Back again in bamp. . It god to being source of March 25 = was

Dean Mother. and Man son should shall shal

My account of my adventions unded nother abuptly in order to catch the post so I will now continue. Sandie . I fift Hout Tuesday wening about 5 o'clock, we Travelled in the Ford long in state in the front seat by the driver, the other passengers sitting on the baggage ite. The Horn was full oil was a wondaful night. about half way we came upon a camel can avan, they were camping for the night & had made a little fine. They invited us to all come r drink to with them, we accepted the invitation + gathred round the camp fine, I was provided with a

Back again in Camp. March 25th

Dear Mother.

My account of my adventures ended rather abruptly in order to catch the post. so I will now continue.

Sardic & I left Mout Tuesday evening about 5 o'clock, we travelled in the Ford lorry in state in the front seat by the driver, the other passengers sitting on the baggage etc, The Moon was full & it was a wonderful night, about half way we came upon a camel caravan, they were camping for the night & had made a little fire, they invited us to all come & drink tea with them, we accepted the invitation & gathered round the camp fire, I was provided with a

seat of state on a roll of mats, it was a weird sight. the dusky faces round the flickering fire, the kneeling camels the moon lit desert with weird rocky outcrops & the battered Ford lorry looking completely out of place admist<sup>sic</sup> its surroundings, although the strange & various bundles & baskets that it carried & the mode of packing the same was typical of the East. such a Ford lorry has never been seen upon an English road.

Tea – with mint & much sugar was served in relays, guests drinking in turn as there were not enough cups to go round. I, as guest of honour was served first. of course cups are never washed on these occasions, but who cares for thad/<t> admid<sup>sic</sup> such surroundings. There was much talk in which I joined as much as I was

3088 able, my correct replies to the various salutations always cause great delight. We bade fore well to our hosts + continued our joinna, the latter pail was not so pleasant as we struck a lit of a sand storm as we caused the sandy shelet that lies round Khonga, I followed the natives cramph & wapped my ned sich shoul round my head like a Timban o my blankel round my body (only my ups & nose studing out ) and be all so We neached the Rest House in Thonge by 4 octock in the morning, ol was jolly glad to tumble into bid. but I was anahr before right freting quite fit a ready for first adventions. I sent a fetter by Sandie to the Monmon to report my safe return

able, my correct replies to the various salutations always cause great delight.

We bade fare well to our hosts & continued our journey, the latter part was not so pleasant as we struck a bit of a sand storm as we crossed the sandy stretch that lies round Kharga, I followed the natives<sup>sic</sup> example & wrapped my red silk shawl round my head like a turban & my blanket round my body (only my eyes & nose sticking out.)

We reached the Rest House in Kharga by 4 o'clock in the morning, & I was jolly glad to tumble into bed. but I was awake before eight feeling quite fit & ready for fresh adventures.

I sent a letter by Sardic to the Marmur to report my safe return

4 & to till him I was planning an expedition to the villages of Bulag & Bris a hundred thetaches the los South of Vikanga, losso is some it Sandie returned with a letter for me to give to the ombashi in change of the police outpost in Bris where Ishould have to pass that night So I started a little before three in the same old food that had Taken me round bakhla the driver had accompanied the long from Hout the night before, he had collected some passengus for the prinny . I think he had scented the possibilityof further custom from me. ( he get it)

We also Took with us the chief quand

of the anliquelies source in Khonga.

he was respectable old boy called Hagg

Rashid, he had made the pilgimage

& to tell him I was planning an expedition to the villages of Bulaq & Beris a hundred Kilometres Kilos/<miles.> south of Kharga,

Sardic returned with a letter for me to give to the Ombashi in charge of the police outpost in Beris where I should have to pass that night. So I started a little before three in the same old Ford that had taken me round Dakhla, the driver had accompanied the lorry from Mout the night before, he had collected some passengers for the journey & I think he had scented the possibility of further custom from me. (& he got it.) We also took with us the chief guard of the antiquities service in Kharga. he was respectable old boy called Hagg Rashid, he had made the pilgrimage

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PAGE 5

to Muca. When he heard I was going on this up-detion he said. "as the honouned lady wishes to have I must travel with her in order that she may In suitably sound. ( as I discovered he had relations in Bulag I gather that his enthussem for the joining was not entirely on my account ) as there was room on the back seat with Sandie + the petial cans , water cans , general bappage I was quite willing for him Two camp bads; a camp chains otash The journay lay across a great sandy plain other senface was so fum , level that the can would have at high speed, we stopped once for me to see the nuin of a Tempte built by the Romans, It was built like a fortuse with a high enclosing

to Mecca. When he heard I was going on this expedition he said, "As the honoured lady wishes to travel I must travel with her in order that she may be suitably served. (as I discovered he had relations in Bulaq I gather that his enthuasi/<sia>sm for the journey was not entirely on my account) as there was room on the back seat with Sardic & the petral<sup>sic</sup> cans & water cans & general baggage I was quite willing for him to come,

The journey lay across a great sandy plain & the surface was so firm & level that the car could travel at high speed, we stopped once for me to see the ruin of a Temple built by the Romans, it was built like a fortress with a high enclosing

wall remede was a regular numed village as well as the Temple, quite a lettle colony must have lived out there in the disert in Roman times.

We reached Besis about 6 o'clock, the ombashi was own whelmed at having To entertain on Inglish lady, he had nown had To do such a thing before, his caganess to save me was almost embarassing the wanted to act as ladies maid. he insisted on poining water white I washed, I had heaved my sughine out of my hold all in my scarch for my sponse bag. this was promptly suged , carefully hung on a pig jit was my best pink self nightie) I finally got sid of him wall & inside was a regular ruined village as well as the Temple, quite a little colony must have lived out there in the desert in Roman times.

