Anabakil Madfunak. Monch 16 ! 1937.

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Dean Mother

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First of all thanks very much for the coronalion hanky. I am afraid I cannot get any more licely stamps, we could only get the 5.10. \$15 P.M. ones at our local office all of which are on my letters to you, when we asked for some more the post master said the issue had been with chaum of he had had to return his remainders to baiso. If I can get any on local fetters I will save them.

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Arabah el Madfunah. March 16th 1937.

Dear Mother

My hasty note to tell you of my safe return has just departed & now I am starting another letter to tell you all about our adventures.

First of all, thanks very much for the coronation hanky—I am afraid I cannot get any more treaty stamps, we could only get the 5·10· & 15 P.T./<M.M.> ones at our local office all of which are on my letters to you, when we asked for some more the post master said the issue had been withdrawn & he had had to return his remainders to Cairo. if I can get any on local letters I will save them.

As soon as D^r Junker had finished the collating & had departed we started our preparations for our holiday. Joey's hood has long departed this life having rotted in the sun, so we rigged a new one with a sheet stretched across palm branches, it was a great success, every available space was filled with the requirements for the desert journey & we were on the road a little before noon. we arrived

at the Kena Frontier police about 4 o'clock, they looked over our equipment & made a lot of enquiries but seemed satisfied when we said we knew the road & had been there the previous year, they said they would have to send a telegram to the police at Hurgada to advise them that we were crossing the Eastern Desert & we must report on our arrival. so we left the money for the telegram & set off. we bumped along until dusk & then looked for a nice sandy patch to spend the night, our beds were soon made, we scratched out contours in the sand & then laid down an army blanket, & over that a travelling blanket & an eiderdown. nights being very cold. we eat our supper by star light & then turned in about 8.30. we were up again at the first streak of dawn & had breakfast & were on the road soon after sun rise.

I had manufactured a rough sketching book & had brought a few odd paints that th I had found among the camp drawing materials, intending to try & make quick impressions of the desert colouring, Amice

401 had regarded my statching activities with a soil of muld tolurance for a distinctly children presuit but condissended to keep me company & dant away Too. after two attempts that enraged her, she caught the shitching from owas as on thurastic our il as I was. I am a faid after that our propers was stow, we were constantly sixing views that we had to Try To paint. on he hopped, squatted down on the disals if we couldn't get in jony's stade of the sun was very hot Sandie would stand with a sun shade in each hand while we made familie efforts to get an impression of the scene, of course we found we had now of the colours we really wanted, & the paper wasn't right of the husles the worg size the til ur made valuant effects with what we hade recolly un have something to show for better than pholographs what the taster disal really looks like. I wouse they are and, rough, but I hope to be all to work up telle bichows from them. We were enjoying ourselves so much that we spent son live days on the joinney + when we arrived at

had regarded my sketching activities with a sort of mild tolerance for a distinctly childish persuit^{sic} but condesended^{sic} to keep me company & daub away too. after two attempts that enraged her, she caught the sketching fever & was as enthusiastic over it as I was. I am afraid after that our progress was slow.

we were constantly seeing views that we had to try to paint. out we hopped, squatted down on the desert & if we could'ntsic get in Joey's shade & the sun was very hot Sardic would stand with a sun shade in each hand while we made frantic efforts to get an impression of the scene, of course we found we had none of the colours we really wanted, & the paper was'ntsic right & the bushes the wrong size etc but we made valiant efforts with what we have/<d> & really we have something to show far better than photographs what the Eastern desert really looks like. of course they are crude & rough, but I hope to be able to work up better pictures from them.

We were enjoying ourselves so much that we spent over two days on the journey & when we arrived at

Hungade we found the authorities getting anxious about us, of we had been much late they were going to send the government long out To search for us. we replained the wason for our Tandiness , they asked us to tel them know our plans for the return journay us they one very omxious about people delaying on the way. when they saw how we were Equipped sprepared for emagine, they realized we were experienced in discit havel + said it would be quite all right of we wished to replace tracks of the regular route or our return so long as we advised them of our intintions & reported our arrival at Kena, they were all very nice & very impussed with the process of fory they flathy refused to believe he had crossed the E. Descel until they compared his number plate with the # number given in the Tiligram from Itens Outposi Our friends the Grosslands at the Marine Research station were delighted to see us a insisted on our staying with them, We had a most amusing aparence our first woming there, & Gross land asked us if we would like to see the corals fed. ... we thought it was a joke

