

Kharga Rest House  
March 13<sup>th</sup> 1935.

Dear Mother.

My adventures have started &  
I will try to tell you all about them  
day by day.

Yesterday afternoon Amice & I went in  
Joey to Kara. the station where  
one takes the train to Kharga.  
it is right out in the desert, &  
the station is just a mud hut  
where you take the tickets.

we got there by sunset. put up  
Amice's tent, & had supper, then  
turned in early as we had to have  
breakfast before dawn.

The tent was most roomy & comfortable  
& we were quite snug in our blankets  
Sardic & Ahmed had the car cushions

329<sup>1</sup>  
Kharga Rest House  
March 13<sup>th</sup> 1935.  
Dear Mother.  
My adventures have started &  
I will try to tell you all about them  
day by day.  
Yesterday afternoon Amice & I went in  
Joey to Kara. the station where  
one takes the train to Kharga.  
it is right out in the desert, &  
the station is just a mud hut  
where you take the tickets.  
we got there by sunset. put up  
Amice's tent, & had supper, then  
turned in early as we had to have  
breakfast before dawn.  
The tent was most roomy & comfortable  
& we were quite snug in our blankets  
Sardic & Ahmed had the car cushions

2

To sleep on. we had breakfast by  
star light. & the train arrived at the  
first flush of dawn. I say train but  
it's really only a trolly with separate  
compartments, the engine was piled  
up with sugar cane & onions. the  
lines are like the ones they use for  
the trucks in the welsh mines.

we got aboard. Sardic & I. Joey ran  
along side for half a mile or so.  
then began the long ascent to the high  
desert up a glorious wady. the train  
stopped every 40 kilos or so to take  
in water from tanks by the rail  
(I suppose a water waggon goes along  
& fills these up <sup>the day</sup> before the train  
goes) then came the long journey  
across the high desert & finally the  
wild rugged descent into the great

to sleep on. we had breakfast by  
star light. & the train arrived at the  
first flush of dawn. I say train but  
it's<sup>sic</sup> really only a trolly<sup>sic</sup> with separate  
compartments, the engine was piled  
up with sugar cane & onions. the  
lines are like the ones they use for  
the trucks in the welsh<sup>sic</sup> mines.

we got aboard. Sardic & I. Joey ran  
along side for half a mile or so.  
then began the long ascent to the high  
desert up a glorious wady, the train  
stopped every 40 Kilos or so to take  
in water from tanks by the rail  
(I suppose a water waggon goes along  
& fills these up <the day> before the train  
goes) then came the long journey  
across the high desert & finally the  
wild rugged descent into the great

3 p58  
 basin where the oases are, it is  
 a marvelous sight to see brilliant  
 patches of green in a great waste of  
 sand dunes & barren mountains, they  
 are like emeralds set in a barbaric gold  
 setting. the colour of the sand is just like  
 pale gold dust.

I arrived at Kharga a little  
 before three. I was met by the Marmur  
 who said the Governor of Kharga had  
 sent him to welcome me & wished me  
 to take tea with him at 5 o'clock.  
 he placed the government car at my  
 disposal, so drove in style to the  
 rest house & had a wash, & a rest  
 & then was driven to the Governor's  
 house where I was received in state  
 all arrangements made for my journey  
 to the next Oasis, I am to have the

basin where the oases' <sup>sic</sup> are, it is  
 a marvelous <sup>sic</sup> sight to see brilliant  
 patches of green in a great waste of  
 sand dunes & barren mountains, they  
 are like emeralds set in a barbaric gold  
 setting. the colour of the sand is just like  
 pale gold dust.

I arrived at Kharga a little  
 before three. I was met by the Marmur  
 who said the Governor of Kharga had  
 sent him to welcome me & wished me  
 to take tea with him at 5 o'clock.  
 he placed the government <sup>sic</sup> car at my  
 disposal, so drove in style to the  
 rest house & had a wash. & a rest  
 & then was driven to the Governor's <sup>sic</sup>  
 house where I was received <sup>sic</sup> in state  
 all arrangements made for my journey  
 to the next Oasis, I am to have the

4

use of government rest houses in two  
of the villages & stay with the omdah  
in the other.

There is a conveyance going to Dahkla  
tomorrow evening, it travels by night  
& as it is nearly full moon this will  
be glorious, I believe it is a six wheeled  
Ford car. which makes the journey  
Thursdays & returns to Kharga  
Tuesdays, we may stop to sleep in  
the desert for some hours & arrive  
in Dahkla by nine in the morning.  
but more of this later on.

Friday morning

In the village of Mout. Dahkla Oasis.  
I had a very interesting day in Kharga  
yesterday, I went through the ancient  
village again with its curious underground  
streets, I described all this to you

use of government<sup>sic</sup> rest houses in two  
of the villages & stay with the omdah  
in the other.

