

Nov 24<sup>th</sup> 1931Nov 24<sup>th</sup> 1931

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Dear Mother.

We have had quite an exciting week end. we had Leading Aircraftman Clark lent us by the R.A.F To put our electric engine in running order. it seems that all the R.A.F regulations had to be uprooted to let him come, since the men are not granted leave of absence so far from head quarters since some soldiers were murdered on the line a year or so ago. however, Amice had an introduction to the commander & got him to wangle it & ~~we~~ had notice that the airman would be coming Saturday. of course we drove in to meet the train & picked up an extremely jaunty & lively young man & transported him to our camp, L.A.C. Clark made himself very much at home, was thrilled by our life out here & was very tickled by the Heath Robinson-ish fixtures we have to work with. Sunday morning he got well into the engine. there

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were hoots of laughter at the state of the dynamo & ignition timing, then he got busy with some tools & the engine began to purr like a contented cat. That afternoon just before sunset, we took him for a ride over the desert in Joey to look out for a suitable landing ground for aeroplanes, he showed us what was needed. length - direction etc & how to mark it out, & is going to report the possibilities to the commander who is very anxious to pay us a visit. I am thinking of writing to Charlie Barnard & telling him we have a possible landing for planes in case he might like to pay our camp a visit, I saw the notice you underlined in the Observer, I could address it to the 'Drome at Heliopolis -

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to two visitors from Chicago House, they came here for the day, in fact they got off the same train that L.A.C. Clark was catching for Cairo which was very fortunate as one run into Bahana did for the departing & arriving guests. Our Soudani guards have made themselves such a nice tidy encampment, they have swept the sand in front of their tent into sort of terraces & ornamented them with stones. The sergent comes to report each morning, after exchange of greetings he always says "If your honours are happy then I am happy." They evidently take their duties very seriously, they have been told that ~~th~~ their lives depend on our safety.

This has been a tiring day & it is now bed time.

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

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