

Confidential Filing

Dame Ruth King requests official support for a ceremony in Westminster Abbey involving the unveiling of a memorial plaque to the memory of those killed in the service of the Crown since 1945.

MEMORIALS

AUGUST 1981

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
<del>21.8.81</del>							
<del>8.9.81</del>							
<del>9.9.81</del>							
<del>13.10.81</del>							
<del>9.12.81</del>							
<del>14.12.81</del>							
<del>17.12.81</del>							
<del>11.2.82</del>							
<del>15.3.82</del>							
<del>25.5.82</del>							
<del>27.3.82</del>							

PREM 19/840

File in CF

807

The Pavilion  
Greenfield Park

Dublin 4  
695870

231  
March 27<sup>th</sup>  
1982

mt

The Prime Minister,

Dear Mrs Thatcher,

I am deeply moved that you should have found time to write to me personally concerning the Defenders' Memorial. From those whom I met & spoke to I think it has given heart to the Military & Civilian Services; & particularly to the widows & orphans who were present. We all know that but for you, it could not have happened.

I would also like to thank you for your speech at Harrogate. This was a huge help to the media-overpowered silent majority; & I noticed its almost instant

reflection in Marplan, putting you above  
both Socialist parties.

My admiration & gratitude for your  
leadership of England knows no bounds,  
& if there is anything one Englishwoman in  
Ireland can do, you know I am ready to serve.

Thank you again,

Yours sincerely,

Ruth King.

FILE

RM  
22/3

CF  
PAPERS

23 March, 1982

Dear Dame Ruth,

I am so sorry that I shall not, after all, be able to get to the Unveiling and Dedication of the Defenders' Memorial on Thursday. I know how much work you have done to make it possible.

As you are probably aware, we are having a law and order debate in the House that day and I must be on the Front Bench to hear the Home Secretary at four o'clock. I am so sorry.

With best wishes.

(Sgd) MT

Dame Ruth King, DBE.,

SW

Memorials.

R M

cc: NIO  
MOD  
Mr Holmes, West. Abbey  
Miss Porter

23 March, 1982

Further to my telephone conversation with your office this morning, I am writing to confirm that Lady Young will represent the Prime Minister at the Unveiling and Dedication of the Defenders' Memorial in Westminster Abbey on Thursday, 25 March. Mr Holmes from the Abbey will be in touch with you regarding the details.

CAROLINE STEPHENS

J Buckley, Esq  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's  
Office

ae



10 DOWNING STREET

The s/s NIO is not

happy to represent the PM.

Lady Young will represent the

PM instead. PM agreed.

PP.

CS

~~J. Sullivan~~

22/3/82

Just

DETECTIVES

UNVEILING AND DEDICATION OF  
THE DEFENDERS' MEMORIAL,  
WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 25 MARCH

The Prime Minister has now got to listen to the law and order debate in the House on Thursday so she will not be attending the above. Please hold on to the tickets just in case there is a change of plan.

CAROLINE STEPHENS

22 March 1982

E.R.

PRIME MINISTER

UNVEILING AND DEDICATION OF THE DEFENDERS'  
MEMORIAL, WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 25 MARCH

The following Secretaries of State will be going to the Service on Thursday and I wonder if you would like to nominate one of them to represent you?

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland  
Secretary of State for Scotland  
Secretary of State for Wales  
Secretary of State for Social Services  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

*Smiths*

*es.*

*[N. Griffiths - W.A.]*

22 March 1982



From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



HOME OFFICE  
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE  
LONDON SW1H 9AT

119 MAR 1982

You wrote to John Halliday on 11th February about the arrangements for the ceremony at Westminster Abbey on 25th March to unveil a plaque to commemorate those who have given their lives in the service of the Crown since 1945.

Unfortunately that is the afternoon when Her Majesty The Queen will be visiting the Home Office building at Queen Anne's Gate to unveil a plaque to commemorate this Department's bi-centenary. This makes it impossible for the Home Secretary or Sir Brian Cubbon to attend the Abbey ceremony. The Home Office will accordingly be represented by Mr. Robert Andrew who is the Deputy Under Secretary responsible for the police and fire services. We have informed the Abbey authorities.

I am copying this to the recipients of your letter.

A. P. JACKSON

Miss Jane Ridley



12 ZMART 1992

6 5 4 3 2 1

6 5 4 3 2 1



D.R.

c. Mr. Whitmore  
Mr. Gow  
Mr. Pattison

PRIME MINISTER

LAW AND ORDER DEBATE - THURSDAY 25 MARCH

It is the law and order debate on Thursday next and the Home Secretary will be opening. Both Ian and Mike think you should sit in for his speech. You said you wished to attend the service at Westminster Abbey in memory of those killed in service since 1945. As this commences at 1600 hours, I think we should send your regrets and explain why.

Agree?