We reached Bei/<r>is about 6 o'clock, the Ombashi was over whelmed at having to entertain an English lady, he had never had to do such a thing before, his eagerness to serve me was almost embarassing<sup>sic</sup> he wanted to act as ladies<sup>sic</sup> maid. he insisted on pouring water while I washed, I had heaved my nightie out of my hold all in my search for my sponge bag. this was promptly seized & carefully hung on a peg (it was my best pink silk nightie) I finally got rid of him

by Telling him I wished to change my clother. at that he netned, I was able to have a proper wash. I had pushly boiled eggs a native head I manges for supper.

The Police Outpost consisted of four while washed woms of mud hick.

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three In the mens use of the other leept for the Police officers going their rounds, government officeals of priviled god Travellers. It contained two camp bids, a camp chan, a wash stand a a ship of matting, bidding consisted of a matthews, a hand bolster sort of pillow of a blanket of a mosquito cuntain. way thing

clean in good order.

place where the camels were Trathered

There was a nice little garden + a

by telling him I wished to change my clothes. at that he retired, & I was able to have a proper wash.

I had freshly boiled eggs & native bread & oranges for supper.

The Police Outpost consisted of four whitewashed rooms of mud brick, three for the mens<sup>sic</sup> use & the other kept for the Police Officers going their rounds, government<sup>sic</sup> officials & priviledged<sup>sic</sup> travellers. it contained two camp beds, a camp chair, a washstand & a strip of matting. bedding consisted of a mattress, a hard bolster sort of pillow & a blanked/<t>
 <hr/>
 & a mosquito curtain. every thing clean & in good order.</hr>

There was a nice little garden & a place where the camels were teathered<sup>sic</sup>.

The next morning I went round the village a saw a very longe spring that supplied all the water for the people of the fields Then I went to Bulag. on the way I saw another spring right out in the disert. Sandie was very distrissed when he saw all that good waln't nunning to waste, it was amaging to see it bubbling out of a great claft in a nock ward on bomba cou in We reached Butag about noon. have I visited the omdat , had cumonial coffee with him, he wished me to have tunch with him, but Hady Rashid had allready claimed that honour. he gave me four first boiled eggs a loaf of new head o dates, then

The next morning I went round the village & saw a very large spring that supplied all the water for the people & the fields.

Then I went to Bulaq. on the way I saw another spring right out in the desert. Sardic was very distressed when he saw all that good water running to waste, it was amazing to see it bubbling out of a great cleft in a rock

We reached Bulaq about noon. here I visited the Omdah & had ceremonial coffee with him, he wished me to have lunch with him, but Hagg H/<R>ashid had allreadysic claimed that honour. he gave me four fresh boiled eggs & a loaf of new bread & dates, there

3.

being no time for a more elabourate<sup>sic</sup> meal to be prepared (thank goodness.)

I arrived back in Kharga about 5 o'clock & the driver of the car asked me to take tea with him before returning to the rest house he presented me with a fly whisk & a wall ornament made of plaited straw & beads, & I gave him a Woolworths butterfly brooch as a present for his wife.

The next morning Sardic & I returned to the Nile Valley by the train & Amice met us at Kara with Joey. the train journey was very amusing. the driver of the car was also travelling by it, & the postman & they came along & talked to me when the engine stopped to take in water

The Omdah of Kharga also was on

330 3.19 being no time for a more elabornale mual to be prepared ( thank goodness.) I arrived back in Khanja about 5 o'clock & the drive of the can asked me to take The will him before returning to the nest house he presented me with a fly whish , a wall ornament made of plaited show + brads, + 1 gave him a Woodworths buttafly hooch as a present for his wife The next morning Sandie of relinned to the Nike Valley by the train I amie met us at Rone with Joan. the train journay was very amusing. the drive of the can was also havething by il, + the postman + they came along , talked to me when the engine stopped to take in water The Emdel of Khanga also was on

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the Train & he came & sat with me part of the way . I lunch Time he offered me two procons a cranges. laccepted one of the pipers a two nonger a thoroughly enjoyed my lunch, I had of course provided my own, but I would have hund his feelings of I had refused. Amice was delighted to see me back looking so phased with life, I we brigged home across the desert cael full of news. I so ends a glorious adventure I hope these Two fat letters will help make up for the duth of news while I was away. Lots of love to you both your affectionak dangth-

Mynthe.

the train & he came & sat with me part of the way & at lunch time he offered two pigeons & oranges. I accepted one of the pigeons & two oranges. & thoroughly enjoyed my lunch, I had of course provided my own, but it would have hurt his feelings if I had refused.

Amice was delighted to see me back looking so pleased with life, & we buzzed home across the desert each full of news. & so ends a glorious adventure

I hope these two fat letters will help make up for the derth<sup>sic</sup> of news while I was away.

Lots of love to you both Your affectionate daughter Myrtle. The records that were up in the loft were put in one of the collecting sacks for a hospital as for as I can remember, There are some of the old ones that I having the

Last To part with, in a square box under my wak chest in the studio.

the end near the door.

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the train journay was very amusing. It drive of the can was also havething by it , the postman & this came

along a talked to me when the engine

stopped to take in water The Goodel of Khanga also was on

P.S. I found lots of letters from you wait-ing<sup>sic</sup> for me.

Thanks very much for the cottage it will be fun putting it together

The records that were up in the loft were put in one of the collecting sacks for a hospital as far as I can remember, There are some of the old ones that I hav'nt<sup>sic</sup> the heart to part with, in a square box under my oak chest in the studio. the end near the door.