Grisham House 1 Bairo 191 April 25 17 1932

Dean Mother

I have some definité news for you. at last. I am sailing from Port Said April 27 " on the Burma. Henduson Line. due London May 11 5. We have been to the Red Sea after all we made up our minds quite suddenly. is had finished the work, other wasn't a suitable British boat for our a week , the weather had turned a little cools. so we talked of the trip longingly at supper Monday a decided to attemp it after all alone in spile of the puils of the makian disert that is had been warmed about. Thisday we packed up. took a good supply of vater + petrol , all Joy's spare parts, also a long roll of chuker ion netting to dies over in case the sand was too soft of the car began to sink in of be went We stayed the first night at Mag Hammardi at the honey In had of the lig sugar factories, a herek man. . In next day plunged into the unknown -

Gresham House Cairo April 25<sup>th</sup> 1932

Dear Mother,

I have some definite news for you at last. I am sailing from Port Said April  $27^{\underline{\text{th}}}$  on the Burma. Henderson Line. due London May  $11^{\underline{\text{th}}}$ .

We have been to the Red Sea after all. we made up our minds quite suddenly. we had finished the work, & there wasnt<sup>sic</sup> a suitable b/<B>ritish boat for over a week & the weather had turned a little cooler, so we m/<ta>lked of the trip longingly at supper Monday & decided to attemp<sup>sic</sup> it after all alone in spite of the perils of the Arabian desert that we had been warned about. Tuesday we packed up. took a good supply of water & petrol & all Joey's spare parts, also a long roll of chicken wire netting to drive over in case the sand was too soft & the car began to sink in & off we went

We stayed the first night at Nag Hammardi<sup>sic</sup> at the <house> of <the> head of the big sugar factories, a French man. & the next day plunged into the unknown – 199

we were very rehered to find the aisful dangers of the analian disul had been very much unqualid then cutainly were bad patches of sand , we could su higholis when cans had stuck, but for didn't make any just about it, othere were a for defealt Turns o stup passes. but there was a definite track all the way (140 miles) . There were sweat wells where one could get water. so after our upuince of what desut travel can be like, we felt we were on a regular high way. although folk in bain were very amazed to han we had you atom in our own can & chiven ourselves. wer Pex said jolly good stant that " Of course Sandie was with us with his beloved gun, but he is not get deperienced crough to take the week or such a trip wher one has to has economical or petrol as possible, avoid over hating the engine - we spent the next night out in the disast man one of the wells. I win on the shows of the Red See the need day It was glorious. golden sands with strange stell

we were very relieved to find the awful dangers of the Arabian desert had been very much exagerated sic there certainly were bad patches of sand. & we could see big holes where cars had stuck, but Joey did'nt<sup>sic</sup> make any fuss about it, & there were a few difficult turns & steep passes. but there was a definite track all the way. (140 miles) & there were several wells where one could get water. so after our experience of what desert travel can be like, we felt we were on a regular high way. although folk in Cairo were very amazed to hear we had gone alone in our own car & driven ourselves. even Rex said. "jolly good stunt that." Of course Sardic was with us with his beloved gun. but he is not yet experienced enough to take the weel<sup>sic</sup> on such a trip when one has to be as economical on petrol as possible, & avoid over heating the engine – we spent the next night out in the desert near one of the wells. & were on the shores of the Red Sea the next day. It was glorious. golden sands with strange shells

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a funge of mountains of not grande, purple porphory + orange sandstone in the back ground, + the the dup blue sea, pating to deheate ques over a coral ruf. There is a Tiny village or the show called the Quassin it is one of the places when The folgions emback for Mecca. There are also som phosphali mines being worked there. we paid on respects to the Mudie o politily refused a pressing mortalion to stay in his house. other don along The sea stone & made on comp among the sand during. Sandie had never seen The sea before a was lord in his exclaim Nois I amage ment, but he nother musticated it. he washed his face in it in the usual anab way winsed his mouth, I was very upset to find it so salt. In less than five minutes amice & I were proncing over the corelary is bothing dusses (adapted to and edies of during) The sea in the shallows was as hot as one usually has Ju a hot bath at home. . when we would To soon we had to chan purply july ful out

