

Arabah.
Dec 26th 1935.

Dear Mother.

We had a very nice Xmas in spite of the gloom cast by Otto's accident. In the morning we went in to Bahiana to fetch a parcel that was waiting for me at the station. (it contained an iced cake from Rex & Nancy for us both) we sent off a basket of oranges for M^r Oulton & one for D^r Junker & Otto, & we took boxes of extra special cigarettes for the two doctors who attended to Otto, & a box of sweets for the nurses in the hospital, We returned home a little before lunch. We had invited our police officer to lunch with us. he had been <here> the evening before & had fixed up his little radio set in our Tere/*ssina*^{sic} {Teresina} so that we might hear the London programme which was relayed from Cairo on Xmas Day. was'nt^{sic} it a nice thought of his, we heard a variety of Arabic

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and English music to the accompaniment of what
 sounded like a thunderstorm or artillery practice.
 Amice regarded it with horror & retired to the
 innermost recesses of her room as soon as politeness
 permitted, but Nannie & the men loved it,
 so I sat out in the Teressina & listened to it also
 because I thought it was so kind of the man
 to send it to us & I wanted him to feel that it
 was appreciated, & of course he is bound to ask
 one of the servants if we enjoyed the music.
 We had the children's Christmas tree directly
 after lunch, the police officer watched the
 ceremony with much amusement, then they
 ran races, & played games for about an hour & then
 we sent them home & the melakez (police officer)
 also took his leave. we did not have the fantasia
 in the evening as it is bitterly cold at night, &
 Amice is afraid of sitting out until her throat has
 had time to recover completely from the treatment
 it is bound to be a little delicate for a few weeks
 so she went to bed early & I played with the radio

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as I told you previously. We have had a lot of cards & letters from friends in Cairo & Luxor etc. I am going to have a busy time answering them all. Have just put the radio on for Sardic's benefit most strange sounds are coming forth today of course it is all Arabic, Amice says its sounds like a sick cow the men seem to enjoy it. they make appreciative noises in the pauses, We shall return it to-morrow with many thanks for the loan.

There is a P.O. Mail Steamer due P. Said on the 29th so am hoping to send this letter by it. The next will be leaving Jan 5, so will post my next letter to catch it.

Tell Pat I received her letter today & thank her very much for it & the pretty card which has joined the others on the mantle shelf I will write to her later, when I have dealt with all the local letters.

Lots of love to you & Father

& Pat.

Your affectionate daughter

Myrtle hasn't left me much room
so here's love & good wishes for 1936
My Christmas letter is coming later for keeping

Myrtle
Christmas this year its a fortnight later! Love from Amice

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[addition by Amice Calverley]

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