1931 14 St. John's Wood Court. St. John is hood. London. Novib/31 N.W. 8. Dea Prople. This is just a lime to let you that be have now a permanent address, as abore. We have taken a Imale provisted flat - centrally heated " - as they say in This Compé , which means hot water coils. a rare thing. most of them have only gas or electric pries. In the oldest houses there is a fali with a miserable morning fine of Lack a doza made pieces of Coal. This is quili comp and we have also electric texters

in Case really Severe weather occurs to that we feel we can conhoie the situation. We are fairly central, just a permy bus side from Seepidges. You turn at that Corner pon Oxford It. I go northwest to St. John's hourd. It is much hipe & they than stensing to O Chelsea Wh. we had first Rought of. Have been only a live over a week in London & very rushed, looking the a Lonse & Leing Syph. The freat Spectacles last week. Lord hazon Show which we saw in Comput Am the

bomaons of the palace than Hotel where he were stagning - a wonderpre place where 4- jet room & beakfast, bath, book & ferenal Service for 2.75 per day. No type. The Low hagen looked very unportant in his ancient- foed Coach but the show was somewhat sported les a dompour of rain. However London crowds dont mind that to the sheets were lines with a fix - deep thicket of unkellas for home before. The processor was about a mile long & was. Smeking after the order of om Labour dag afanis. Floats storing the propers of undursky ele" - finsk bijegele, & Istin Can. old

have omnibus etc. Then the beef - caters from the Tower. Thes we went to the Opening of Parl. Bie Henridge had written to Col. Varmier, who is the real hears of the High Commosioner Fice. + he is Jamph turing the office on us to get as into Thing. There is of come a feat demand for trekets. but he manager at the last moment to get us two for the Royal Gallery. That is a long fallery opening out from behind the Throne. Shrapp which the Keng + Queen pars. Ne daw the pears & pearenes come in in per lace + drainnos. + del the processional Chang. Beefeaturs, Heralds Imaquie a long Jothic hall with her of seass rising at each side (where we were) Rogal blue Carpet roles don for the occasion. The Crown rock in position . Beat - calis, heralds & lungs chamberlain all dram up at each side of the open way. at 10 min to 12 the Grown was Solemaly bone who the

anti - chamber, Than the proce of heales bulenes + afterward Prince gerge. Dhe we hear the howds thering abide * The bands playing amounting the anwar of the Key + Queer. + at 12 exactly, on the first shorte of Big Sen. Its heralds blow a blast on Their bugles, The pear doors opened at the lower end of the hall & the Royal pours in entered. The King was leading the Queen by the hand & bey were both chessed exactly as It see them in state portints - great cloads I red belock with limine capes & trains carries by two pages. The Queen has a wonderful there of them sater enhorsed in peaks + the most wonder for Collar and heastplate of Chamonds. Oraumono crom & canning . In fact - when the walker the spankles lake a cut cystal chandelies. The King whe his crom, with the peak may & Roh-1-non dianing. It was rather becoming only its looked a him too lage. as it it showed have been taken in a lack

a whole lot of dignitionies including In. Baldin + then went folloved. We waited with they came out into the Horse of ands where we rubber Horeders with a lot of ducherses ele. Waiting togo home. Nesch dag we were even more fortunation for The armistice celebation. Col. Varmier fot as tickets- for m. Thomas' office unnescaling opposite the Curotajoh & divo unidons for where the Queen was. We comes see everything marvellondy + it was one ? The most Throlling Inparences I behave we shall love Lave. In have no conception of what Eng. & the Empir hear till yn see the British people to a dy like This. We went at a line after 9 + It's sheets were black with people then - Shanding 15 deep on the sidewalks, The Centraph is in the middle I Whitehall & from eng morning the sheet is closed for happie pom bestmuster to Trafalgar Iquar. So that the whole thing is carried out without any comprision. It Was a wonderful morning, war & strong sunny & and is beautiful when The am shower i

about 10 we went out on to the balcomies + hady williams Daylor of Inmoreal happened to shand head to us & as she had seen it many times here she was able to lett is just What was joing on. You can see from the picture last how 4 looked. at 10.50 to prince came out of the Home Office & look his place. & the Cabiner. Immotion de It boshop. Choir & about 10 bands were already in place. ar 10.55 he skepper forward, bower & law his weak at 15 foot of the Censtapph. Then Im, macsonad, Im. Baldumi, on In derguson + 16 representations of to the Sommins law theirs. & to Bistop of London Sans a prayor. at 11 ste bills rangent all our 15 cif. The flags dipper & then there was about Sclence for 2 min. The motor broses stopped + 1to people for me, look off their hats & warter. You can't unaque how hulling it was. The to brokp prayed gain + the "henasiir frands Band played almost in a Whenper To finit bans ? for dave the King . You realized that that was what the whole thing meanter:

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MB Williams to her family, 16 Nov 1931

Transcription / Additional Information

<u>1931</u>

14 St. John's Wood Court. St. John's Wood. London. N.W.8. Nov 16/1931

Dear People.

