34 Arabah el-Madfunah. Oct 25 \$ 1929.

Dear Mother.

I have had the thill of thills Today. I node on a real desn't camel. It happened thus wise. When our beds + other things came up a few days ago on camels I got my camera out & Took a snap To the great delight of the camel man. Today some more stores came othe camels were unloaded just when we were ready to start for the tempte, so the camel man asked me if I would like to ride his camel, you may be sure I did not say no. so the gaudiest blankets in the house were fetched + chaped over the saddles + then I mounted one camel & Miss C. the other. the man made a hissing noise & the camel heaved up his behind nearly shot me over his head, then up went his first ligs & thought I should slide over his Tail, then he set of with his tong singing stride, it was parfectly wonderful the casy swinging motion going up + down the sand hills without a sound, it was fine

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being able to view the desert from such a hight When the camel hoke into a hot I really thought my spine would be janed through my head but I think I could soon adapt myself to the motion. The folding up of the camel for me 15 dismount was also rather alarming, but I am glad to say I managed werything without loss of dignity, of course this adventure caused huge delight among the savants, they rode our dispised donkays + there were hoots of joy from way body. The final incident was almost the most delightful when the camal man thanked as most profusely for honouring his camets by condicinding to ride them.

I have received two Observers since there been here we all appreciate them very much. when finisted for reading they do to fine shelves skeep dust of things, Today your letter with the photo's N'Labell took came they are not too bad. they make really pretty pictures, lam sorry to hear mustrooms shill do not agree with you.

34/2

being able to view the desert from such a height When the camel broke into a trot I really thought my spine would be jarred through my head but I think I could soon adapt myself to the motion. The folding up of the camel for me to dismount was also rather alarming, but I am glad to say I managed everything without loss of dignity, Of course this adventure caused huge delight among the servants. they rode our despised donkeys & there were hoots of joy from everybody. the final incident was almost the most delightful when the camal^{sic} man thanked us most profusely for honouring his camels by condecending^{sic} to ride them.

I have received two "Observers" since I have been here we all appreciate them very much. when finished for reading they do to line shelves & keep dust off things. Today your letter with the photo's $M^r La/<e>bell took came they are not too bad. they$ make really pretty pictures. I am sorry to hearmushrooms still do not agree with you. 34/3

Today Sheikh Abdu Wahid presented us with a charm to protect us from wit spirits, it is composed of certain chapters from the Koran beautifully written out on strips of paper & folded in a special way. This Sheik is a very holy man + it is a great compliment, for it is very rare for a Mohamedon to B give such a thing to a Christian.

yesterday our poor little house boy abdullah came running in screaming & aying with fright, the had been sent on an arrand to the village & had delayed this return till dusk, the total us that the had seen a ghost rise out of the desert & it came towards thin, the was in a great state of tenor, we think the must thave seen the wind lifting up a little when of sand as it does sometimes & it probably looked very weind in the half light these people are very inaqualitie & superstitions. They believe this place is the united. & that to be out alone after dark.

We are having a very hot spell just now, . . . they call it the second summer, it is not possible to

Today Sheikh Abdu Wahid presented us with a charm to protect us from evil spirits, it is composed of certain chapters from the Koran beautifully written out on strips of paper & folded in a special way. this Sheik is a very holy man & it is a great compliment, for it is very rare for a Mohameden^{sic} to 1 give such a thing to a Christian.

Yesterday our poor little house boy Abdullah came running in screaming & crying with fright. he had been sent on an errand to the village & had delayed his return till dusk. he told us that he had seen a ghost rise out of the desert & it came towards him, he was in a great state of terror. we think he must have seen the wind lifting up a little column of sand as it does sometimes & it probably looked very weird in the half light these people are very imaginative & superstitious. they believe this place is haunted. & hate to be out alone after dark.