Yes M.T.

C.J.

19 March 1982

222 5152



<sup>Memorials</sup>  
Please file

cf. <sup>John Stephens</sup>

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

OK  
Mr. Pochitt  
15/3

Mr Whitmore

Will you like to  
do this?

15/3

Unveiling &  
Dedication of  
the Defenders'  
Memorial  
25<sup>th</sup> March

(1) I assume a Private Secretary is required?

(2) If so, who?

cf.

John Holmes 222.5152.

cc:- S Holmes, Esq  
Westminster Abbey

15 March, 1982

UNVEILING AND DEDICATION OF THE DEFENDERS' MEMORIAL,  
THURSDAY, 25 MARCH, 1982

I am writing to confirm that the Prime Minister will definitely be attending the above ceremony on Thursday, 25 March. We have received the relevant tickets from Stuart Holmes at Westminster Abbey.

CAROLINE STEPHENS

David Omand, Esq  
Ministry of Defence

5

FILE RM

DETECTIVES

UNVEILING AND DEDICATION OF THE

DEFENDERS' MEMORIAL, THURSDAY

25 MARCH, 1982

I attach an admit card and the relevant parking tickets for the above ceremony.

CAROLINE STEPHENS

15 March, 1982

- 1.
1. MR. WHITMORE *MM 12iii*
  2. PRIME MINISTER

UNVEILING AND DEDICATION OF THE DEFENDERS' MEMORIAL, WESTMINSTER  
ABBEY, THURSDAY 25 MARCH

You will remember that we had correspondence about the above, before, and Clive and I tried to dissuade you from going.

The problem is that it is the week Mrs. Gandhi is here and you are also insisting on going to the Palace that evening for the Reception for winners of The Queen's Awards for Export and Technology. The following day you go to Harrogate.

I think we must decide soon whether or not you are to attend this Service as they are expecting you.

*M. J. G.  
mb*

*C.P.*

12 March 1982

Memorials Wn 15/2



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1  
Telephone 01-222 7622 218 2111/3

MO 27/5/1/2

11th February 1982

Dear John,

DAME RUTH KING

In the autumn of last year Brian Norbury corresponded with you about the Ceremony at Westminster Abbey to unveil the Plaque sponsored by Dame Ruth King, which commemorates those who have given their lives in the Service of the Crown since 1945. I thought I should now let you know where we stand.

After consultation with the Dean of Westminster and his staff, it has been agreed that the Service should take place in the afternoon of 25th March 1982. The Service will commence in the Chancel of the Abbey, which makes the upper limit of places for the Service 1,000. At a point in the Service, the Duke of Edinburgh and the unveiling group will proceed out to the south cloister for the unveiling ceremony. This will be relayed to the remainder of the congregation in the Abbey by microphone. When complete, the party will return to the Chancel for final prayers before dispersal. It is also now understood that Dame Ruth will be paying for the Service in addition to the Plaque.

Of the 1,000 seats available 450 have been allocated to the three Services and the staff at Westminster Abbey are already in contact with the Police Federation (Mr Tanner), the Fire Service (Mr Derby, HM Chief Inspector of Fire Services), the Nursing Services (the Secretary General of the Nursing Council) and The St Johns Ambulance Brigade (Brigadier Peter Body) regarding their representation and seat allocation for the remaining 550 places. I know from Jim Buckley's letter of 29th October 1981, that it is the wish of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster that members of the Home Civil Service should not be overlooked in the ceremony. Any Departments who wish to reserve seat allocations for Ministers or officials should contact Mr Holmes, the Assistant Receiver General, Chapter Office, 20 Deans Yard, Westminster Abbey (01 222 5152) who is handling allocations.

J F Halliday Esq





I understand that HRH the Duke of Edinburgh and the Prime Minister hope to attend as does Lord Trenchard, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, who will represent the Ministry of Defence in the absence abroad of my Secretary of State.

I am sending copies of this to the Private Secretaries to the Prime Minister, the Secretaries of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Social Services, the Chancellor of the Duchy and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours,

*Jane Ridley*

(JANE RIDLEY)

112 FEB 1982



Memorials



10 DOWNING STREET

NOTE FOR THE FILE

I spoke to Richard Banner,  
MOD on the telephone today and  
told him that the Prime Minister  
intended to attend both the  
unveiling ceremony and evenson  
on 25 March.

es.

17 December, 1981

I spoke to the P.M. again  
today. She said she wd  
like to go if possible.  
Review again never  
re time.

es. 23/12

MR. WHITMORE  
PRIME MINISTER

1.  
The important thing will be to be at the unveiling.  
Agree to attend but not to miss Evensong?  
You will go to work,  
to me  
Jan 15 xii

Dame Ruth King's Official Support for a Ceremony in Westminster Abbey  
Involving the Unveiling of a Memorial Plaque to the Memory of Those  
Killed in the Service of the Crown since 1945

I have had a word with the Ministry of Defence about changing the date which is at the moment 25 March. They are in difficulties as the Duke of Edinburgh, who is unveiling the plaque, could only do that day and has to be back in the Palace by 1730 hours for the reception, which you are attending, for winners of the Queen's Award to Industry. There was a suggestion, however, that you might just attend the unveiling ceremony and not evensong which will follow it.