Hurgada we found the authorities getting anxious about us, if we had been much later they were going to send the government lorry out to search for us. we explained the reason for our tardiness & they asked us to let them know our plans for the return journey as they are very anxious about people delaying on the way, when they saw how we were equiped sic & prepared for emergency they realized we were experienced in desert travel & said it would be quite all right if we wished to explore tracks off the regular route on our return so long as we advised them of our intentions & reported our arrival at Kena. they were all very nice & very impressed with the prowess of Joey they flatly refused to believe he had crossed the E. Desert until they compared his number plate with the E number given in the telegram from Kena Outpost Our friends the Crosslands at the Marine Research station were delighted to see us & insisted on our staying with them, We had a most amusing experience our first evening there, Dr Crossland asked us if we would like to see the corals fed.!!! we thought it was a joke

at first, we went along to the lab at the end of the little pice + saw the corals in the see water Tanks & brossfand pointed out curious swellings on some of them + said those were ready to take nouristment but they only find at night. so after dinner we went out again with electric Torches + saw that the hungry corals had put out mullions of ling Tenchits like sea anacmomico (spelling hopeless) & hossfand cut up Tiny fagments of fish a dropped them in, as they sand the tenchils got very agilated & siged the surp relosed own it, they all had their lit of fish, we could not watch them for more than a minute or so at a time, for fear the light might disturb them. We looked at some books + maps that wining + decided we would like to vised some Roman ruins among the mountains , also climb the great perphay mountain as His Grossfand had nown had a days outing from the station owing to having no one to accompany he we suggested she should you us in their can which she drives herself, she was thrilled at the idea she had longed to go but had not had the initialier

at first, we went along to the lab at the end of the little pier & saw the corals in the sea water tanks Dr Crossland pointed out curious swellings on some of them & said those were ready to take nourishment but they only feed at night. so after dinner we went out again with electric torches & saw that the hungry corals had put out millions of tiny tendrils like sea anaemomies^{sic} (spelling hopeless) D^r Crossland cut up tiny fragments of fish & dropped them in, as they sank the tendrils got very agitated & siezed^{sic} the scrap & closed over it. they all had their bit of fish, we could not watch them for more than a minute or so at a time, for fear the light might disturb them. We looked at some books & maps that evening & decided we would like to visit some Roman ruins among the mountains & also climb the great porphorysic mountain & as M^{rs} Crossland had never had a days^{sic} outing from the station owing to having no one to accompany her, we suggested she should join us in their car which she drives herself, she was thrilled at the idea she had longed to go but had not had the initiative

To do it before, a also the authorities would probably have made a fuss. So The next morning amice & I went along to the Markag to pay our official usil To the Mudie & enquire ways & means of viseling Mons blanchomus, (the nums) we found the Mudi ali By most afable o anxious to be helpfull o he inhoduced us to Hanefey Bay the inspector of mines who proved to be the most delightful Egyptian we have we met, we Told them the plans we were making of they said it would be all right for us to by loget to the nums provided we took the two cars , a Bedouin guide , Hanefu, said he would send his own driver along with His Brossland as he felt sure it would be more than she could manage, I if we were not back by sun down he would come out in the government long , rescue us (by the way This was what he quite repected to do) we agreed to all these anangements , then boached the malla of visiting the Roman Inamis on the perphay mountain on our way back to Kina. that Jainly raised their ham. then Hanefy Bay made a really

to do it before, & also the authorities would probably have made a fuss. so the next morning Amice & I went along to the Markaz to pay our official visit to the Mudir & enquire ways & means of visiting Mons Claudianus, (the ruins) we found the Mudir Ali Bey most affable & anxious to be helpfull^{sic} & he introduced us to Hanefey Bey the inspector of mines who proved to be the most delightful Egyptian we have ever met, we told them the plans we were making & they said it would be all right for us to try to get to the ruins provided we took the two cars & a Bedouin guide & Hanefey said he would send his driver along with M^{rs} Crossland as he felt sure it would be more than she could manage, & if we were not back by sun down he would come out in the government lorry & rescue us (by the way this was what he quite expected to do) we agreed to all these arrangements & then broached the matter of visiting the Roman Quarries on the porphory^{sic} mountain on our way back to Kena. that fairly raised their hair. then Hanefey Bey made a really