There is a conveyance going to Dahkla  
tomorrow evening, it travels by night  
& as it is nearly full moon this will  
be glorious, I believe it is a six wheeled<sup>sic</sup>  
Ford car. which makes the journey  
Thursdays & returns to Kharga  
Tuesdays, we may stop to sleep in  
the desert for some hours & arrive  
in Dahkla by nine in the morning.  
but more of this later on.

Friday morning  
In the village of Mout. Dahkla<sup>sic</sup> Oasis.

I had a very interesting day in Kharga  
yesterday, I went through the ancient  
village again with its curious underground  
streets, I described all this to you

25  
329

after my first visit. but this time I was able to see it all without any haste. I called at the Markaz to receive a letter that I am to give to the Marmou<sup>sic</sup> of Dakhla. (I am now awaiting a visit from him).

The car was to start at three o'clock & would go right through to Mout, the Police Head Quarters in Dakhla. so after my lunch in the rest house I packed up & had a little rest, a <sup>special</sup> car was sent to fetch me & Sandic as the car for Dakhla starts from near the station, this car proved to be a Ford lorry with very wide tyres, it was piled with wood, non-descript bundles & baskets & the passengers sat on the top of it all. Sandic & I sat on the front seat next the driver. We set off. the first part of the way was like the desert as one usually thinks

after my first visit, but this time I was able to see it all without any haste. I called at the Markaz to receive a letter that I am to give to the Marmour<sup>sic</sup> of Dakhla. (I am now awaiting a visit from him).

The car was to start at three o'clock<sup>sic</sup> & would go right through to Mout, the Police Head Quarters in Dakhla<sup>sic</sup> - so after my lunch in the rest house I packed up & had a little rest, a <special> car was sent to fetch me & Sandic as the car for Dakhla<sup>sic</sup> starts from near the station, this car proved to be a Ford lorry with very wide ti/<y>res, it was piled with wood, non-descript<sup>sic</sup> bundles & baskets & the passengers sat on the top of it all. Sandic & I sat -ers on the front seat next the driver.

We set off. the first part of the way was like the desert as one usually thinks

6

of it, a sea of golden sand with soft undulations. then we passed huge rocks standing out in the sand & further on they became young mountains mostly shaped like tall pyramids & we had to wend our way among them. this oasis is the bed of what was once a great inland sea & you can visualize it best if you think of the sea shore at Bedruthen Steps with the sea all dried up. & think of it extending for over two hundred miles which was the distance of my journey last night & you will have a good idea of this desert between the two oases.

The Ford bumped & swayed & rattled & snorted & kept going, its driver was a marvel, we had several stops for the engine to cool down, & the

of it, a sea of golden sand with soft undulations, then we passed huge rocks standing out in the sand & further on they became young mountains mostly shaped like tall pyramids & we had to wend our way among them. this oasis is the bed of what was once a great inland sea & you can visualize<sup>sic</sup> it best if you think of the sea shore at Bedruthen<sup>sic</sup> {Bedruthan} Steps with the sea all dried up, & think of it extending for over two hundred miles which was the distance of my journey last night & you will have a good idea of this desert between the two oases<sup>sic</sup>

The Ford bumped & swayed & rattled & snorted & kept going, its driver was a marvel, we had several stops for the engine to cool down, & the



roof passengers climbed down & every  
 one chatted together & they were so  
 delighted to find I could understand  
 & talk a little Arabic, at it was  
 glorious driving through the sunset  
 & then the moon rose, it was nearly full  
 & we could go most of the way without  
 headlights, I can't tell you how weird  
 & fantastic the landscape became  
 one seemed to be driving through  
 a dream. at 8 o'clock we had a  
 long halt & the men built a fire  
 & made tea & eat their supper. I also  
 eat mine. then on again, we  
 reached the first police outpost a  
 little after 10, & left the mail & some  
 bundles there, later on we stopped  
 at another village & dropped several  
 of the roof passengers, & finally

roof passengers climbed<sup>sic</sup> down & every  
 one chatted to-gether & they were so  
 delighted to find I could understand  
 & talk a little Arabic, at it was  
 glorious driving through the sunset  
 & then the moon rose, it was nearly full  
 & we could go most of the way without  
 headlights, I can't<sup>sic</sup> tell you how weird  
 & fantastic the landscape became  
 one seemed to be driving through  
 a dream. at 8 o'clock<sup>sic</sup> we had a  
 long halt & the men built a fire  
 & made tea & eat<sup>sic</sup> their supper. & I also  
 eat<sup>sic</sup> mine. then on again, we  
 reached the first police outpost a  
 little after 10, & left the mail & some  
 bundles there, later on we stopped  
 at another village & dropped several  
 of the roof passengers, & finally