Alternatively, I could change the time of your briefing meeting to Wednesday 24th, but this might prove difficult as you are committed to doing three things with Mrs. Gandhi that week and we have as yet no timings for these. One of them is bound to be on Wednesday afternoon which will force us to have the Briefing Meeting at a most unsociable hour. It is a really bad week and I attach the annual diary for that period.

el.

14 December 1981

Tuesday 16 March

0915 Questions briefing team  
 ? 1230 Arrival of Sultan Qaboos  
 1300 Lunch and Questions briefing  
 1515 Questions  
 State Banquet for Sultan Qaboos +DT

Victoria Station

Wednesday 17 March

0900 First meeting for FCS Speech  
 1200 Talks  
 1300 Lunch in honour of Sultan Qaboos +DT  
 1730 Chancellor

Thursday 18 March

0830 Hair  
 0915 Questions briefing team  
 1030 Cabinet  
 1300 Lunch and Questions briefing  
 1515 Questions  
 State Banquet given by Sultan Qaboos +DT

Monday 22 March

0830 Hair  
 1000 Media  
 1030 Keep free for Central Council Speech  
 1200 Chief Whip  
 1215 Chief Whip, Home Secretary, Chairman and Lord President  
 1300 Lunch with colleagues  
 Keep free for Central Council speech

Tuesday 23 March

0915 Questions briefing team  
 1300 Lunch and Questions briefing  
 1515 Questions  
 1830 Audience

Wednesday 24 March

1730 Chancellor  
 Keep free for Central Council speech

Thursday 25 March

0830 Hair  
 0915 Questions briefing team  
 1030 Cabinet  
 1300 Lunch and Questions briefing  
 1515 Questions  
 1600 Briefing meeting for European Council  
 Keep free for speech

Friday 26 March

0915 Media  
 0945 Sir Robert Armstrong  
 To Harrogate +DT

Saturday 27 March

Central Council, Harrogate, +DT

Monday 29 March - Tuesday 30 March

European Council, Belgium

CONFIDENTIAL

1.

- 1. Mr. Whitmore ✓
- 2. Prime Minister

*I agree with this date is only as far as you are concerned. (initials) 9xii*

Dame Ruth King's official support for a ceremony in Westminster Abbey involving the unveiling of a memorial plaque to the memory of those killed in the service of the Crown since 1945

You will remember that you expressed a wish to attend the ceremony in Westminster Abbey to unveil a memorial plaque.

MOD have come back suggesting 25 March in the late afternoon.

This is an appalling date as you have a briefing meeting for the European Council in Belgium (which will take place on the Monday and Tuesday of the following week) at 1600 hours followed by a possible reception at Buckingham Palace for winners of The Queen's Award to Industry. In addition you are off to Harrogate the following morning for the Central Council. I really do not see how you can possibly attend this service as it is already a horrific week with Mrs. Gandhi in London and your commitment to do at least three things with her. I cannot therefore change the Council briefing meeting.

May I send your regrets please?

*No - Tell*

*cl. MOD to change the date to one that will suit, not*

9 December 1981

W. F. S. Rickett, Esq.



CABINET OFFICE

WFR  
23/10

With the compliments of  
The Private Secretary to the  
*Secretary of the Cabinet*

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS

Telephone 01-233 8319



*Memorials*

CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 8319

*From the Secretary of the Cabinet: Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO*

Ref. A05782

22nd October, 1981

I have shown Sir Robert Armstrong my copy of the letter which Willie Rickett sent to you on 19th October about Dame Ruth King and the proposed memorial plaque to the memory of those who have given their lives since 1945 in the service of the Crown.

On the third paragraph of Willie Rickett's letter, Sir Robert has commented that he understands that Dame Ruth King had a good deal of trouble in getting the Dean of Westminster to agree with the wording now established - which has already been carved on a piece of stone. If the Government sought at this stage to reopen the wording in the sense suggested, the Dean of Westminster would no doubt revive his attempts to take it in the other direction.

I am sending copies of this letter to those who received copies of yours.

**D. J. WRIGHT**

(D. J. Wright)  
Private Secretary

D. B. Omand, Esq.

NOTED  
10 OCT 1981





JFH  
Memorials

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 October 1981

Dear David

On 21 August, Brian Norbury wrote to John Halliday about the request from Dame Ruth King for official support for a ceremony in Westminster Abbey. The centrepiece of the ceremony was to be the unveiling of a memorial plaque to the memory of those who have given their lives in the service of the Crown.

