

<1936>

Arabah el Madfuna
Baliana. April 5

1936

376

Arabah el Madfuna
Baliana. April 5

Dear Mother.

I have been looking up boats & I see there is a P&O. The Strathmore which leaves Port Said April 25 & arrives Tilbury May 4th. This is very quick so have written to Cooks^{sic} to ask them to put my name down for a berth on her, I shall not know what accommodation there is until about 10 days before she is due. I have been getting along with the work very rapidly, so that I hope to have finished in time to leave here a few days earlier than usual. I find I get through a great deal more on my own I don't have to wait about or linger over meals. I am at work in the Temple by 7 o'clock sharp instead of something past eight. I find it is much less tiring to put in an extra hour in the morning than stay an hour later in the afternoon. If I work from 7 to 4 I am just normally tired but from 8 to 5 I am dead weary. I wonder why. I have been looking at the list of mail steamers

Dear Mother.

I have been looking up boats & I see there is a P&O. the Strathmore which leaves Port Said April 25 & arrives Tilbury May 4th this is very quick so have written to Cooks^{sic} to ask them to put my name down for a berth on her, I shall not know what accommodation there is until about 10 days before she is due. I have been getting along with the work very rapidly, so that I hope to have finished in time to leave here a few days earlier than usual. I find I get through a great deal more on my own I don't^{sic} have to wait about or linger over meals. I am at work in the temple by 7 o'clock sharp instead of something past eight. I find it is much less tiring to put in an extra hour in the morning than stay an hour later in the afternoon. If I work from 7 to 4 I am just normally tired but from 8 to 5 I am dead weary. I wonder why. I have been looking at the list of mail steamers

& it looks as if there will not be time for another letter to reach me before I leave after you receive this.

Poor little Mahmud has had a swollen face I gave him a dose of eppy & some homocea which seemed to take the swelling down. He liked the homocea he said it was a very strong ointment, he liked it so much that he used three days supply in one go & simply reeked of it. I gave him the next lot diluted with vaseline we thought it had cured him. but a week later his face swelled up bigger than ever & he said there was an engine pumping inside his head. so I wrote a note to Dr Nossia & send him off to Baliana Hospital. He came back full of enthusiasm & showed me a bottle of medicine, a bottle of face & mouth wash & a pot of ointment, he has been having a real orgy since he had to go to the hospital again for an injection & now seems to be as fit as usual.

& it looks as if there will not be time for another letter to reach me before I leave after you receive this.

Poor little Mahmud has had a swollen face I gave him a dose of eppy & some homocea which seemed to take the swelling down. he liked the homocea he said it was a very strong ointment, he liked it so much that he used three days^{sic} supply in one go & simply reeked of it. I gave him the next lot diluted with vaseline. we thought it had cured him. but a week later his face swelled up bigger than ever & he said there was an engine pumping inside his head. so I wrote a note to Dr Nossia & send him off to Baliana Hospital. he came back full of enthusiasm & showed me a bottle of medicine^{sic}, a bottle of face & mouth wash & a pot of ointment, he has been having a real orgy since he had to go to the hospital again for an injection & now seems to be as fit as usual.

A large boys school came to visit the Temple on Friday. The masters in charge were very interested in the work, so I sent for the book & showed them the results of our work. They were very much impressed, & they made the boys give three cheers for the English & Miss Calverley & Miss Broome.

Apart from this visitation the Temple has been quite deserted, only myself & the servants & the guards. I find it difficult to keep all the staff occupied. The last two days they have been busy putting a new mud face on the SE side of the house, the sun had rotted the surface of the wall so that it cracked & fell away in great patches so they fetched a couple of camel loads of mud, puddled it up with water & a little sand, & after stripping the rest of the old face off the wall refaced it with the new mixture. It has been drying all to-day & to-morrow it will be white-washed. Sardin & I had a look at all the wood work in the house & found the white ants were busy in some of the beams over the

A large boys^{sic} school came to visit the temple on Friday. the masters in charge were very interested in the work, so I sent for the book & showed them the results of our work. they were very much impressed, & they made the boys give three cheers for the English & Miss Calverley & Miss Broome.

Apart from this visitation the temple has been quite deserted, only myself & the servants & the guards. I find it difficult to keep all the staff occupied, the last two days they have been busy putting a new mud face on the E/<S>E side of the house, the sun had rotted the surface of the <wall> so that it cracked & fell away in great patches so they fetched a couple of camel loads of mud, puddled it up with water & a little sand, & after stripping the rest of the old face off the wall refaced it with the new mixture. it has been drying all to-day & to-morrow it will be white-washed. Sardin & I had a look at all the wood work in the house & found the white ants were busy in some of the beams over the

windows, these will have to be lime washed.
 I expect Mann Egerton will have been to fetch Lady
 Godiva. the insurance will be due some time
 soon. I expect Mr Pearce will send a reminder
 will Father send on a cheque for it, if it is due before
 I return

April 7th I have been to Girga to-day, I went
 to the bank & found there was a new bank
 manager there, an English man. He was delighted
 to see me, of course he had heard about us
 so was'nt surprised to see an English woman
 walk in. He is coming to spend Sunday week
 at Abydos & see the sights & have lunch & tea
 with me, it will be my last Sunday in camp.
 I got £8 changed into silver while at the bank
 so as to have all the tips ^{ready} that have to be given
 to the guards, servants etc at end of the season
 I left Joy in charge of the bank porter while
 I went to do a little shopping I got a length of
 white silk to make an underskirt for my evening
 dresses & sewing silk to machine it with

window, these will have to be lime washed.
 I expect Mann Egerton will have been to fetch Lady
 Godiva. the insurance will be due some time
 soon. I expect Mr Pearce will send a reminder
 will Father send on a cheque for it, if it is due before
 I return

April 7th

I have been to Girga to-day. I went
 to the bank & found there was a new bank
 manager there, an Englishman. he was delighted
 to see me, of course he had heard about us
 so was'nt^{sic} surprised to see an English woman
 walk in. he is coming to spend Sunday week
 at Abydos & see the sights & have lunch & tea
 with me, it will be my last Sunday in camp.
 I got £8 changed into silver while at the bank
 so as to have all the tips <ready> that have to be given
 to the guards, servants etc at end of the season
 I left Joy/<e>y in charge of the bank porter while
 I went to do a little shopping I got a length of
 white silk to make an underskirt for my evening
 dresses & sewing silk to machine it with

5

the Soudani who accompanied me with Sardic evidently considered it a great occasion he came with a scented handkerchief. I have never smelt anything more powerful. when the wind blows in this direction we still get whiffs of it. Next Sunday I am going to spend the day with the Roches at Nag Hamadi I expect they will have a very elaborate luncheon as it will be Easter Sunday.

I have finished the last painting & now I am completing the photographic enlargement that Otto left unfinished I hope to get his portion of that wall finished before I leave.

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

P.S. Please tell Pat how pleased I was with her letter & thank her for it.

the Soudani who accompanied me with Sardic evidently considered it a great occasion he came with a scented handkerchief. I have never smelt anything more powerful. when the wind blows in this direction we still get whiffs of it. Next Sunday I am going to spend the day with the Roches at Nag Hamadi I expect they will have a very elaborate luncheon as it will be Easter Sunday.

I have finished the last painting & now I am completing the photographic enlargement that Otto left unfinished I hope to get his portion of that wall finished before I leave

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

P.S. Please tell Pat how pleased I was with her letter & thank her for it.