We are having a very hot spell just now, they call it the second summer, it is not possible to 5. 34/4

work after 12. so Miss Gol get up at 5.15 + are starling work in the Timpste by 6.15. we rest in our rooms after funch Till 3.30 + Then manage to get in an how & a half's work before sunset. but wen then it is very hot because the sand absorbs so much heat, when we get back on the woning my clothes are all wet through but I don't feel in the teast distressed, as soon as we get in we all have not baths. That means that a large copper bowl beginnigh To set a longel in is placed in our room, also a large can of hot water & ditto of wild, so we are able to get a really good sponge down. I wash my vest & stockings at the same Time + put all clean things on for dinna, the things I wash and dry before bed Time. We have had a present of a live Turkay from one of the quards of the Timple, this gift has caused quelia lot of discussion, because it is against camp rules to accept presents, one has to make very definite rules because the nations will hing & such 2 Todinary work after 12. so Miss C & I get up at 5.15 & are starting work in the temple by 6.15. we rest in our rooms after lunch till 3.30 & then manage to get in an hour & a half's work before sunset, but even then it is very hot because the sand absorbs so much heat, when we get back in the evening my clothes are all wet through but I dont feel in the least distressed, as soon as we get in we all have hot baths. that means that a large copper bowl big enough to sit or kneel in is placed in our room, also a large can of hot water & ditto of cold, so we are able to get a really good sponge down. I wash my vest & stockings at the same time & put all clean things on for dinner, the things I wash are dry before bed time.

We have had a present of a live turkey from one of the guards of the temple, this gift has caused quite a lot of discussion, because it is against camp rules to accept presents, one has to make very definite rules because the natives will bring s such extrodinary^{sic}

f. 34/5

things + we should get all sorts of hourd insects + unpleasantnesses about the place, also we would be bound to give a gift back , the situation would become impossible. We tried to uptain this to the owner of the Tunkay, he is a splendid old fellow the was dreadfully upsch. It scoms Miss balonty had been very good to his family when his children were ill + as he is a very poor man he had nothing he david offer, so he reared this Turkey from the Egg so that he could bring it to the camp when she returned. under those arcumstances I was impossible To refuse, but it was an mormous gift for one of these people to make. It was like an inglish farm labortin rearing a horse to give away. Miss & is writing to the Army & Mary stores To have a blanket sent out from England for him.

We are planning to make a festival of Abu Christmas for the native childron & have a decorated Tree for them. I want to make some pape Toys for it. so could you energies somaps of hight things & we should get all sorts of horrid insects & unpleasantnesses about the place. also we would be bound to give a gift back & the situation would become impossible. We tried to explain this to the owner of the turkey. he is a splendid old fellow & he was dreadfully upset, it seems Miss Calverley had been very good to his family when his children were ill & as he is a very poor man he had nothing he dared offer, so he reared this turkey from the egg so that he could bring it to the camp when she returned. under those circumstances it was impossible to refuse, but it was an enormous gift for one of these people to make. it was like an english^{sic} farm labuorer/<orer> rearing a horse to give away. Miss C is writing to the Army & Navy stores to have a blanket sent out from England for him.

We are planning to make a festival of Abu Christmas for the native children & <to> have a decorated tree for them. I want to make some paper toys for it, so could you enclose scraps of bright

34/6

coloured stiff paper in some of your letters. pices the size of an onvelope will do. you will find lots in my chist, if you lift out the box that was my dolls house you will find another underneath. there should be lots of estoured samples there. I have a roll of gum paper here with me. so could make all sorts of paper Toys if I had suitable paper.

Oct 26th We had The police officer to dinner, he does not go about with such an army at his huls as El Gazawy did, but his outpost is not so important. He has not long left the military school, he speaks English very well but has to think his sentences out carefully. I we have to speak slowly, distinctly. I think he enjoyed his dinner party, we had soup. roast Turkey. potatoes, beans. caramel custand. water melon, pomegnanates r coffee.

Oct 27th Two gentleman from the village called this wening a drank coffee & made polete remarks; sweral times, in fact in each lule in the conversation they enquired after my health & lassured them that I was

BROOME LETTER 34

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Oct 27th

Two gentleman from the village called this evening & drank coffee & made polite remarks; several times, in fact in each lull in the conversation they enquired after my health & I assured them that I was

very well thanks be to allah. Hiss by I are asked To attend a curmony which is to be held for the benefit of one of these wives. This is called a Zon + is really a currony for propriating a possessing spinit. It seems one of those ladies has got into a highly neroous a hysterical condition, so a which doctor is called in the women sit in a circle beating drums & swaying then bodies about, the passessed woman gets into a sort of trance + the spirit speaks through her mouth & demands certain things to be given it, the anious thing is that These spinits are make & the voice is the quift deep voice of a man, after the domand has been made the things are got. Then another big ceremony is ananged, the women work themselves up onto this hypnotic state & the offerings are made to The spirit. This is the part of the ceremony we are to witness. This special spirit has domanded 3 gold rings, a fish Talisman, while robes & a sheep I shall be able to tell you all about it later on, of course the man can not go To this, we are very lucia to get the opportunity.