8

arrived here a little before one o'clock  
 in the morning. The Governor has  
 placed the government rest house at  
 my disposal, this is a house where  
 the various officials stay when making  
 their rounds. I was shown to a  
 nice clean room, a sheet & blanket  
 was spread on the bed for me & water  
 brought for washing. & you can  
 imagine how glad I was to turn in  
 after nearly 10 hours of bumping in  
 a heavy lorry over a track that  
 would give an ordinary mechanic  
 in England heart failure. These  
 Arabs can drive. they make a lot of  
 noise about it but they do get there -  
 I am continuing again this evening as  
 the Marmur came to visit me just as  
 I was finishing the previous sentence

arrived here a little before one o'clock  
 in the morning. The Governor has  
 placed the government<sup>sic</sup> rest house at  
 my disposal, this is a house where  
 the various officials stay when making  
 their rounds. I was shown to a  
 nice clean room. a sheet & blanket  
 was spread on the bed for me & water  
 brought for washing. & you can  
 imagine how glad I was to turn in  
 after nearly 10 hours of bumping in  
 a heavy lorry over a track that  
 would give an ordinary mechanic  
 in England heart failure. These  
 Arabs can drive. they make a lot of  
 noise about it but they do get there -

I am continuing again this evening as  
 the Marmur came to visit me just as  
 I was finishing the previous sentence



3.

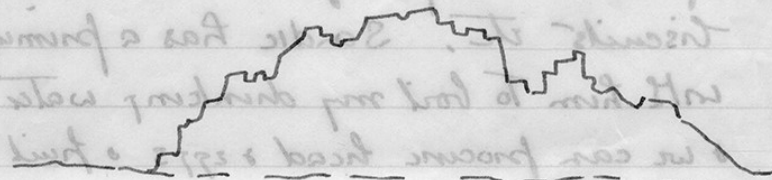
3.<sup>9</sup>

329

He is making arrangements for me to go to Gedida tomorrow where I will stay at the Omdah's, the car will wait & take me on to Kasr the next day & the day after that return here in time to take the Ford lorry when it goes back to Khargh on Tuesday. The Marmur is arranging the price of the car for the three days. He says it will not be more than two pounds. The distances between the villages are 30 or 40 miles. Kilos, too far to go by camel in a day & still have time to see the villages as well, also it is very hot mid-day & there are sudden sand storms, so as I want to see all I can in the time I am taking the quicker but less romantic way of travelling a few years ago this would have been

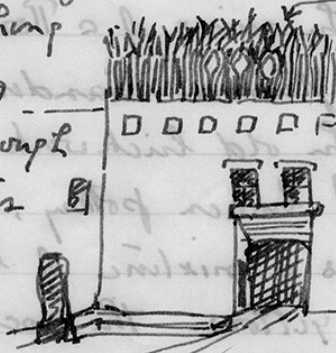
He is making arrangements for me to go to Gedida tomorrow where I will stay at the Omdah's, the car will wait & take me on to Kasr the next day & the day after that return here in time to take the Ford lorry when it goes back to Khargh<sup>sic</sup> on Tuesday. The Marmur is arranging the price of the car for the three days, he says it will not be more than two pounds. The distances between the villages are 30 or 40 miles. Kilos, too far to go by camel in a day & still have time to see the villages as well, also it is very hot mid-day & there are sudden sand storms, so as I want to see all I can in the time I am taking the quicker but less romantic way of travelling. A few years ago this would have been

10  
 impossible. After the Marmur's visit  
 I set off on a donkey to see the ancient  
 village, unlike Kharga, which is  
 mostly underground. Mout is built  
 on a hill the outline roughly is  
 like this.



one goes up steep narrow lanes between  
 the houses & the edges of the roofs  
 are protected with a balustrade of palm  
 branches with windows for the ladies  
 to peep out of, something  
 like this →

the path continues through  
 the house & they often  
 have a seat built  
 of mud & spread  
 mats on it & sit to pass the time of day



impossible. After the Marmur's visit  
 I set off on a donkey to see the ancient  
 village, unlike Kharga, which is  
 mostly underground. Mout is built  
 on a hill the outline roughly is  
 like this.

