelling & he looked ghastly.  
 I had sent Sardic to the <sup>local</sup> police station to  
 telephone to the police headquarters in Baliana.  
 (the police are connected by telephone) to have a  
 car sent immediately to take him into hospital.  
 When he could speak he said he had been up  
 on one of the walls & had jumped down & his  
 foot had twisted under him. I found the  
 place by the splotch of blood. I think he must  
 have been enraged at the set back in his work  
 & had gone up there & jumped in a sort of  
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 I suffer is a punishment for my own foolishness

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but you have done nothing to deserve all this  
 trouble. of course I treated the matter as if it  
 had been quite accidental.  
 Lunch had just arrived but of course we could  
 not touch any. we made him as comfortable  
 as possible & I got him to drink the juice of two  
 oranges. Then the ambulance from Bahiana arrived  
 the <sup>the</sup> hospital or military doctor, & the hospital doctor  
 & two attendants & our local police officer.  
 they put temporary dressing on his leg & his  
 wrist. the leg was a compound fracture  
 the wrist had a small bone broken. but the D<sup>r</sup>  
 said it would have to be X rayed in Cairo.  
 The police officer wrote out a lengthy account  
 of the accident & in the meantime I rushed  
 back to the house, packed a bag with his  
 night wear & change of everything & what ever  
 I thought he needed in Cairo, collected rugs  
 etc & Nannie packed food & boiled water  
 I also got some money & returned to the  
 temple & the attendants carried him out

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 on the stretcher, I rode by the driver & we tore  
 into Bahane clanging a bell like a fire engine  
 At the hospital he was taken into a private  
 room & laid on the bed & the doctors redressed  
 the leg & fixed a proper splint. I went on to  
 the station & sent telegrams to Amice & Dr Junker  
 in Cairo, then returned to the hospital where  
 I waited 7 hours until it was time to go to  
 the station for the 10-30 express. it was  
 pretty grim. he was in a dreadful state  
 of remorse & I had to keep talking on all sorts  
 of things to keep his mind off himself.

I also had to give necessary instructions to the  
 male nurses after the doctors had left. as  
 Otto's ~~arab~~ arabic is limited to the needs of  
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 managed to eat a little cake & fruit. at last  
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comfortably settled. The D<sup>r</sup> had arranged that the train should wait until he gave the signal to the driver. Our police officer had ordered a taxi for me & sent a soldier to escort me so I arrived back in camp about 11-20 feeling nearly dead. Nannie had hot soup ready for me & I was in bed soon after midnight. but I could not sleep, my head kept going over the events of the day. I hope he will get on all right the D<sup>r</sup> here says it is not a serious injury & I think everything possible was done for him. I must say the police & the doctors were simply splendid. D<sup>r</sup> Junker will be at Cairo to meet him & there is every thing available at the Hospital there & Doctors of his own nationality.

This morning ~~th~~ I had to write a long account to Amice. & various letters of thanks to the police officials & the 2 doctors for their assistance.

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I think this is all the news for  
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Lots of love to you both  
Your affectionate daughter  
Myrtle.

I hope you will have a Happy Xmas & enjoy the Xmas  
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