The Prime Minister has now seen Brian Norbury's letter and the ensuing correspondence. She feels very strongly that the Government should support Dame Ruth by taking on responsibility for planning and organising the ceremony. She notes that Lord Carrington has withdrawn his early objections to Dame Ruth's proposal and hopes that an early and positive reply can now be given to Dame Ruth.

The Prime Minister also hopes that the Government can avoid interfering with the wording of the inscription on the memorial plaque. She notes that the proposed inscription is at present wide enough to include any Serviceman or civilian who has ever given his life in the service of the Crown. She feels that an attempt to exclude civilians from the scope of the memorial would go against the spirit of Dame Ruth's proposal, which appears to be to commemorate those who have otherwise been forgotten. In any case, the Prime Minister feels there is a strong case for not tampering with wording which has already been agreed with the Duke of Edinburgh and the Dean of Westminster.

Finally, the Prime Minister has expressed the hope that the ceremony will be on a date when she can attend.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Brian Fall (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), David Heyhoe (Lord President's Office), Jim Buckley (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office), Richard Dykes (Department of Employment), Stephen Boys Smith (Northern Ireland Office), John Halliday (Home Office), Don Brereton (Department of Health and Social Security), John Rhodes (Department of Trade), Julian West (Department of Energy), Anthony Mayer (Department of Transport) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Yours

Wilkie Rickett

David Omand, Esq.,  
Ministry of Defence.

20

1.  
- -  
MR. WHITMORE *HW*  
PRIME MINISTER *13x*

*W*

In August, Mr. Nott's Office wrote (Flag A) to propose that we should accede to a request from Dame Ruth King for official support for a ceremony in Westminster Abbey which will involve the unveiling of a memorial plaque in the Abbey Cloisters to the memory of those who have given their lives in the service of the Crown since 1945.

Dame Ruth has obtained the agreement of Prince Philip and the Dean of Westminster to the following inscription:

"To the glory of God and in memory of all those who in the face of violence have given their lives, in the service of the Crown, to defend freedom, justice and peace"

The memorial will therefore cover both civilians and service personnel, and appears to be open-ended as far as date is concerned.

Dame Ruth has said that she is prepared to meet the cost of the plaque, as well as the ceremony. She is simply asking the Government to take on the responsibility for planning and organising the ceremony, including the drawing up of a guest list and the issuing of invitations.

Since August there has been some argument among the Ministers concerned. Mr. Nott had proposed that the Home Office should take the lead in organising the ceremony. The Home Office demurred, and the Ministry of Defence have now reluctantly agreed that if the ceremony goes ahead they will plan and organise it. Lord Carrington was both sceptical and suspicious of the proposal; he felt initially that the memorial was too wide-ranging, and that the case for such an all-embracing memorial was not proved.

/ He has

He has now reluctantly acquiesced in the proposal, but still feels that the memorial should be confined to servicemen.

Sir Robert Armstrong has spoken to Dame Ruth about her proposal. His advice is at Flag B. You will see that he strongly advises that you support Dame Ruth's proposal. She has been working on this for fifteen years, and it will give comfort and encouragement to the widows and families of those who died in Aden, Cyprus and indeed Northern Ireland. It will involve no public expenditure, except the staff cost of organising the ceremony.

The Foreign Secretary's suggestion that the memorial should be confined to servicemen is still being considered by the Ministry of Defence. In my view, to confine the memorial this way would go against the spirit of Dame Ruth's proposal. If the memorial is to commemorate those who have otherwise been forgotten, ~~then~~ it seems strange to exclude civilians in Crown service who have given their lives for their country. In any case, there seems to be a strong case for not tampering too much with the wording that Dame Ruth has already agreed with Prince Philip and the Dean of Westminster.

1. Agree that HMG should support Dame Ruth by organising the ceremony? *Yes - very much so.*
2. Agree that the wording should be as proposed by Dame Ruth and agreed by the Duke of Edinburgh and the Dean of Westminster (as in the second paragraph above)?

*Yes not*

*WRGN*

*I hope the ceremony will be on a date when I can attend  
not*

13 October 1981

Seen by WR



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

9 October 1981

Dear David,

Please refer to Francis Richards' letter of 25 September about Dame Ruth King's proposals for the erection of a memorial plaque in Westminster Abbey.

Lord Carrington has now seen Nick Evans' letter of 22 September explaining the Defence Secretary's views. While he is still unenthusiastic he is prepared to acquiesce in the proposal that the ceremony should receive official support, in the light of Mr Nott's feeling that this would be the right course.

The implication of commemorating all who have died in the service of the Crown since 1945 is that the memorial is primarily concerned with service personnel - indeed, as Nick Evans' letter makes clear, that is Dame Ruth's main concern. That being so, Lord Carrington feels that it would be better if the text of the memorial plaque were amended to confine it to the commemoration of service personnel.