[ ₹ ]

one goes up steep narrow lanes between  
 the houses & the edges of the roofs  
 are protected with a balustrade<sup>sic</sup> of palm  
 branches with windows for the ladies  
 to peep out of, something [ ₹ ]  
 like this. →

the path continues through  
 the house & they often  
 have a seat built  
 of mud & spread  
 mats on it & sit to pass the time of day

with the passers by, The Omdah  
 came out to welcome me, & invited  
 me to partake of oranges & mint  
 tea which I enjoyed very much.  
 I also had coffee in the house of  
 my guide & talked to his mother  
 & his little daughter, as Sarchie  
 was with me his wife did not  
 appear. The people have most  
 dignified manners & did not stare  
 & crowd round me & they do not  
 know the word backsheesh  
 all those we met who were friends  
 of my guide stopped to greet me,  
 I returned to the rest house for  
 lunch. which I made of oranges  
 a present from the Marmur, I am  
 saving my appetite for my visit  
 to the Omdah's Tomorrow.

with the passers by, The Omdah  
 came out to welcome me, & invited  
 me to partake of oranges & mint  
 tea which I enjoyed very much.  
 I also had coffee in the house of  
 my guide & talked to his mother  
 & his little daughter, as Sarchie  
 was with me his wife did not  
 appear. the people have most  
 dignified manners & did not stare  
 & crowd round me & they do not  
 know the word backsheesh

all those we met who were friends  
 of my guide stopped to greet me,  
 I returned to the rest house for  
 lunch. which I made of oranges  
 a present from the Marmur, I am  
 saving my appetite for my visit  
 to the Omdah's tomorrow.

12

so far my meals have consisted of bread (no butter) & cheese & hard boiled eggs & oranges & dates, excellent fare to travel on, Nannie was horrified when I refused to be lumbered up with bully beef, tinned salmon biscuits etc, Sandie has a primus with him to boil my drinking water & we can procure bread & eggs & fruit in any village as we go, so that I do not need to carry a lot of luggage with me (much to Sandie's joy.)

To continue, after lunch I went to see the ruins of a Roman Fort & spent the afternoon wandering round examining the old brickwork & picking up bits of broken pottery, the earth here is a mixture of brick red & saffron yellow. the rocky outcrops are in streaks & layers of these two colours

so far my meals have consisted of bread (no butter) & cheese & hard boiled eggs & oranges & dates, excellent fare to travel on, Nannie was horrified when I refused to be lumbered up with bully beef, tinned salmon biscuits etc, Sandie has a primus with him to boil my drinking water & we can procure bread & eggs & fruit in any village as we go, so that I do not need to carry a lot of luggage with me (much to Sandie's joy.)

To continue, after lunch I went to see the ruins of a Roman Fort & spent the afternoon wandering round examining the old brickwork & picking up bits of broken pottery, the earth here is a mixture of brick red & saffron yellow. the rocky outcrops are in streaks & layers of these two colours

4<sup>13</sup>  
329

& the houses that are built of bricks of this earth are a lovely pinkish orange colour & with their faded green tops of palm branches rising up from the roofs you can imagine how spectacular the effect is against the deep blue sky & the surrounding desert of golden sand with here & there vivid patches of cultivation.

I am ~~now~~ going to bed very early to make up for a short sleep last night. Sandie is heating some water on his primus & I will have an all over wash, I hope to continue tomorrow from Gedida -

Monday. back in Mout.

The last three days have been so full that I have not had a chance to continue my letter as I intended

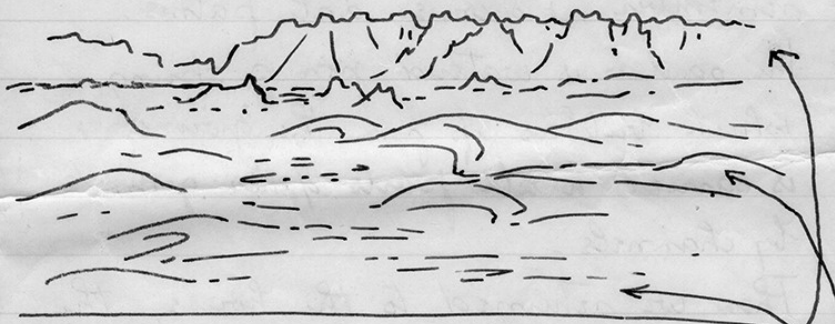
& the houses that are built of bricks of this earth are a lovely pinkish orange colour & with their faded green tops of palm branches rising up from the roofs you can imagine how spectacular the effect is against the deep blue sky & the surrounding desert of golden sand with here & there vivid patches of cultivation.

I am now going to bed very early to make up for a short sleep last night. Sandie is heating some water on his primus & I will have an all over wash, I hope to continue tomorrow from Gedida -

Monday. back in Mout.

The last three days have been so full that I have not had a chance to continue my letter as I intended

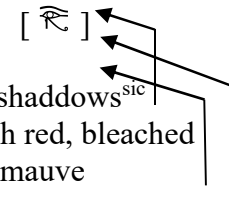
14  
 On Saturday morning the most ramshackle  
 Ford car I have ever seen came for me  
 soon after 9. & we set off, I wish I could  
 make a word picture of the desert  
 we passed over. I have never seen  
 any thing more lovely.



