

Beaumont House  
May 9<sup>th</sup> 1935

Dear Mother

I have been on a jaunt this afternoon, there is a lady here who takes people round to see the places of interest & she asked me if I would like to join two others for the afternoon so as I've been working full steam ahead for a week I took the afternoon off. We went in a car to a lovely little village called Ain Karim (= Ein Karem) five miles out of Jerusalem. it is the place where Mary came in haste to the hill country to meet Elizabeth & there she sang the magnificat. the scenery is lovely all terraced hills with cyprus<sup>sic</sup> trees & olive trees. we went into a church there, part of

342<sup>1</sup>  
Beaumont House  
May 9<sup>th</sup> 1935  
Dear Mother  
I have been on a jaunt this afternoon, there is a lady here who takes people round to see the places of interest & she asked me if I would like to join two others for the afternoon so as I've been working full steam ahead for a week I took the afternoon off. We went in a car to a lovely little village called Ain Karim five miles out of Jerusalem. it is the place where Mary came in haste to the hill country to meet Elizabeth & there she sang the magnificat. the scenery is lovely all terraced hills with cyprus trees & olive trees. we went into a church there, part of

which was built by the crusaders  
 the rest of course is fairly modern.  
 we saw the women fetching water  
 from the well, Ain Karim {= Ein Karem} means  
 Generous Water or Well.

We had tea on the roof of a hostel  
 there over looking the valley & the  
 distant mountains & then wandered  
 down into the village to wait for  
 the bus to return to Jerusalem.

I was the only one who knew any Arabic  
 & it came in very useful in dealing  
 with the small boys who of course  
 gathered round. They saw we had  
 cameras & wanted their pictures taken,  
 the lady who was acting as guide was  
 very astonished to hear me talk to  
 them, very few English people seem  
 to know any Arabic here & English is

which was built by the crusaders  
 the rest of course is fairly modern.  
 we saw the women fetching water  
 from the well, Ain Karim {= Ein Karem} means  
 Generous Water or Well.

We had tea on the roof of a hostel  
 there over looking the valley & the  
 distant mountains & then wandered  
 down into the village to wait for  
 the bus to return to Jerusalem.  
 I was the only one who knew any Arabic  
 & it came in very useful in dealing  
 with the small boys who of course  
 gathered round. they saw we had  
 cameras & wanted their pictures taken,  
 the lady who was acting as guide was  
 very astonished to hear me talk to  
 them, very few English people seem  
 to know any arabic<sup>sic</sup> here & English is

3

spoken by all the Taxi men & bus drivers etc much more than in Egypt. when we got back to Jerusalem it was about an hour & a half before sunset, so we shared another Taxi & drove to the Mount of Olives & there we stood in the garden where Christ wept over Jerusalem. we saw the whole city spread out before us with the sun setting behind it, in the foreground was the Dome of the Rock, the famous Mosque of Omar & the Temple enclosure, it was a lovely view, then we turned & looked over the other side & there we saw the Dead Sea & the Mountains of Moab. the Dead Sea is blue like the Scottish lakes & the hills all round are pink & mauve I dont know

spoken by all the taxi men & bus drivers etc much more than in Egypt. when we got back to Jerusalem it was about an hour & a half before sunset, so we shared another taxi & drove to the Mount of Olives & there we stood in the garden where Christ wept over Jerusalem. we saw the whole city spread out before us with the sun setting behind it, in the foreground was the Dome of the Rock, the famous Mosque of Omar & the temple enclosure, it was a lovely view, then we turned & looked over the other side & there we saw the Dead Sea & the Mountains of Moab. the Dead Sea is blue like the Scottish lakes & the hills all round are pink & mauve I dont<sup>sic</sup> know

4

which view was the most beautiful  
I think perhaps I loved the Dead Sea  
best, it was so desolate & wild in  
its mountain setting.

When I got back today I found your  
letter of May 1 awaiting me.

Prof. & Lady Petrie are here, they arrived  
yesterday, they have been excavating  
in South Palestine, it was very nice  
to meet them again, they did not seem  
a bit surprised to see me, I suppose  
they must have heard I was coming  
to Palestine.

May 12<sup>th</sup> Yesterday afternoon I went  
to Jaffa. I took an Arab bus from  
the town here & had a lovely ride  
all the way to the sea, the first  
part of the way was very mountainous  
& grand, the road had a series of

which view was the most beautiful  
I think perhaps I loved the Dead Sea  
best, it was so desolate & wild in  
its mountain setting.