This is just a line to tell you that we have now a permanent address, as above. We have taken a small furnished flat - "centrally heated" as they say in this country, which means hot water coils, a rare thing. Most of them have only gas or electric fires. In the oldest houses there is a grate with a miserable moping fire of half a dozen small pieces of coal. This is quite comfy and we have also electric heaters

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in case really severe weather occurs so that we feel we can control the situation. We are fairly central, just a penny bus ride from Selfridges. You turn at that corner from Oxford St. & go northwest to St. John's Wood. It is much higher and dryer than Kensington or Chelsea wh. We had first thought of.

Have been only a little over a week in London & very rushed, looking for a house & seeing sights. Three great spectacles last week. Lord Mayor's show which we saw in comfort from the

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windows of the Palace Strand Hotel where we were staying - a wonderful place where you get room & breakfast, bath, books & general service for \$2.25 per day. <u>No tips.</u> The Lord Mayor looked very important in his ancient gold coach but the show was somewhat spoiled by a downpour of rain. However London crowds don't mind that & the streets were lined with a six-deep thicket of umbrellas for hours before. The procession was about a mile long & was something after the order of our Labour Day affairs. Floats showing the progress of industry etc. first bicycle, & motor car old

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horse omnibus etc. Then the beef-eaters from the Tower.

Tues we went to the opening of Parl. Bill Herridge had written to Col Vannier, who is the real head of the High Commissioners office & he is simply turning the office on end to get us into things. There is of course a great demand for tickets but he managed at the last moment to get us two for the Royal Gallery. That is a long gallery opening out from behind the Throne through which the King & Queen pass. We saw the peers & peeresses come in in gold lace & diamonds & all the processional ceremony. Imagine a long Gothic hall with tiers of seats rising at each side (where we were) Royal blue carpet rolled down for the occasion. The crown & orb in position, Beaf-eaters, heralds & kings chamberlains all drawn up at each side of the open way. At 10 min to 12 the Crown was solemnly borne into the

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anti-chamber. Then the Prince of Wales entered & afterwards Prince George. Then we heard the crowds cheering outside & the bands playing announcing the arrival of the King & Queen & at 12 exactly, on the first stroke of Big Ben the heralds blew a blast on their bugles. The great doors opened at the lower end of the hall & the Royal procession entered. The King was leading the Queen by the hand & they were both dressed exactly as you see them in the state portraits. Great cloaks of red velvet with ermine capes & trains carried by two pages. The Queen had a wonderful dress of cream satin embroidered in pearls & the most wonderful collar and breast plate of diamonds. Diamond crown & earrings. In fact - when she walked she sparkled like a cut crystal chandelier. The King wore his crown, with the great ruby & Koh-i-noor diamond. It was rather becoming only it looked a little too large as if it should have been taken in a bit.

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A whole lot of dignitaries including M. Baldwin followed. We waited until they came out & then went into the House of Lords where we rubbed shoulders with a lot of duchesses etc. waiting to go home.

Next day we were even more fortunate for the Armistice Celebration. Col. Vannier got us tickets for M. Thomas' office immediately opposite the Cenotaph & two windows from where the Queen was. We could see everything marvellously & it was one of most thrilling experiences I believe we shall ever have. You have no conception of what Eng. & the Empire mean till you see the British people on a day like this. We went at a little after 9 & the streets were black with people then - standing 15 deep on the sidewalks. The Cenotaph is in the middle of Whitehall & from early morning the street is closed for traffic from Westminster to Trafalgar Square so that the whole thing is carried out without any confusion. It was a wonderful morning, warm & sunny & London is beautiful when the sun shines.

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About 10 we went out on to the balconies & Lady Williams Taylor of Montreal happened to stand next to us & as she had seen it many times before she was able to tell us just what was going on. You can see from the pictures just how it looked. At 10.50 the Prince came out of the Home offices & took his place & the Cabinet Ministers etc. The bishop, choir & about 10 bands were already in place. At 10.55 he stepped forward, bowed & laid his wreath at the foot of the Cenotaph. Then Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Baldwin, and Mr. Ferguson & the representatives of the Dominions laid theirs & the Bishop of London said a prayer. At 11 the bells rang out all over the city. The flags dipped & then there was absolute silence for 2 min. The motor buses stopped & the people got out took off their hats & waited. You can't imagine how thrilling it was. Then the bishop prayed again & the Grenadier [freands] Band played almost in a whisper the first bars of God Save the King. You realized that that was what the whole thing meant.

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It was tremendous. The tears simply ran down our faces.

Thurs. we went to Col Vanniers to lunch & had a lovely time. Going out for three other engagements this week so we shall soon know people.

Hope to write oftener now.

No word from you yet but Blanche has just phoned to say there are letters here which I hope may be from you.

Best love to you all

M.B.