Mountains pale lilac with blue shadows  
 Bed rock of the desert a purplish red, bleached  
 on the surface to a soft pinkish mauve  
 Sand hills of pure gold colour

After a few miles we saw the mirage  
 rippling water with rocks reflected in it

On Saturday morning the most ramshackle  
 Ford car I have ever seen came for me  
 soon after 9, & we set off, I wish I could  
 make a word picture of the desert  
 we passed over, I have never seen  
 any thing more lovely.



Mountains pale lilac with blue shadows<sup>sic</sup>  
 Bed rock of the desert a purplish red, bleached  
 on the surface to a soft pinkish mauve  
 Sand hills of pure gold colour

After a few miles we saw the mirage  
 rippling water with rocks reflected in it



15  
 p. 55  
 & then a few moments later nothing but  
 endless sand. We had to drive over  
 some of the sand hills, we did not  
 always get over the first attempt  
 but had to run back & charge at  
 them from another angle & so  
 about eleven we arrived at the house  
 of the Omdah of Gedida. They were  
 expecting us and I received a  
 most hospitable welcome. The  
 Old Omdah (a magnificent old gentleman)  
 has recently resigned the office & his  
 son is now Omdah. The son is a  
 young man of about 19 or 20, has been  
 educated in Cairo & can speak a  
 little English. The Old Omdah was  
 delighted when I returned his salutations  
 in Arabic as he knows no other language.  
 I was given coffee, Sardinia & the driver

& then a few moments later nothing but  
 endless sand. We had to drive over  
 some of the sand hills, we did not  
 always get over the first attempt  
 but had to run back & charge at  
 them from another angle.

About eleven we arrived at the house  
 of the Omdah of Gedida. they were  
 expecting me and I received a  
 most hospitable welcome. the  
 Old Omdah (a magnificent old gentleman)  
 has recently resigned the office & his  
 son is now Omdah. the son is a  
 young man of about 19 or 20, has been  
 educated in Cairo & can speak a  
 little English. The Old Omdah was  
 delighted when I returned his salutations  
 in Arabic as he knows no other languag[e]  
 I was given coffee, Sardinia & the driver

16

of the car also had coffee in the big  
reception room. Then I was shown  
the gardens. Oranges, lemons, sweet  
lemons, apricots, vines, guavas, pomme-  
-granites<sup>sic</sup> apples, plums mulberries  
mangoes. & some whose names I can not  
remember, & of course date palms.

the garden is watered from a spring  
which bubbles up from the ground &  
is carried to all parts of the grounds  
by channels.

Then we returned to the house. The  
Young Omdah & I had a solitary state.  
we had soup, a savory dish of macaroni<sup>sic</sup>,  
roast lamb, a dish of various vegetables,  
a sweet like a baked custard, then  
fruit & coffee.

After lunch I had a little rest. & then  
when it was a little cooler the Omdah

of the car also had coffee in the big  
reception<sup>sic</sup> room. Then I was shown  
the gardens. Oranges, lemons, sweet  
lemons, apricots, vines, guavas, pomme-  
-granites<sup>sic</sup> apples, plums mulberries  
mangoes. & some whose names I can not  
remember, & of course date palms.

the garden is watered from a spring  
which bubbles up from the ground &  
is carried to all parts of the grounds  
by channels.

Then we returned to the house, the  
Young Omdah & I eat<sup>sic</sup> in solitary state.  
we had. soup. a savory dish of macaroni<sup>sic</sup>,  
roast lamb, a dish of various vegetables  
a sweet like a baked custard, then  
fruit & coffee.

After lunch I had a little rest. & then  
when it was a little cooler the Omdah

329

Took me round the village, I saw  
 the place they grind the corn, a primitive<sup>sic</sup>  
 machine all made of wood. also the  
 press for crushing the oil pods. then  
 we went through some of the fields  
 & saw the animals & the people at work.  
 & then returned to the house for the  
 evening meal. I did not see any other  
 members of the Omdah's family, the  
 part of the house where I was entertained  
 was a separate wing specially for the  
 entertainment of visitors, it had two  
 large sleeping rooms, a reception room,  
 dining room, serving room & kitchen  
 & a wide veranda all round. all  
 beautifully clean & orderly but very simply  
 furnished.

For supper I had. soup. a fine turkey  
 & with it was served savory rice wrapped

took me round the village, I saw  
 the place they grind the corn, a primitive<sup>sic</sup>  
 machine all made of wood. also the  
 press for crushing the oil pods. then  
 we went through some of the fields  
 & saw the animals & the people at work.  
 & then returned to the house for the  
 evening meal. I did not see any other  
 members of the Omdah's family, the  
 part of the house where I was entertained  
 was a separate wing specially for the  
 entertainment of visitors, it had two  
 large sleeping rooms, a reception room,  
 dining room, serving room & kitchen  
 & a wide veranda all round. all  
 beautifully clean & orderly but very simply  
 furnished.

