

Arabah el Madfunah.
[probably 1 December 1936]

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Dear Mother

I was very interested to read about the old boat we saw at Bude, also about the eagle that escaped from the zoo.

One day we saw a flight of big birds travelling in an South Easterly direction & thought they must have been migrating cranes, there must have been hundreds of them, we rushed up on to the roof of the Temple & watched them until they disappeared from sight.

I have been making a little relief in plaster of our house with its background of desert hills, I am going to make a mould & some casts from it to send as Xmas cards,

Amice has written a farewell poem to Sety & is having it printed for Xmas, she hopes it will be in time this year.

We are having quite a lot of beans out of the garden now, every evening Nannie drapes the bean stalks with old sacks to protect

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a lot of zinnias in bloom & at breakfast time
the place is gay with morning glories

Nannie is getting very excited about some
strange seeds Amice brought from Roumania
they are just coming up & she wonders what
they will be like

We went into Baliana during the week &
we saw stacks of straw dumped in rows
along the cultivation, soon these will be
used to build little huts & pallisades where
the people will live with their animals when
the berseem (clover) is ready, the animals
are teathered in it & allowed to eat so much
each day & during the night they sleep
in the straw shelters with the families,
We noticed a few changes in Baliana, the
post office has been moved, it is now
in one of the side streets & we have to
leave the car & cross over a canal to get to
it so do not find it nearly as convenient

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as before when it was next to the Shell Oil Co's
warehouse where we get our petrol.

Amice has been making enquiries about
selling the engine that was used to make
the electric light for the night photography,
the mechanic at Chicago thinks he
knows of some one in Luxor who needs
a machine to run a pump & thinks our
engine would serve the purpose.

We now have a beautiful full moon & Ramadan
is half over soon they will be thinking about
the feast & I expect every one will be coming
round for a dose of Eppy.

There have not been many patients this year
as yet, they are rather afraid to come as
they may be made to go in to the hospital,
there was one baby with a horrid scabby &
mattery ear, & several bad eyes that Amice
attended to. A man brought his wife
along to be assisted to become pregnant,
they were very soon sent about their business

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& told to pray to Allah & not to ask English
ladies to interfere in his business -

Our dog has got to be kept tied up now
as we hear the police are putting poison
about to destroy the pariah dogs. he is
not at all pleased about it, poor fellow.

Amice joins me in lots of
love to you both.

Your affectionate daughter
Myrtle.

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