

(April 18)
(74)

About the group X² in the middle of the floor are a few beads also, and a quantity of gold foil. The objects appear to have been wrapped in gold foil, including the ushebtis and the alab. jars. Nowhere have I seen such complete plundering as in Nubia due at Kerma and no doubt at Napata to the search for gold. The wrapping of all objects in gold leaf lead [sic] to the removal of all objects by the thieves to the surface for examination; and scattered on the surface, the objects have disappeared. It is only the odd chance of this fallen roof in VIII which has saved for us the objects in room A and those dropped there by the thieves possibly when they fled from the falling roof. Whether they returned and descended through the caved-in hole is not yet clear. The men are of the opinion that the thieves did reenter. We shall see next winter. At VII, the thieves cleared the whole stair, so they were quite capable of the amount of work involved in clearing Nu. VIII a second time.

Launch broke down on the way home and we limped back after 7 o'clock on two cylinders.