sporting offer. he said it was a really dangerous road of he would'at hust any of his men to take us but if we really wanted to go he would go will ws. you can imagine we did not refuse that offer. he is a billiant geologist , sumed delighted with on whist in the matter so we said we would be only To phased To have his company. When we left the Mankay we went along to the Shell bompany's oil wells. filled up with petrol 4 bought supplies in the company's store + non back to the marine station in Time for lunch. the afternoon we spent preparing for the next days Trip to Mons Clandianus o went to bed early loget a good nights nest. We started at 7.30 The next morning. Sandik in the back of fory + the nation driver of the Bedouin quide in the back of the hossfands bodge, we had to cross a great sandy plain for so litometers, it was very soft I heavy going in places but we both got over it without actually sticking, then we got among the mountains o'd was glorious but the going

sporting offer. he said it was a really dangerous road & he would'nt^{sic} trust any of his men to take us but if we really wanted to go he would go with us. you can imagine we did not refuse that offer. he is a brilliant geologist & seemed delighted with our interest in the matter so we said we would be only to^{sic} pleased to have his company.

When we left the Markaz we went along to the Shell Company's oil wells. filled up with petrol & bought supplies in the companys^{sic} store & ran back to the marine station in time for lunch. the afternoon we spent preparing for the next days^{sic} trip to Mons Claudianus & went to bed early to get a good nights^{sic} rest. We started at 7.30 the next morning. Sardik/<c> in the back of Joey & the native driver & the Bedouin guide in the back of the Crosslands^{sic} Dodge, we had to cross a great sandy plain for 50 kilometres, it was very soft & heavy going in places but we both got over it without actually sticking, then we got among the mountains & it was glorious but the going

was very rough in places, deep shale & rough stones , o an up hill way . both cans got stuck in the worse places, we got joy out quite casely but the bodge being a more powerful can was very Leavy & we all had To push, however we gol along, we took the precaution of going our the really bad places on fool first , picking on The best parts before linging the cars up. cutanty we should never have got the bodge own the bad his without the help of the two which men. then jour's tyres began to give Trouble, we whe not sinfrised as they were old , but we had Taken the frecaution of hisping four new ones specially sont from Gano for the Tup, soil was only a matter of a few minutes to change a what or or went, imagine our disgust when after a kito or so the new type went flat. we changed again Lawing Two spare which. I again The same thing happened. Then we got really worried. for when we took the outer covers off we found the values had been torn right out of the inner

was very rough in places, deep shale & rough stones & an up hill^{sic} way. both cars got stuck in the worse places, we got Joey out quite easily but the Dodge being a more powerfull^{sic} car was very heavy & we all had to push, however we got along, we took the precaution of going over the really bad places on foot first & picking out the best parts before bringing the cars up. certainly we should never have got the Dodge over the bad bits without the help of the two extra men. then Joey's tyres began to give trouble, we were not surprised as they were old, but we had taken the precaution of bringing four new ones specially sent from Cairo for the trip, so it was only a matter of a few minutes to change a wheel & on we went. imagine our disgust when after a kilo or so the new tyre went flat. we changed again having two spare wheels, & again the same thing happened. then we got really worried, for when we took the outer covers off we found the valves had been torn right out of the inner

Tube by the wheels spinning in the loose shale, by then it was lunch Time , we thought we could not be very for away + considered the best plan would be for us to have our meal, let the men repair the types as best they could a start back, we asked the guide how much further the nums whe, thinking that me might walk if I was only a little way but the quick said it was a days journey with a camel. so we abandoned the idea + amused ourselous will snambling up the mountain stopes to find VILL points. Sander & the driver had mended the old type but the two new ones will ton valoes were unless, so I suggested that the wheels to changed round of the two remaining strong lynes go at the back of the patched ones in fort where the shaw is not so great, this really was a hair wave, for we managed to make the return joinney without any further type Trouble, Mas Crossland was quite done up, so Hanefay's drive took the Dodge back (unless he was wanted to pust behind)

