Anabal & Madfuna.

Dean Motha.

We were up light & early after our first night by the sea o we felt Sonde to prepare brakfast while we went for a bathe, when we returned he had an amusing incident to Tell us. a naver had siged amices sponge bag complete with contints o was flying off with it dangling from his brak, Sonder shouled + three stones at him + scared him so that he dropped it, I do wish we had seen him I wonder if he would have cater the soaps house she was very glad it was retrieved. after highfast we continued in a northerly direction along the coast, we had a fine view of the mountain ranges on our left hand . + the Red See on the right. In a little white we neached Port Safaga This is the port for the phosphali mines sit compused a few bungaloss sheds a namstable nation dwellings, the people

Arabah el Madfuna. March 10th 1936.

Dear Mother.

We were up bright & early after our first night by the sea & we left Sardic to prepare breakfast while we went for a bathe, when we returned he had an amusing incident to tell us. A raven had siezed^{sic} Amices^{sic} sponge bag complete with contents & was flying off with it dangling from his beak, Sardic shouted & threw stones at him & scared him so that he dropped it, I do wish we had seen him I wonder if he would have eaten the soap & tooth paste & made a nest with the sponge. however she/<Amice> was very glad it was retrieved.

After breakfast we continued in a northerly direction along the coast, we had a fine view of the mountain ranges on our left hand. & the Red Sea on the right. In a little while we reached Port Safaga this is the port for the phosphate mines & it comprised a few bungalows sheds & ramshakle^{sic} native dwellings, the people

tiving these depend on the weekly steamer from

Twing there depend on the weekly steamer from Suly for their entire first water supply as well as all provisions, we were not timpled to linge I can't say that I find these remote outposts of the Empire vay athacher, The letth settlement soon faded away behind us o our need thought was To find a nice place for tunct. The back we were following had swing inland, so we left it a made seawards. I found a lovely place among sand dunes where we cal hard boiled eggs o oranges. Then we went down on to the shore. a wide apares of firm ripph marked sand I were astonished to find The place swarming with crabs. There were Thousands of Thim, They were a lovely pak salmon pink their shells about the say of the palm of my hand. They had very long legs & Then yes stuck up on spike, amice , I gave a whoop of joy, flung our Shows at Sortice o rusked of To chase crabs. as soon as they saw us they made for the seq

living there depend on the weekly steamer from s/<S>uez for their entire fresh water supply as well as all provisions, we were not tempted to linger I cant^{sic} say that I find these remote outposts of the Empire very attractive, the little settlement soon faded away behind us & our next thought was to find a nice place for lunch. the track we were following had swung inland, so we left it & made seawards, & found a loveley/<y> place among sand dunes where we eat^{sic} hard boiled eggs & oranges. then we went down on to the shore. a wide expance sic of firm ripple marked sand & we were astonished to find the place swarming with crabs. there were thousands of them, they were a lovely pale salmon pink their shells about the size of the palm of my hand. they had very long legs & their eyes stuck up on ½ s>pikes, Amice & I gave a whoop of joy, flung our shoes at Sarb/<d>ic & rushed off to chase the crabs, as soon as they saw us they made for the sea

in batallions, we ran as hard as in could to cut Them off. we did have fun we had never sun so many crabs before. I managed to captime one o Took it back to Sandie who would not venture our a shallow pool that separated the dunes from the shore. he has a deep misheest of sall water. you should have heard his reclaimation of honor when I offered the crab the him of my hat oil singed it is it's claw I hung on to it. We were very reluctant to Scave that show, but we had some way to go as in wornted to reach Hunghada by the wining Hunghada belongs to the Shell bompany they have a number of oil wells there. When we were about for miles away we met another motor can of course stopped to pass the Time of day. The other can contained the Sencial Manager of the shell bompany, he said he was looking out for us as Port Safage had sent a writers missage To say a small can driven by live ladies had passed through during the fore nown

in battallions sic, we ran as hard as we could to cut them off. we did have fun we had never seen so many crabs before. I managed to capture one & took it back to Sardic who would not venture over a shallow pool that separated the dunes from the shore. he has a deep mistrust of salt water. you should have heard his exclamation of horror when I offered the crab the brim of my hat & it sir/<e>zed^{sic} it in its claw & hung on to it. We were very reluctant to leave that shore, but we had some way to go as we wanted to reach Hurghada by the evening. Hurghada belongs to the Shell Company they have a number of oil wells there. When we were about five miles away we met another motor car & of course stopped to pass the time of day. the other car contained the General Manager of the Shell Company, he said he was looking out for us as Port Safaga had sent a wireless message to say a small car driven by two ladies had passed through during the fore noon