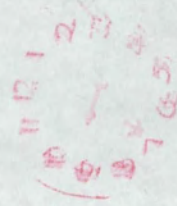
I am sending copies of this letter to the recipients of Francis Richards' previous letter.

Yours ever

(B J P Fall)  
Private Secretary

D B Omand Esq  
PS/Secretary of State for Defence  
Ministry of Defence

112 OCT 1981





Memoranda  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
London SW1A 2AH

25 September 1981

Dear Nick,

Thank you for your letter of 22 September to Brian Fall about Dame Ruth King's proposal.

I have since spoken to Michael Alexander. We both felt that there was little prospect of carrying matters forward by further correspondence and that in any case no action could be taken in the absence of our two Secretaries of State. Perhaps we might discuss on their return how best to take things from here.

I am sending copies of this letter to Clive Whitmore (No 10), David Heyhoe (Office of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster), Jim Buckley (CSD), Richard Dykes (Dept of Employment), Stephen Boys Smith (NIO), Don Brereton (DHSS), John Rhodes (Dept of Trade), Julian West (Dept of Energy), Tony Mayer (Dept of Transport), David Wright (Cabinet Office) and John Halliday (Home Office).

Yours ever,

(F N Richards)  
Private Secretary

N H R Evans Esq  
Ministry of Defence

25 SEP 1984

12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1  
B K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

CLOSED UNDER THE  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
ACT 2000

MR. WHITMORE

23ix

I understand that you would like to give the Prime Minister a little more background to the correspondence about Dame Ruth King's proposal for the erection of a memorial plaque in Westminster Abbey to the memory of those who have given their lives in the service of the Crown since 1945.

2. Dame Ruth King first mentioned this to me on 5th August 1981. She said that she had been trying to achieve this for 15 years.

She then wrote to the Chief of the Defence Staff on 4th July to ask for his help in finding a "distinguished figurehead" to announce and launch the project. The Chief of the Defence Staff replied with enthusiasm, and promised to do as much as he could to help. I attach a copy of that correspondence.

3. The primary concern is to commemorate members of the Armed Forces who have died in action since 1945 - and it is clear that Dame Ruth King has had soldiers killed in Ireland especially in mind. But she is very insistent that it is not confined to Northern Ireland but includes Korea, Cyprus and Aden as well; and the wording on the plaque is sufficiently wide to cover members of the civilian Crown services as well as the Armed Forces.

4. I see that the Foreign Secretary is, and Lord Soames was, rather uneasy about the project, and about Dame Ruth King's motives. I really do not think that they need be: I am sure that the proposal is inspired only by patriotic motives. I do not think that it ought to become mixed up with the Cenotaph arrangements which are and should continue to be confined to the two World Wars.

5. My own view of the matter is that Dame Ruth King's proposal is imaginative and valuable. It will give comfort and encouragement to the widows and families of those who died in Aden, Cyprus, and indeed Northern Ireland, and I hope that the Prime Minister will agree that the project should



be given official support. This does not involve any public expenditure: Dame Ruth King has promised us that she will look after the costs of making and putting up the proposed plaque. It is really only a question of organising the ceremony at which it is unveiled, and of attendance at it. My own feeling is that it would be churlish and unimaginative not to give that degree of support.

6. The plaque would, I understand, be in the Westminster Abbey Cloister, not in the Abbey itself.

RA

Robert Armstrong

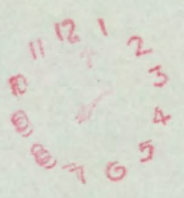
23rd September 1981



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to obtain official support. This does not involve any public expenditure. The Government has agreed to meet the costs of holding the meeting on the proposed site. It is very important to establish the Government's position on this matter, and of course to have the necessary support.

12 3 SEP 1981



1001 1001 1001

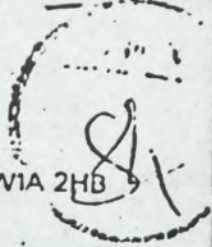


MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1A 2HB

Telephone 01-218 2116 (Direct Dialling)

01-218 9000 (Switchboard)



CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF

1060/8

Dame Ruth King DBE Hon LI.D FRAM  
The Pavilion  
Greenfield Park  
Dublin 4

*Dear Dame Ruth:*

Thank you very much for writing to tell me about your plan for a Memorial to those who have died in action since 1945. It is an excellent idea and I am very impressed by your initiative and perseverance in gaining the backing of the Duke of Edinburgh and the Dean and Chapter of Westminster.

I will be very pleased to do as much as I can to help and to mobilize the Ministry of Defence in your support. I have asked Admiral Leslie Townsend, the Defence Services Secretary, to get in touch with you and to see how we might best help. When he reports back we will take steps to ensure that the Memorial is announced and launched in the most appropriate fashion.