very well thanks be to Allah. Miss C & I are asked to attend a ceremony which is to be held for the benefit of one of their wives. this is called a Zar & is really a ceremony for propiciating^{sic} a possessing spirit.

It seems one of these ladies has got into a highly nervous & hysterical condition, so a witch doctor is called in. the women sit in a circle beating drums & swaying their bodies about, <&> the possessed woman gets into a sort of trance & the spirit speaks through her mouth & demands certain things to be given it, the curious thing is that these spirits are male & the voice is the gruff deep voice of a man, after the demand has been made the things are got. then another big ceremony is arranged. the women work themselves up into this hypnotic state & the offerings are made to the spirit. this is the part of the ceremony we are to witness. this special spirit has demanded 3 gold rings, a fish talisman, white robes & a sheep. I shall be able to tell you all about it later on. of course the men can not go to this, we are very lucky to get the opportunity.

Oct 28" We have been keeping a doctor's shop Today. at down this morning just as we were starting off Two women arrived, a pathelic little wife of is with his mother & baby. This girl had a dread ful gathering on his heast. it looked as if it ought to be lanced. she said it had been bad for 10 days. probably The baby bit her + nothing was done at the Time. the only thing to do was to send the to the doctor al Baliana 11 miles away, Miss baloerlay unde a note for her to take saying we were willing To do any necessary dressing's according to his instructions since it would be impossible for The poor child to make that journay every day. we are rather hoping she will be sent to hospital but of course they are Terrified at the idea, she nearly cried when we said she must go to the doctor for Treatmont. This evening a man came with a great gash in his shin. Red done it 5 days ago, it was a nasty cut but not inflammed a septic so we removed dust a dert with lysol water put hot borceic list on a bound it up, his

<u>Oct 28th.</u>

34/8

We have been keeping a doctor's shop today, at dawn this morning just as we were starting off two women arrived, a pathetic little wife of 15 with her mother & baby. this girl had a dreadful gathering on her breast. it looked as if it ought to be lanced. she said it had been bad for 10 days. probably the baby bit her & nothing was done at the time, the only thing to do was to send ther to the doctor at Baliana 11 miles away, Miss Calverley wrote a note for her to take saying we were willing to do any necessary dressings according to his instructions since it would be impossible for the poor child to make that journey every day. we are rather hoping she will be sent to hospital but of course they are terrified at the idea, she nearly cried when we said she must go to the doctor for treatment. This evening a man came with a great gash in his shin. he'd done it 5 days ago. it was a nasty cut but not inflammed ^{sic} or septic so we removed dust & dirt with lysol water put hot boras/<c>ic lint on & bound it up. he is

3419 coming again Tomorow to have first fint put on. These people are so pathetic they have no idea how To took after thomselves. They just go on suffering I have no idea how To save themselves so much pain by a little care & common sense. it is all as allah wills. they think English people have some special power. They can get all the Epson Salls they require in the village but they always come have for a dose, they say what we give them has greater power - so we dde out Epson & get much endit there by. This sort of lefe is full of interest there is no chance to be dulk have Oct 29" Our man patient arrived very carly, the Lysol compress had done it's work during the night & we were able to get the cut propuly clean, it was a dreadful gash the bone was aposed, the poor man had been going about with it uncovered among dust + flies for 5 days. we painted it with iodine. Miss 6. upplained that it would burn like fire, he said it did not matter the never turned a hair during the operation. he went of neally bandaged with

BROOME LETTER 34

coming again tomorrow to have fresh lint put on. these people are so pathetic they have no idea how to look after themselves. they just go on suffering & have no idea how to save themselves so much pain by a little care & common sense. it is all as Allah wills. they think English people have some special power. they can get all the Epsom Salts they require in the village but they always come here for a dose. they say what we give them has greater power – so we dole out Epsom & get much credit there by. This sort of life is full of interest there is no chance to be dull here

<u>Oct 29th</u>

Our man patient arrived very early, the lysol compress had done its work during the night & we were able to get the cut properly clean. it was a dreadful gash the bone was exposed. & the poor man had been going about with it uncovered among dust & flies for 5 days. we painted it with iodine. Miss C. explained that it would burn like fire, he said it did not matter & he never turned a hair during the operation. he went off neatly bandaged with 34/10

much more faith than we have that all will be well.