For supper I had. soup. a fine turkey  
 & with it was served savory rice wrapped

in vine leaves, afterwards a vegetable  
like spinnach, some fried potatoes.  
then two sorts of sweets, fruit & coffee,  
I felt like a baloon. I thought I had  
done nobly but the Old Omdah came  
in & told me I had eaten nothing.  
Sardic & the driver of the car had  
been equally well fed, & from  
Sardic account the old gentleman  
sat & saw they did ample justice to  
it all.

(the old omdah)

When I told him, that the Marmour had  
arranged for me to stay at the Rest  
House in Kasr he said there was  
only a bare room for soldiers there &  
I must return & spent the night  
in his house where I could be properly  
looked after & I could continue the  
journey to Rashda the following

in vine leaves, afterwards a vegetable  
like spinnach<sup>sic</sup>, some fried potatoes.  
then two sorts of sweets, fruit & coffee,  
I feel like a baloon<sup>sic</sup>. I thought I had  
done nobly but the Old Omdah came  
in & told me I had eaten nothing.  
Sardic & the driver of the car had  
been equally well fed, & from  
Sardic<sup>sic</sup> account the old gentleman  
sat & saw they did ample justice to  
it all.

When I told him <the Old Omdah>, that the Marmour<sup>sic</sup> had  
arranged for me to stay at the Rest  
House in Kasr he said there was  
only a bare room for soldiers there &  
I must return & spent<sup>sic</sup> the night  
in his house where I could be properly  
looked after & I could continue the  
journey to Rashda the following

18

p. 55

morning, as this did not really make much difference to my plans I thought it more polite to accept,

Next morning I had breakfast at 7. some sort of wheat cooked with sugar & then three fried eggs. & at 8 we set off to Kasr. the Old Omdah came part of the way with us as he wished to visit another estate of his on the way. Kasr is the last village of the Oasis & is quite near to the lilac mountains. it is also the most ancient & picturesque, the Omdah received me & I was conducted round in state then he invited me to lunch in his garden, & it was served under a very ancient orange tree in bloom I had two young pigeons, rice, strange vegetables & fruit.

morning, as this did not really make much difference to my plans I thought it more polite to accept,

Next morning I had breakfast at 7. some sort of wheat cooked with sugar & then three fried eggs. & at 8 we set off to Kasr. the Old Omdah came part of the way with us as he wished to visit another estate of his on the way. Kasr is the last village of the Oasis & is quite near to the lilac mountains. it is also the most ancient & picturesque, the Omdah received me & I was conducted round in state then he invited me to lunch in his garden, & it was served under a very ancient orange tree in bloom I had two young pigeons, rice, strange vegetables & fruit.

then we went in the car another 5 miles & there was a wonderful hot spring bubbling up from the rock, it was so hot that one could only <sup>justly</sup> bear ones hand in it. Sardin had never seen such a thing before & was very thrilled. This spring waters a marvelous-ly fertile patch of land right at the foot of the mountains, there was a beautiful young arab horse grazing in one of the fields, it let me go up to it & fondle it & it seemed quite used to being petted.

I went to the rest house & reported to the two soldiers in charge that I was returning that night to Gedida. It was, as the Omdah said, only a bare room with a camp bed & wash bowl in it, but it would have been all

then we went in the car another 5 miles & there was a wonderful hot spring bubbling up from the rock, it was so hot that one could only <just> bear ones<sup>sic</sup> hand in it, Sardin had never seen such a thing before & was very thrilled. this spring waters a marvelous-ly<sup>sic</sup> fertile patch of land right at the foot of the mountains, there was a beautiful young arab<sup>sic</sup> horse grazing in one of the fields, it let me go up to it & fondle it & it seemed quite used to being petted.

I went to the rest house & reported to the two soldiers in charge that I was returning that night to Gedida. it was, as the Omdah said, only a bare room with a camp bed & wash bowl in it, but it would have been all



329<sup>6</sup><sup>21</sup>

I needed. I got back to Gedida about sunset. had another elaborate supper & went to bed early as I was very tired. yesterday I went to Rashda. another reception & lunch with the omdah. I went round the village which is small & afterwards through marvelous gardens with thousands of date palms, here was another bubbling spring but cold this time. In one of the gardens were many bees & all the place was humming with them. & I saw rows of bee hives under the palms.