In was going to Safaga. he gave us information about the road & offered us the use of the ust house at Hunghada. We reached the settlement about the Time, we found our way to the monmui's house of he sent a soldie along with us to admit us to the rest house, I morted us to have Tea with him when we had had a wash o Tidy up. We had had a very wordy dusty drive o were glad of the opportunity to change otidy up qually. The was presided out by the manner's wife + dang kle + was a long commonial affair, conversation was in analic. La escaped as som as politimes allowed , had a look round. it was like the other settlements we had passed through only langer otherice of the mountains was spoilt by the ugh stafts of the oil wells in the foregiound. Sandie was ath to purchase some fish which he baled for our support our throughly enjoyed them I were glad to go to lad can't, as the sea an

he was going to Safaga. he gave us information about the road & offered us the use of the rest house at Hurghada. We reached the settlement about tea time, we found our way to the marmur's house & he sent a soldier along with us to admitt^{sic} us to the rest house, & invited us to have tea with him when we had had a wash & tidy up.

We had had a very windy dusty drive & were glad of the opportunity to change & tidy up generally. Tea was presided over by the marmur's wife & daughter & was a long cerimonial^{sic} affair, conversation was in Arabic. we escaped as soon as politeness allowed & had a look round. it was like the other settlements we had passed through only larger & the view of the mountains was spoilt by the ugly shafts of the oil wells in the foreground. Sardic was able to purchace^{sic} some fish which he boiled for our supper & we thoroughly enjoyed them & were glad to go to bed early as the sea air

and the lathing had made us very streky.

and the bathing had made us very strepy. The need morning we went along to the bompany's bathing pool which was in deep water + was sunounded with wire netting to keep sharks out. we had a glowous swim Thus, we had it extircty to ourselves. We had felt fory of the shell lompany's work shop to have sundy Douts a botts Tightined up & a puncture mended we also gathered a little local information. we hand that there was a marine research station for miles along the route when an old professor was living who was studying conals I who would be dilighted to show his edlection to any visitors who were intasked. So us deady To go along I su him that very afternoon. We had on funct on the shore of the west on to the marine uscarel station. This was night down on the see show. we were made very welcome by to brossland shes wife the old professor imagined un had crossed the analon desert for the son purpose of

and the bathing had made us very sleepy.

The next morning we went along to the Company's bathing pool which was in deep water & was surrounded with wire netting to keep sharks out. we had a glorious swim there, we had it entirely to ourselves. We had left Joey at the Shell Company's work shop to have sundry 10[?]/<n>uts & bolts tightened up & a puncture mended we also gathered a little local information. we heard that there was a marine research station five miles along the route where an old Professor was living who was studying corals & who would be dilighted to show his collection to any visitors who were interested. so we decided to go along & see him that very afternoon.

We had our lunch on the shore & then went on to the marine research station. this was right down on the sea shore. we were made very welcome by D^r Crossland & his wife the old professor imagined we had crossed the Arabian desert for the sole purpose of

siens his collection of wals. we were stown way thing o were simply thulled by the vanchi of wals di in his little muscum there, Then In told one of his min to row us out over the coal neep so that we could see the enals growing. we went out in the boat o were given Two large Tins painted black inside o will glass bottoms. we held there or the surface of the water o through then we could see queli charly all the coals we were passing our, it was like a magic gooden thay were the most lovely colours. maure yellow. blue pal funk o hown a among then swam shornge fish. we were enthrolled & queli Sony when we had to go back to Tex. I brossland Told us that if we could stay Till the need morning we could go out with the nature divers other would hung up any bit of coral we liked to select. we then & then determined to camp on the see store but they would not han of it. 14th hoss land

seeing his collection of corals. we were shown everything & were simply thrilled by the varieties of corals etc in his little museum there, then he told one of his men to row us out over the coral reefs so that we could see the corals growing, we went out in the boat & were given two large tins painted black inside & with glass bottoms, we held these on the surface of the water & through them we could see quite clearly all the corals we were passing over, it was like a magic garden, they were the most lovely colours, mauve, yellow, blue pale pink & brown & among them swam strange fish, we were enthralled & quite sorry when we had to go back to tea.

Dr Crossland told us that if we could stay till the next morning we could go out with the native divers & they would bring up any bit of coral we liked to select. we then & there determined to camp on the sea shore but they would not hear of it. Mrs Crossland

insisted on moving her small son into their room & giving us his room. of course we could not refuse such kind hospitality.

I must tell you our further adventures in my next letter. This has been a very busy week getting Amice off. She left Sunday night. after the usual harooch[?].

Ever so many thanks for all my birthday letters that I found awaiting me on my return

Lots of love to you & Father your affectionate daughter Myrtle.