This is marked day & oun day of rest, we had heakfast at & insked of 5.45. Itiss by have been washing our more delicate garments that we do not like is hust to the native washerwoman, we had tubs outside in the shade of the house & Abdullak fetched hot water for us & carried the bowts of uring out chilkes white for us to hang them on the time it was a wash de tux. I am enclosing a special stamp Me Lebell may like to have it, it is only issued for a short Time. Will you ask father to get me a couble of

Will you ask tather to get me a couple of porals with protectors, we want these protectors. To use with short tengths of pencil. I think they will come letter post in a strong invelope. I think some of this news might inlinest Unet fimmie will you post it or for him to read when you have all powered it. I am enclosing much more faith than we have that all will be well.

This is market day & our day of rest. we had breakfast at 8 instead of 5.45. Miss C & I have been washing our more delicate garments that we do not like to trust to the native washerwoman, we had tubs outside in the shade of the house & Abdullah fetched hot water for us & carried the bowls of wrung out clothes while for us to hang them on the line it was a wash de lux.

I am enclosing a special stamp M^r Lebell may like to have it. it is only issued for a short time.

Will you ask Father to get me a couple of pencils with <u>protectors.</u> we want these protectors to use with short lengths of pencil. I think they will come letter post in a strong envelope.

I think some of this news might interest Uncle Jimmie will you post it on for him to read when you have all perused it. I am enclosing

the first for of snaps. I am opening an account with todak's in bains & post all my films off for them to deal with This is proving the father of fattus, there are so many reciting happenings & I want to Tell you all about them. later on, when the weather is cooler we shall work longer hours I my lettus will have to be shorter in consequence Yesterday I cut bapt baton tay's hain & shaved his neck, he'd been in to Baliana to see about some things the blacksmith was making for him & came in absolutely cooked. I shouling for a hain cut at once - his sister was bathing so he siged on me for the job. It was such Jun. he has centar have al was able to make a very good attempt, he said it felt coola a that all he cand about

Mannie has just asked me if I could get her some forget me not seeds. I promised to aske you to send me a packet when you are writing.

BROOME LETTER 34

34/1

the first lot of snaps. I am opening an account with Kodak's in Cairo & post all my films off for them to deal with

This is proving the Father of letters. there are so many exciting happenings & I want to tell you all about them. later on. when the weather is cooler we shall work longer hours & my letters will have to be shorter in consequence

Yesterday I cut Capt Calverley's hair & shaved his neck, he'd been to Baliana to see about some things the blacksmith was making for him & came in absolutely cooked. & shouting for a hair cut <u>at once</u> – his sister was bathing so he siezed^{sic} on me for the job. it was such fun. he has curly hair & I was able to make a very good attempt. he said it felt cooler & thats^{sic} all he cared about

Nannie has just asked me if I could get her some forget-me-not seeds. I promised to ask you to send me a packet when you are writing.

34/12. My wash was dry on Ton minutes, it is now ironed sput away. Let me know if any of my letters are ercess weight I have no means of weighing Them + Sandie Takes our mail bag & gives I to the postman when he visits the village which has no postoffice I really think I must hing this to a close, my pon is nearly dry Heaps of Poor to you both also to Pat & His Childs Your affectionale daughter Myrtte. ?.S. I hope Father's fetter arrived in time for his hithday.

BROOME LETTER 34

My wash was dry in ten minutes, it is now ironed & put away.

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I really think I must bring this to a close, my pen is nearly dry

Heaps of love to you both also to Pat & M^{rs} Childs Your affectionate daughter Myrtle.

P.S. I hope Father's letter arrived in time for his birthday.