On my return here I visited another spring called the Mad Well. because of the way the water bubbles up. I took off my shoes & stockings & washed my feet. It was lovely soft water, slightly warm. We got back to Mout about 4 & I was

I needed. I got back to Gedida about sunset. had another elaborate supper & went to bed early as I was very tired.

yesterday I went to Rashda. another reception & lunch with the omdah. I went round the village which is small & afterwards through marvelous<sup>sic</sup> gardens with thousands of date palms, here was another bubbling spring but cold this time, In one of the gardens were many bees & all the place was humming with them. & I saw rows of bee hives under the palms,

On my return here I visited another spring called the Mad Well. because of the way the water bubbles up. I took off my shoes & stockings & washed my feet it was lovely soft water, slightly warm. We got back to Mout about 4 & I was

22

sitting down writing to you when  
Sardic came & said there was a  
European who wished to speak to me.  
I went out & a jolly American  
introduced himself. He said he  
was in charge of an expedition from  
Berlin & they were tracing the remains  
of Prehistoric Man in the Lybian  
Desert. Three of their party, himself  
& two German women were camping  
close to the mountains north of Kasr  
they had heard news of an English  
woman visiting the Oasis & had been  
looking for me for several days, they  
had not seen an European for two  
months. & they only had a native cook  
from Cairo with them who could speak  
a little English & they only know about  
six words of Arabic. they begged me to

sitting down writing to you when  
Sardic came & said there was a  
European who wished to speak to me.  
I went out & a jolly American  
introduced himself. he said he  
was in charge of an expedition from  
Berlin & they were tracing the remains  
of Prehistoric Man in the Lybian<sup>sic</sup>  
Desert. three of their party, himself  
& two German women were camping  
close to the mountains north of Kasr  
they had heard news of an English  
woman visiting the Oasis & had been  
looking for me for several days, they  
had not seen an<sup>sic</sup> European for two  
months. & they only had a native cook  
from Cairo with them who could speak  
a little English & they only know about  
six words of Arabic. they begged me to

23

go with them to their camp & have dinner  
& they would bring me back to the  
rest house by moonlight. of course  
I could not refuse but just think how  
badly they must have wanted to talk  
to an European to suggest bringing  
me back from their camp 50 miles  
away in the desert at night.

They had a Ford lorry specially constructed  
for desert surveying. so I grabbed my  
hat, coat, mug plate & knife & spoon  
& Sander & I climbed into the lorry with  
them & set out off <sup>into</sup> the desert again.

the engine of the lorry was very powerful  
& the tyres were like balloons, it  
was a gorgeous ride, it took an  
hour. their camp comprised 3 tiny  
sleeping tents, a cook tent & a shelter  
for eating, chairs were petrol tins

go with them to their camp & have dinner  
& they would bring me back to the  
rest house by moonlight. of course  
I could not refuse but just think how  
badly they must have wanted to talk  
to an<sup>sic</sup> European to suggest bringing  
me back from their camp 50 miles  
away in the desert at night.

They had a Ford lorry specially constructed  
for desert surveying. so I grabbed my  
hat, coat, mug plate & knife & spoon  
& Sander & I climbed into the lorry with  
them & set out off <into> the desert again.  
the engine of the lorry was very powerful  
& the tyres were like balloons<sup>sic</sup>, it  
was a gorgeous ride, it took an  
hour their camp comprised 3 tiny  
sleeping tents, a cook tent & a shelter  
for eating, chairs were petrol tins

we had a most merry meal. the two  
 German ladies knew a little English  
 & were very nice they knew D<sup>r</sup> Junker  
 & several other people in Cairo I also  
 know. this was their first year in  
 Egypt but they had done similar  
 work in Trans Jordania they were  
 making drawings & records of all  
 the flint implements & worked stones  
 they discovered & noting the ancient  
 water courses the American M<sup>r</sup> Fox  
 was the Director & Surveyor & Mechanic,  
 they were expecting to be joined by  
 some other members of the expedition  
 who have been working in a different  
 direction but had been quite cut off  
 from the world since January  
 I was very sorry when the time came  
 for me to return to Mout, I collected

we had a most merry meal. the two  
 German ladies knew a little English  
 & were very nice they knew D<sup>r</sup> Junker  
 & several other people in Cairo I also  
 know. this was their first year in  
 Egypt but they had done similar  
 work in Trans Jordania they were  
 making drawings & records of all  
 the flint implements & worked stones  
 they discovered & noting the ancient  
 water courses the American M<sup>r</sup> Fox  
 was the Director & Surveyor & Mechanic,  
 they were expecting to be joined by  
 some other members of the expedition  
 who have been working in a different  
 direction but had been quite cut off  
 from the world since January