When I got back to-day I found your  
letter of May 1 awaiting me.

Prof. & Lady Petrie are here, they arrived  
yesterday, they have been excavating  
in South Palestine, it was very nice  
to meet them again, they did not seem  
a bit surprised to see me, I suppose  
they must have heard I was coming  
to Palestine

#### May 12<sup>th</sup>

Yesterday afternoon I went  
to Jaffa. I took an Arab bus from  
the town here & had a lovely ride  
all the way to the sea, the first  
part of the way was very mountainous  
& grand, the road had a series of

342<sup>s</sup>

hair pin bends to get down into the valleys & the same up the other sides. The hills are cultivated in terraces like steps all up the slopes. It was 39 miles to Jaffa & cost me only 3/- for the return journey. Jaffa itself is a dirty little Jew town, it looks picturesque from the sea shore but loses all charm when one draws near. I wandered around for about an hour & then took the bus back & arrived in Jerusalem just in nice time to change before dinner.

When I came down today, who should I see with the Petries but Miss Murray. I knew she had been out with them this season. I was so pleased to see her. When I finished my work today

hair pin bends to get down into the valleys & the same up the other sides. the hills are cultivated in terraces like steps all up the slopes, it was 39 miles to Jaffa & cost me only 3/- for the return journey. Jaffa itself is a dirty little Jew town, it looks picturesque from the sea shore but loses<sup>sic</sup> all charm when ones<sup>sic</sup> draws near, I wandered around for about an hour & then took the bus back & arrived in Jerusalem just in nice time to change before dinner.

When I came down to-day, who should I see with the Petries but Miss Murray. I knew she had been out with them this season. I was so pleased to see her. when I finished my work to-day

6

a little earlier than usual I asked  
 her if she would come for a bus  
 ride with me to Bethlehem. she  
 was delighted, so we walked down  
 to the Jaffa Gate where the busses  
 start & off we went, there was a  
 mixture in that bus. Arabs, Jews  
 Greeks, Armenians & we two Europeans.  
 When we got to Bethlehem we visited  
 the church of the Nativity & went  
 down into the crypt & saw the spot  
 where they say the manger stood  
 where Christ was born. then we  
 walked through the quaint narrow  
 streets of the little town until it  
 was time for us to take our bus  
 back. it was a delightful outing.  
 Tomorrow I go to the Sea of Galilee  
 I am sharing a car with two other

a little earlier than usual I asked  
 her if she would come for a bus  
 ride with me to Bethlehem, she  
 was delighted, so we walked down  
 to the Jaffa Gate where the busses<sup>sic</sup>  
 start & off we went, there was a  
 mixture in that bus. Arabs, Jews  
 Greeks, Armenians & we two Europeans.  
 When we got to Bethlehem we visited  
 the Church of the Nativity & went  
 down into the crypt & saw the spot  
 where they say the manger stood  
 when Christ was born. then we  
 walked through the quaint narrow  
 streets of the little town until it  
 was time for us to take our bus  
 back. it was a delightful outing.  
 Tomorrow I go to the Sea of Galilee  
 I am sharing a car with two other

people. we shall stay the night; then they go on to Haifa & I shall return to Jerusalem. there is a bus from Tiberias to Nazareth. & from there I can get another bus to Jerusalem. so I shall return that way. it is great fun going about in the native busses. there are rival firms. the Arab busses & the Jew busses. needless to say I go by the Arab bus -

Have not yet heard from Cooks about my boat. but to-day being Sunday there is no post. the letter will probably come to-morrow when I am away.

Love to you both  
Your affectionate daughter  
Myrtle.

people. we shall stay the night; then they go on to Haifa & I shall return to Jerusalem, there is a bus from Tiberias to Nazareth. & from there I can get another bus to Jerusalem. so I shall return that way. it is great fun going about in the native busses<sup>sic</sup>. there are rival firms. the Arab busses<sup>sic</sup> and the Jew busses<sup>sic</sup>. needless to say I go by the Arab bus -

Have not yet heard from Cooks<sup>sic</sup> about my boat. but to-day being Sunday there is no post, the letter will probably come to-morrow when I am away.

Love to you both  
Your affectionate daughter  
Myrtle.