tube by the wheels spinning in the loose shale, by then it was lunch time & we thought we could not be very far away & considered the best plan would be for us to have our meal, let the men repair the tyres as best they could & start back, we asked the guide how much further the ruins were, thinking that mi/<we> might walk if it was only a little way but the guide said it was a days sic journey with a camel. so we abandoned the idea & amused ourselves with scrambling up the mountain slopes to find viewpoints. Sardic & the driver had mended the old tyre but the two new ones with torn valves were useless, so I suggested that the wheels be changed round & the two remaining strong tyres go at the back & the patched ones in front where the strain is not so great, this really was a brain wave, for we managed to make the return journey without any further tyre trouble, M^{rs} Crossland was quite done up, so Hanefey's driver took the Dodge back (unless he was wanted to push behind)

the relien journey was not so difficult as we were decending from the mountains to see feel. un amind at Hungada a little before sun set I as Mrs Gossfand was very tired to toe she returned shaight to the Manne station while have little Joy went a long to the Markay to report our safe return. we found Hanefy outside his bungatow on the look out for us , he curainly looked quele surprised when he heard jou's cheary look look. We lold him the tale of the Types & he had a look at the inna tales or in a few minutes solved the problem that had buggled us all day. The agent is bano had sent us motion bike types by mistake, the wheel measurement being the same, only motor boke which have then value holes in the centre of the im & motor can wheels Law then on the side. of course the valors were lon out at the first lit of stain. However Hamify said we need not wrong about that as he Lad a set of government Tyrus that had belonged to a forth he used to use rax would have the use

the return journey was not so difficult as we were decending sic from the mountains to sea level. we arrived at Hurgada a little before sun set & as Mrs Crossland was very tired we we she returned straight to the Marine station while brave little Joey went a long sic to the Markaz to report our safe return. we found Hanefey outside his bungalow on the look out for us & he certainly looked quite surprised when he heard Joey's cheery toot toot. We told him the tale of the tyres & he had a look at the inner tubes & in a few minutes solved the problem that had puzzled us all day.

The agent in Cairo had sent us motor bike tyres by mistake, the wheel measurement being the same, only motor bike wheels have their valve holes in the centre of the rim & motor car wheels have them on the side – of course the valves were torn out at the first bit of strain. However Hanefey said we need not worry about that as he had a set of government tyres that had belonged to a Jowett he used to use & us/<we> could have the use

"the ladin wanted to walk the, , I know that

lades do not walk, so a days camel journey or two kitometers was all the same to them . I thought they would be more phased of I said a day by camel."

of them untill sic we got the right tyres from Cairo but. being government property he could'ntsic give or sell them although they were no further use to him as the Jowett was worn out. so we promised to return them to him at a future date. he seemed to think that we had done a good bit of work to get back under those conditions, he said he never thought we would get the cars over the water shed. which is the highest point in the mountain pass, & I think he was a little disappointed that he did'nt^{sic} have to come out & rescue us. he went & questioned the guide to find out how far we really had got & came back laughing so much that we thought he would never stop. it seems we were only two kilometres away from the ruins & the guide had said it was a days sic camel journey away & explained this reason by saying. "the ladies wanted to walk there, & I know that ladies do not walk, so a days^{sic} camel journey or two kilometres was all the same to them & I thought they would be more pleased if I said a day by camel." you can imagine our rape sindignation, Hanefuy and his best to soother our feelings with very creatient coffee a promised to call for us in the government long at y o'clock the need morning a show us what a neely lead was like.

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of women in England + Denmark
John of four to you both.

your affectional daughter

I must look to see if I have on enortofe long enough

Mystle.

you can imagine our rage & indignation, Hanefey did his best to soothe our feelings with very excellent coffee & promised to call for us in the government lorry at 7 o'clock the next morning & show us what a really bad road was like.

I must leave the next days^{sic} adventures for another letter, there certainly will not be room for them in this. We got back to the Marine Station in time to clean up for supper. M^{rs} Crossland had thoroughly enjoyed her adventure but felt rather shaken by the exertions of rough desert driving. she really had done wonderfully, she had been used to driving for some years, but only on firm tracks round the oil fields & of course in England & Denmark

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

I must look to see if I have an envelope large enough for this letter