May I thank you once again, on behalf of the Chiefs of Staff for starting and driving this commendable project. I am sure it will have support of not only the Armed Forces but of the country as a whole.

*Yours sincerely*  
*Terence Lewin*



From Dame Ruth King. DBE., Hon. L.D., FRAM.

July 4<sup>th</sup> 1981.

The Pavilion  
Greenfield Park  
Dublin 4  
695870

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Terence Lewin, G.C.B., M.V.O.

Dear Admiral Lewin,

I am writing to you at the suggestion of Sir John Hackett. It is about the Memorial for all those who have died in action since 1945. The Cenotaph is clearly for the two World Wars, and all those who have died in the many 'undeclared wars' since then, (I believe called Defence Operations,) are left unrecognised. From Korea, Cyprus, Aden, Oman, Ireland etc: there are now about 2,500 dead, who with their widows & orphans have no honoured place, & feel forgotten. This is not only sad for morale in the Service, but also for the nation, particularly the young who are no longer made aware of the price of freedom.

I am only involved because I feel so deeply about this gross injustice. Many people have wanted such a Memorial, but when mentioned it has always been brushed under the carpet for political reasons. When my friend Ted Heath became Prime Minister in 1970 I wrote to 10, Downing Street. My letter ended with the then Chaplain-General who explained that nothing could be done, as deaths in Defence Operations were classed as industrial accidents. . . . . After that, & living in Ireland for six years, and seeing the marvellous standard of the Forces there, I felt compelled to have one more try, & so wrote to the Duke of Edinburgh.

He understood and responded immediately. Through  
the Dean & Chapter of Westminster have provided a site in  
the Abbey Cloisters. The wording is agreed, & the design was to  
be complete by the end of May; November 2nd (All Souls' Day)  
was chosen for the unveiling by the Queen. I was with the  
Dean on April 25<sup>th</sup> & he felt his work was complete until it came  
to planning the service for November 2nd.

So, in fact, the great need now is for a distinguished  
figure-head to announce & launch the project, as Lord de Vries  
did for the Field Marshall's Memorial.

Mr Richard Davies, the Duke of Edinburgh's right-hand,  
suggested that I write to Sir John Hackett about this. We  
have spoken on the telephone, & he is unable to undertake  
the task as he has no 'back-up' in retirement. So he suggested  
that I should write to you, & that he would do so also. I have  
informed Mr Davies.

I do hope so very much that you will be able to  
help. To have got so far and not be able to complete  
the task, - the Memorial for those who die in action in our  
Defence now, - would be a great disappointment for many  
people & organisations concerned.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth King

P.S. I am not working for this cause because I have personally lost  
relations: I have been all too fortunate. Nor do I want my name  
in anyway involved. I just think England should not be afraid  
to recognise publicly, with pride, & honour those who give their  
lives in her service. R.K.



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
 MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1  
 Telephone 01-~~2317722~~ 218 2111/3

MO 27/5/1/2

22nd September 1981

*BF for  
 Norman*

*The FCO are not satisfied by  
 this reply and want to put the  
 matter to Lord Canning again on his  
 return from Belgium. They will tell me the  
 NS/M or USI thing. <sup>held</sup>*

Dear Brian,

I think it might be helpful if I were to comment on the points raised in your letter of 8th September to John Halliday about Dame Ruth King's proposal for the erection of a memorial plaque in Westminster Abbey.

It would appear, and we have no reason to doubt, that the proposal has been inspired by patriotic motives. As evidence for this view I am attaching some extracts from a letter which Dame Ruth sent the Chief of the Defence Staff last July. These extracts also indicate, as Andrew Jackson has pointed out, that Dame Ruth's primary concern is to commemorate members of the Armed Forces who have died in action since 1945. However, the wording of the inscription, as finally agreed with the Duke of Edinburgh and the Dean of Westminster is sufficiently wide to cover civilians as well as Service personnel; and indeed we understand that at a recent meeting with Sir Robert Armstrong she made this point herself and suggested that representatives of the police and fire services might be invited to the ceremony.

You asked how the memorial would relate, if at all, to the accepted system of campaign medals and awards for gallantry, including those awarded posthumously. In fact there is no obvious link with the system of medals and awards.

The significance of the words "since 1945" is explained by the fact that the Cenotaph commemorates those who fell in the two World Wars; in other words, Dame Ruth sees her proposed memorial as complementing the Cenotaph. On the other hand, the year 1981 has no particular significance in this context, and has not been mentioned by Dame Ruth. She has been attempting to gain support for her proposal for the last fifteen years but it is only now that it is (apparently) coming to fruition. There is in fact no terminal date: the period covered by the memorial is open-ended.

