

Arabah el Madfuna.
Christmas Day.

Dear Mother.

Your Christmas letter arrived yesterday, which was just right, the postman has been very busy lately. We had a very gay table at breakfast. there were presents for every one, Nannie is simply delighted with her little crucifix from Fort Augustus^{sic} {Augustus}. she says it is the nicest present she has ever had & is wearing it round her neck with great pride. My little hanging toilets were very much appreciated also the tie rings I gave to the two others & Otto liked his note book very much - I have had two boxes of chocolates, a book, a silk hankie

309

Arabah el Madfuna.
Christmas Day.

Dear Mother.

Your Christmas letter arrived yesterday, which was just right. The postman has been very busy lately. We had a very gay table at breakfast. there were presents for every one. Nannie is simply delighted with her little crucifix from Fort Augustus. she says it is the nicest present she has ever had & is wearing it round her neck with great pride. My little hanging toilets were very much appreciated also the tie rings I gave to the two others & Otto liked his note book very much. I have had two boxes of chocolates, a book, a silk hankie

2
 & a little collar necklace of wooden beads,
 We have just been dividing the sweets
 for the Christmas tree, & yesterday we
 went to Girga & bought the gay coloured
 handkerchiefs. Sardic is now at the
 market purchasing a sheep for the
 mens feast tonight

The police officer has presented
 us with an enormous bunch of roses,
 the house is filled with them. & of
 course Nannie has put up all our
 paper chains, so the place looks
 very gay. I expect we shall have
 the usual fantasia after supper
 tonight.

Amice & Truda returned Monday
 evening. I went to the station in
 joy to meet them, they had lots
 of bundles & a huge basket of vegetables
 we looked like a caravan when we

& a little collar necklace of wooden beads,
 We have been dividing the sweets
 for the Christmas tree, & yesterday we
 went to Girga & bought the gay coloured
 handkerchiefs. Sardic is now at the
 market purchasing^{sic} a sheep for the
 mens^{sic} feast to-night

The police officer has presented
 us with an enormous bunch of roses,
 the house is filled with them. & of
 course Nannie has put up all our
 paper chains, so the place looks
 very gay, I expect we shall have
 the usual fantasia after supper
 to-night.

Amice & Truda returned Monday
 evening. I went to the station in
 Joey to meet them, they had lots
 of bundles & a huge basket of vegetables
 we looked like a caravan when we

3

returned to camp.

Sardie had made a Christmas card & hung it on the wall over the breakfast table. it was written in Arabic, so I had to translate it to every one. it said
 "A happy feast, a long life & may your honours be prosperous all the year."
 Wasn't it nice of him -

The police officer has just been to wish us a happy Xmas. he is coming to see the Christmas tree this afternoon & to have tea with us, he is much better mannered than the one we had the year before we used to call him the camel fly because he would buzz round & was quite unsquashable, but this one is polite & pleasant & does not presume at all, so we feel

returned to camp.

Sardie had made a Christmas card & hung it on the wall over the breakfast table. it was written in Arabic, so I had to translate it to every one. it said
 "A happy feast, a long life & may your honours be prosperous all the year."
 Wasn't^{sic} it nice of him -

The police officer has just been to wish us a happy Xmas. he is coming to see the Christmas tree this afternoon & to have tea with us, he is much better mannered than the one we had the year before we used to call him the camel fly because he would buzz round & was quite unsquashable, but this one is polite & pleasant & does not presume at all, so we feel

4
 we can invite him to our festivities
 without being afraid he will expect us
 to dine with him the next week.

Amice has just bought the charms
 to be wrapped in grease proof paper
 for the pudding. I wonder who will
 get what. won't it be fun if Otto
 gets the thimble.

I am writing this in odd moments
 between putting sweets in bags
 opening boxes, arranging decorations
 & receiving salutations etc. as I may
 not get time later.

Lots of love to you both.

Your affectionate daughter

Myrtle.

The English members of the camp enjoy
 the Observer very much.

Amice sends lots of messages.

She is much better. The change at Luxor
 did her good. & the D^r gave her some
 injections which seem to have been effectual.

we can invite him to our festivities
 without being afraid he will expect us
 to dine with him the next week.

Amice has just brought the charms
 to be wrapped in grease proof paper
 for the pudding. I wonder who will
 get what. won't^{sic} it be fun if Otto
 gets the thimble.

I am writing this in odd moments
 between putting sweets in bags
 opening boxes, arranging decorations
 & receiving salutations etc. as I may
 not get time later.

Lots of love to you both.
 Your affectionate daughter
 Myrtle.

The English members of the camp enjoy
 the Observer very much.

Amice sends lots of messages.

she is much better, the change at Luxor
 did her good. & the D^r gave her some
 injections which seem to have been effectual^{sic} -