I was very sorry when the time came  
 for me to return to Mout, I collected

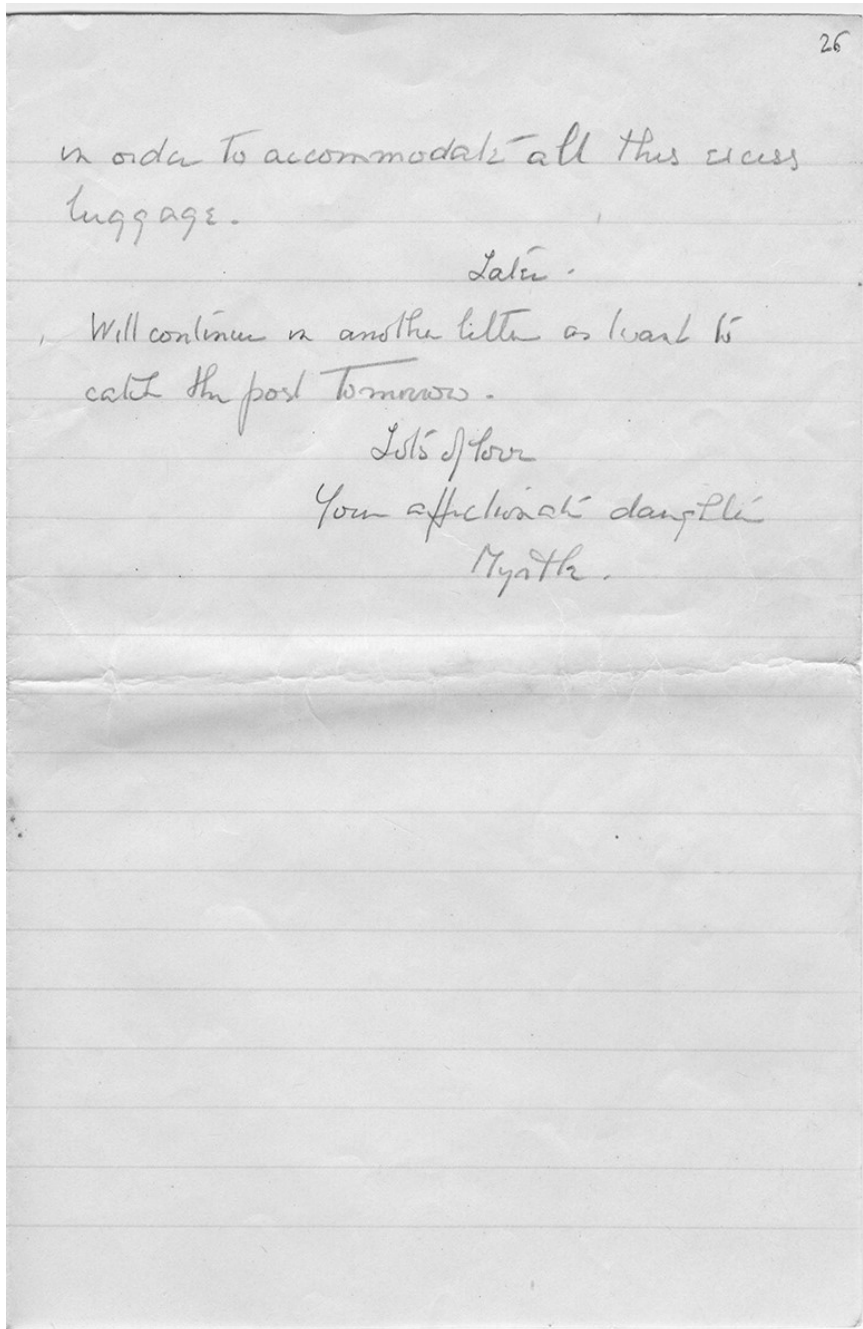
4.<sup>25</sup>  
329

their mail & will post it in Kharga.  
I also talked to their cook, there were several things he could not explain to them in his broken English, fortunately my Arabic stood the strain & the poor man regarded me as a messenger sent from Heaven. Mr Fox drove me back here & I gave him an Observer I had in my holdall, also all the bits of news paper that I had used to pack various things in, he was delighted they hav'nt had a thing to read since January. It was half past eleven when we got back here & he had to drive the lorry back to their camp.  
My luggage has increased greatly I have about 80 oranges & 50 sweet lemons. presents from Omdahs - I have purchased two nice baskets (like my Kharga basket)

their mail & will post it in Kharga.

I also talked to their cook, there were several things he could not explain to them in his broken English, fortunately my Arabic stood the strain & the poor man regarded me as a messenger sent from Heaven. Mr Fox drove me back here & I gave him an Observer I had in my holdall, also all the bits of news paper that I had used to pack various things in, he was delighted they hav'nt<sup>sic</sup> had a thing to read since January. It was half past eleven when we got back here. & he had to drive the lorry back to their camp.

My luggage has increased greatly I have about 80 oranges & 50 sweet lemons. presents from Omdahs - I have purchased<sup>sic</sup> two nice baskets (like my Kharga basket)



in order to accommodate all this excess luggage.

**Later.**

Will continue in another letter as I want to catch the post tomorrow.

Lots of love  
Your affectionate daughter  
Myrtle.