ARCHAEOLOGICAL THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY'S CAMP ARABAH EL MADEUNAH BALIANA. UPPER EGYPT Dear Mother. Just a pantic note to lill you our Ithange Trip was a great success. I have never had so many thilly in my life I will discribe my adventines more fully in a longer with a tellers, but I want Tocal This mail in case you are a lettle ankrows, The people here including The tocal police were seared stiff at our undertaking. but we have carried it through in spile of many varnings. & now find our scloes quite alchatus. We have Tucked 130 miles across wataless discit in 4 days. average speed with pack camels. 23/4 to 3 miles per hour.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY. TEMPLE OF SETI I. ABYDOS EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY AND THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY'S CAMP ARABAH EL MADFUNAH BALIANA. UPPER EGYPT.

[probably 15 February 1930]

Dear Mother.

Just a frantic note to tell you our Kharga trip was a great success. I have never had so many thrills in my life I will describe my adventures more fully in a longer letter or letters, but I want to catch this mail in case you are a little anxious, the people here, including the local police were scared stiff at our undertaking, but we have carried it through in spite of many warnings, & now find ourselves quite celebrities, We have trecked^{sic} 130 miles across waterless desert in 4 days. average speed with pack camels. 2³/₄ to 3 miles per hour.

Just think what that meant. we had To push on no matter how tired i still we were because waything depended on our water supply lasting out. I have been strongh a night mare land and less plains fstony desul I sandy desut with the includ minage shimming on the hingon across a land of fan lastic rocks like puties. True monstas pozen to store, across a land so cruck & fittyless pilities That one fell wer The good's were dead + buried there under shar webs I tomb like shapes, across vart vastis of sand shew will Mach round stones. going on 100 westward all the Time . will we came to a plan when we stood on She roof I the world a looked down on a country of sand dunes, lossed up rocks, dotted here a here with spechs of green when the springs bubbled up , ringed round wh a chan of lineston mountains

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Just think what that meant. we had to push on no matter how tired & stiff we were because everything depended on our water supply lasting out.

I have been through a nightmare land, endless plains of stony desert & sandy desert with the wicked mirage shimmering on the horizon, across a land of fantastic rocks like prehis--toric monsters frozen to stone across a land so cruel & pittyless pitiless that one felt even the gods were dead & buried there under strange rocks of tomb like shapes, across vast wastes of sand strewn with black round stones, going on & on westward all the time, until we came to a place where we stood on the roof of the world & looked down on a country of sand dunes. tossed up rocks, dotted here & there with specks of green where the springs bubbled up & ringed round with a chain of limestone mountains

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I never imagined such wild fantastic beauty. we stood & gazed & gazed & could not speak a word until we had to pull ourselves together to face the descent; how we got down I do not know, it was simply marvellous, our camels slid over rocks wallowed down sand slopes & we floundered afetr after them until we reached the level plain in which the Oasis of Kharga lies, many feet below sea level. we still had 20 miels^{sic} to go across this plain but half way there was a well at a ruin of a Coptic Monastry^{sic} where we wather watered our poor thirsty camels & rested for an hour & a half. then on again arriving at the Oasis itself

Something after 10 d night under The fill mon A Remedan. Imit eben Min strail In the food & will with a mon same a madell little for real mail. on byon hell luna on again arrivery of the Origan Mich

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something after 10 at night, under the full moon of Ramadan.

I must close this scrawl for the post, & will write a more sane & readable letter for next mail.

Lots of love to you both & Pat & other friends

Your affectionate Myrtle.