As Brian Norbury said in his letter of 21st August, my Secretary of State feels that, on the whole, it would be right to provide official support for the ceremony, even though

B J P Fall Esq



there are features of the project which are potentially controversial. His proposal that the Home Office should take the lead was in part a reflection of his view that the military aspects should be played down; in view, however, of the Home Office's opposition he is prepared to accept, albeit reluctantly, that the Ministry of Defence should take on responsibility if it is decided to meet Dame Ruth's request for official support.

It has been suggested informally to the Dean that the provisional date of 3rd November is now beginning to look unrealistic and he appears to be well seized of this point. Dame Ruth has been told informally that, if her proposal is given official support, the ceremony will probably need to be held at a later date, and she quite accepted this. Nevertheless, we shall need to let her have a formal reply in the very near future; and, equally, it will be necessary before long to give the Duke of Edinburgh's Private Secretary some definite information. In short, this matter is now assuming some urgency.

I am sending copies of this letter to the other recipients of your letter.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Nick Evans*

(N H R EVANS)

"I am writing ..... about the Memorial for all those who have died in action since 1945. The Cenotaph is clearly for the two World Wars, and all those who have died in the many 'undeclared wars' since then (I believe called Defence Operations) are left unrecognised. From Korea, Cyprus, Aden, Oman, Ireland etc there are now about 2,500 dead, who with their widows and orphans have no honoured place, and feel forgotten. This is not only sad for morale in the Services, but also for the nation, particularly the young who are no longer made aware of the price of freedom."

".... I just think England should not be afraid to recognise publicly, with pride, and honour those who give their lives in her service."



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Memorandum

Civil Service Department  
Whitehall London SW1A 2AZ  
01-273 4400

From the Private Secretary

David Omand  
Private Secretary to the Secretary of State  
for Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
LONDON SW1A 2HB

RW

10x

9 September 1981

Dear David,

MEMORIAL PLAQUE IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

Brian Norbury sent me a copy of his letter of 21 August to John Halliday. The Lord President has now had the opportunity to look at the papers (although I think that there are some that have not been copied to us) together with the recent letters from the Private Offices of the Home Office, Northern Ireland Office and the Foreign Office.

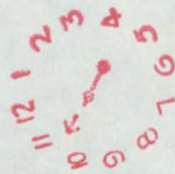
The Lord President has asked me to say that he is rather uneasy about this project. He shares many of the misgivings of the Foreign Secretary and in particular he questions the chosen dates of 1945 to 1981. If it is the intention to include those killed in Northern Ireland there seems to be the danger of creating some kind of arbitrary cut-off date when the plaque is unveiled. The Lord President would therefore like to know much more about the intentions behind the memorial before official support was given.

I am sending copies of this letter to Clive Whitmore (No. 10), John Halliday (Home Office), Brian Fall (Foreign Office), David Heyhoe (Chancellor of the Duchy), Richard Dykes (Employment), Stephen Boys Smith (Northern Ireland), Don Brereton (DHSS), John Rhodes (Trade), Julian West (Energy), Antony Meyer (Transport) and David Wright in Sir Robert Armstrong's Office.

Yours sincerely,  
Jim Buckley.

J BUCKLEY

SEP 1981





Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 September 1981

Dear John

B/K

The MOD are going to  
 send to Mrs. Brown  
 their response.

Mrs Gix

Memorial Plaque in Westminster Abbey

Lord Carrington has seen a copy of Brian Norbury's letter to you of 21 August about Dame Ruth King's request for official support in organising a ceremony to unveil a Memorial Plaque in Westminster Abbey to those who have given their lives in the service of The Crown since 1945.

Although of course the matter is not one primarily for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Lord Carrington takes the view that it would be prudent to try to discover a good deal more about Dame Ruth King's motives in advancing this proposal and to think somewhat harder about the likely consequences of falling in with what she suggests, before the Government is in any way committed to offer official support. The terms of the communication from Dame Ruth King to Mr Nott may offer some help, but it is not at all clear to us whose memory is really being evoked in the somewhat disparate spectrum ranging from policemen and firemen through civilians including diplomats to soldiers - presumably as widely separated in time and place as Northern Ireland, Palestine and Malaysia. Nor is it clear how the memorial would relate, if at all, to the accepted system of campaign medals and awards for gallantry, including those awarded posthumously. Again, what is the significance of the dates chosen ie 1945 and 1981? It is perhaps to be regretted that Dame Ruth King should have approached the Duke of Edinburgh and the Dean of Westminster before seeking official advice.

All in all, while the proposal may seem at first glance to be innocuous and unexceptionable, Lord Carrington is not at all clear for his part whether we yet know enough about the genesis and background of it to form a considered opinion. In so far as direct FCO interests may be involved, for example the inclusion of Diplomatic Service officers who have been killed in the line of duty, or the plaque's possible relevance to controversial aspects of Britain's post-war withdrawal from empire, it is not clear that such a memorial would serve any useful purpose.