a fringe of mountains of red granite, purple porphiry sic & orange sandstone in the bacg/<k> ground. & then the deep blue sea, paling to delicate green over a <white> coral reef. There is a tiny village on the shore called the Quassir it is one of the places where the pilgrims embark for Mecca. there are also some phosphate mines being worked there. we paid our respects to the Mudir & politely refused a pressing invitation to stay in his house. & then drove along the sea shore & made our camp among the sand dunes. Sardic had never seen the sea before & was loud in his exclaimations sic of amazement, but he rather mistrusted it, he washed his face in it & in the usual Arab way wrinsed<sup>sic</sup> his mouth, & was very upset to find it so salt. In less than five minutes Amice & I were prancing over the coral reef in bathing dresses (adapted to Arab ideas of decency) the sea in the shallows was as hot as one usually has for a hot bath at home. & when we wanted to swim we had to clear purple jelly fish out

of the way. But on the suf we met some nature fishermen & talked to them. They were so delighted to find on could speak analie , they had the most charming manners, they showed as many stronge sea creatines, we bright first cangel fish for them: which we cooked in a fichol ten own a frime. Sandie ment, had a fil wher we insisted that they must be boiled in sall sea water. however he found then very good to cat, we invited a specially countions fishermen to cat with sandie, a page ments of conversalion that we over heard from the other side of fore carried in much amusement.

We shipt on the show under the fall moon, with the sound of the laftping of the vairs on the word need to let us to sleep.

We were up at down a swam before heartfast a then had another explication along the show a started or our return joining about 10.30. I nached home the following day. very brunt. very dusty. but very satisfied with our adventure.

of the way. e/<O>ut on the reef we met some native fishermen & talked to them. they were so delighted to find we could speap/<k> Arabic & they had the most charming manners. they showed us many strange sea creatures & we bought fresh caught fish from them: which we cooked in a petrol tin over a primus. Sardic nearly had a fit when we insisted that they must be boiled in salt sea water. however he found them very good to eat, we invited a specially courtious fisherman to eat with Sardic, & fragments of conversation that we over heard from the other side of Joey caused us much amusement.

We slept on the shore. under the full moon, with the sound of the lapping of the waves on the coral reef to lull us to sleep.

We were up at dawn & swam before breakfast & then had another exploration along the shore & started on our return journey about  $10\cdot30$ . & reached home the following day. very burnt. very dusty, but very satisfied with our adventure.

since there it has been one mad rust to get packed i congthing stowed away , say good by to all our friends. Sandie menty wept at our departure, I never say anything quite so sad as his face when the good by a smile faded away.

Now we are lasting the gailes of Bairs. Tonight we dine with Lady Powlatt. tomorow with The the next day I sail.

Would father call in sec M. Pearce when he is in town o ask fairs to be me have all the news are insurance papers for Lady Sodier ready for me to fill in sign as soon as 1 get home. I think I had better insure for 6 months. for May 11 th (I believe it would cost just as much to insure for only five) + I may want to use he up to the end of october.

Lots of four to every body your effectionale daughlin Mynth.

A mice sinds look , she will return by a later book on she has a WI of things to do here

Since then it has been one mad rush to get packed & everything stowed away & say goodbye to all our friends. Sardic nearly wept at our departure, I never say/<w> anything quite so sad as his face when the Good bye smile faded away –

Now we are tasting the gaities<sup>sic</sup> of Cairo. tonight we dine with Lady Rowlatt. to morrow with Rex. the next day I sail.

Would Father call in & see M<sup>r</sup> Pearce when he is in town & ask m/<h>im to let me have all the necessary insurance papers for Lady Godiva ready for me to fill in & sign as soon as I get home. I think I had better insure for 6 months. from May 11<sup>th</sup> (I believe it would cost just as much to insure for only five) & I may want to use her up to the end of October.

Lots of love to every body your affectionate daughter Myrtle.

Amice sends love. she will return by a later boat as she has a lot of things to do here.