## Thebes Hort Luxor Epa Eqyot. Dict is $=1927$.

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Luxor
Upper Egypt. Dec $15^{\text {th }} 1927$.

## Dear Mother \& Father.

Here I am in Luxor at last. I am not quite sure how far I got with my adventures in my last letter I am sure I must have told you of my thrilling ride $\mathrm{ef} /<\mathrm{on}>$ Masan. the black arab ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ horse. well the next morning Gerzawy sent him round for me again in the charge of his drill sergeant, a glorious old arab ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ of 75 who had served with Kitchener in Khartoum, \& who is ready to worship the ground I walk on because I am the only woman he has ever seen who can sit a horse like the mounted police. I mounted \& rode out towards Qua el Kebir where Gerzawy met me \& we rode into the desert again with the Omdah's son as guard of honour - on our return Gerzawy had to attend to some quarrel between

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Omdah's of different villages, so he sent me home <on Hassan.> in charge of his personal servant.

We were to have visited the village of the tall man the following day, but we could not go because Gerzawy had to arrest a man who had stabbed another in the neck \& half killed him so we got on with our packing, \& the next morning got up at 3.AM in order to get all the camp goods \& our own luggage packed on 3 camels with the help of half the village to the sound of the most violent arguments I have ever heard. all shouting at once.

One camel load fell off \& had to be retied on, but we arrived at the river without further mishap ${ }^{\text {sic }}$. our donkeys were taken across with us, but fresh camels were waiting on the other side. It was market day $<$ at Tema $>\&$ there was a crowd waiting to cross, there were sheep, goats, donkeys, chickens, kids, calves, on board with us. \& the boat was so laden that it stuck twice \& two of the men stripped naked \& jumped over the side \& pushes to help get it off again.

We arrived at Tome is good Time $9 / 2$ at the Post office whin I found a elite form you. it was the ore when you say yon have just secured my just biter from the tort- it seams/ so furn $15^{\prime}$ read your remarks on things that seen to hour happened so long ago. We had the camp onifitt dispolined 10 Gaino. But all own baggage went on the than with us. it is 7 toms poomtoma To Luxes, bit we golf off the Gain of Baliana To.visel the Tompion of Serif the Gsinion at abydos. + continued by a later tain arriving at Laver about 10. By the lime we quot 10 bed we had been on the 90 for 20 hows. I I has not so lined as lam aflei a days shopping in Torn. That u the wonder of this cimale. I have nut had a singh headache, or wen been mon has lazily Tried ryot I hour never dom more (apt af hay makunglime) un my life before.

We arrived at Temp in good Time \& called at the Post office where I found a letter from you. it was the one where you say you have just received my first letter from the tomb. it seems so funny to read your remarks on things that seem to have happened so long ago.

We had the camp outfit despatched to Cairo. but all our baggage went on the train with us. it is 7 hours from Tema to Luxor, but we got off the train at Baliana to visit the Temple of Sty I \& the Osirion at Abydos, \& continued by a later train arriving at Luxor about 10 . by the time we got to bed we had been on the go for 20 hours. \& I was not so tired as I am after a days shopping in Town. that is the wonder of this climate. I have not had a single headache or ever been more than lazily tired \& yet I have never done more (except at hay making time) in my life before.

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This is quite a comfortable hotel \& so far we seem to be the only people staying here. it is bungalow style $\&$ cool \& airy. \& not at all posh. We do not change for dinner.

When we come in there is a little arab ${ }^{\text {sic }}$ boy to dust our shoes on the mat \& we are waited on by Arabs

There are the most gorgeous roses everywhere I have two huge pots of them on my washstand. in the garden there are enormous poinsettas ${ }^{\text {sic }}$, plants as tall as I am.

Our first visit the morning after our arrival was to Cooks where I drew out $£ 10$ without any fuss at all. Then we explored the Temple of Luxor in the morning, \& visited Karnak in the afternoon. they are both on this side of the river so we were able to reach them on foot \& the special permits that the Imp [ $=$ Reginald Engelbach] provided worked like magic, gates were flung open by bowing Arab guards \& we went where we liked.

## Dec 16.

Today we crossed the Nile \& on the other side engaged a carriage for the day. this was rather a $g 7 /<\mathrm{sn}>\mathrm{ag}$ - because 4 of us wanted donkeys, but $\mathrm{M}^{\mathrm{r}}$ Ridden would not ride a donkey because he said the one he rode part way to Tema - had made him
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sore - it was the same animal I had ridden all the way to Tema \& back again 3 times the distance he rode. \& although it took the skin off my sitting arrangements I was able to ride in a hard Arab saddle at full gallop across the desert the following day. so I felt he was making rather a fuss, especially as the hire of a sand carriage cost 250 piastres ( $£ 2 \cdot 10 /<11>\cdot 6$.) to be divided among four five of us - where-as donkeys would have only cost 25 piasters each. but apart from that it was a wonderful day. We visited the great Colossi of Meme $/<\mathrm{n}>$ on the Temple of Medinet Habu, the Rames $/<$ ss>eum at Thebes \& the Valley of the Tombs of the Kings. we saw the outside of Tuts tomb, but it will not be opened until later in the season. We visited the Tomb of Sety I, while we were there the electric light went out, \& we had to wait in the pitch darkness while the guide got a lamp. We saw the Tomb of Amenhotep II where he still lies in his sarcophagus. also the Tomb of Mer-em-Ptah, the king who was supposed to have been drowned in the Red Sea.

We had our lunch outside in a shady spot \& a very wild looking dog hovered round we coaxed it near with food \& finally got it to eat out of our hands. it was a wonderful thing to see the look of fear fade out of its eyes \& give place to the look of dog adoration

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at the feel of a caressing hand. At the conclusion of our visits down these deep tomb shafts we felt rather done, so we asked the Arab guard if we might have coffee. he brought us the most delectable coffee I have ever had, it really tasted like it smells when fresh ground. we drank with noisy sippings much to his delight.
then drove back to the river visiting Pei the Temple of Hatshepsut on the way. we crossed the Nile in a lovely little dahabie \& so back here.

I am sending some of my photos, they do not print them very well here but I have the negatives \& can have better ones done at home. hope you can read this scribble my pencil has got blunt \& my knife is some where deep in my trunk..

I will write to Jack as soon as I get a little time, so far we have been up before seven \& not in till dinner time \& I have only had time to scribble to you at odd moments.

Love to you both \& all friends
Your loving daughter
Myrtle