I am sending copies of this letter to Clive Whitmore (No. 10), Brian Norbury (MOD), David Heyhoe (Office of the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster), Jim Buckley (CSD),

/Richard Dykes



Richard Dykes (Dept of Employment), Stephen Boys Smith (NIO), Don Brereton (DHSS), John Rhodes (Dept of Trade), Julian West (Dept of Energy), Tony Mayer (Dept of Transport) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

*Yours ever*  
*J.P.*

(B J P Fall)  
Private Secretary

J F Halliday Esq  
Home Office

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE  
GREAT GEORGE STREET,  
LONDON SW1P 3AJ

David Omand Esq  
Private Secretary  
Ministry of Defence  
Main Building  
Whitehall  
London SW1

8 September 1981

12

Dear David

Brian Norbury copied to Stephen Boys Smith his letter of 21 August about Dame Ruth King's request for official support for a ceremony in Westminster Abbey involving the unveiling of a memorial plaque to the memory of those who have given their lives in the service of the Crown since 1945.

Unfortunately, in Northern Ireland's currently divided society, Crown service in defence of freedom, justice and peace is largely associated with only one part of the community; the other has to a considerable extent withheld its support for the security forces in recent years. (In such a situation, it is not inconceivable that an extremist element might seize the opportunity presented by the ceremony to protest about the security forces in Northern Ireland).

However, that drawback should not be exaggerated nor allowed to detract from the remembrance of those who have died in the service of the Crown. Given the support that the scheme has already attracted, we would not argue against a limited degree of official backing, and would naturally want Northern Ireland to be associated with it.

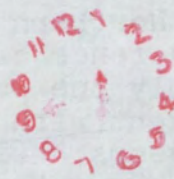
We would agree with the rest of the approach suggested to the proposition in Brian's letter - in particular that there should be no commitment to continuing official support for an annual ceremony, nor official involvement in any fund-raising activities.

I am sending copies of this letter to the recipients of Brian Norbury's.

Yours sincerely  
Mike Hopkins

M W HOPKINS

8 SEP 1981





HOME OFFICE  
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE  
LONDON SW1H 9AT

7 SEP 1981

*NBP*  
*Ruth*

Dear David

Brian Norbury wrote to John Halliday on 21st August about the request from Dame Ruth King for official support for a ceremony in Westminster Abbey in connection with a memorial to those who have given their lives in the service of the Crown since 1945. He also suggested that the Home Secretary might take the lead in co-ordinating the interests of the various Departments involved.

*will request if required*

The Home Secretary sees no objection to the Government giving support to this proposal. We would not, however, feel able to take the lead. Our position was made clear in Paul Wright's letter of 7th August to David Wright, which was copied to Simon Webb.

*will request if required*

It is clear from Dame Ruth King's original letter to the Chief of the Defence Staff that the inspiration for her proposal is to commemorate those who have died in action since 1945, notably in Korea, Cyprus, Aden, Oman and Northern Ireland. It is true that the proposed wording of the memorial is wide enough to cover those who have died in the civilian services but Dame Ruth King's primary concern is clearly with those who have died in action in the armed forces.

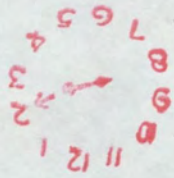
The Cenotaph ceremony is rather different. It is based on the old Home Office building and the civilian services play a prominent part. It does not provide a reason for the Home Secretary assuming responsibility for a ceremony in Westminster Abbey to unveil a memorial to "all those who have died in action since 1945" (Dame Ruth's original words).

I am sending a copy of this letter to the recipients of Brian Norbury's.

*Tom*  
*Andrew Jackson*

A. P. JACKSON.





- 8 SEP 1981



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1  
Telephone 01-92422 218 2111/3

MO 27/5/1/2

21st August 1981

Dear John,

My Secretary of State would welcome the views of his colleagues on a request from Dame Ruth King for official support for a ceremony in Westminster Abbey which will involve the unveiling of a memorial plaque to the memory of those who have given their lives in the service of the Crown since 1945.

Dame Ruth has obtained the agreement of the Duke of Edinburgh and the Deam of Westminster to the wording of the inscription which will read as follows:

"To the glory of God and in memory of all those who in the face of violence have given their lives, in the service of the Crown, to defend freedom, justice and peace."

The scope of the memorial is therefore wide enough to cover not only Service personnel but civilians, including diplomats, policemen and firemen. The Duke of Edinburgh has indicated that he would be willing to perform the unveiling and the provisional date for the ceremony is 3rd November. So far as the financial aspects are concerned Dame Ruth has said that she is prepared to meet the cost of the plaque and the ceremony (which is estimated at £3,500) although she feels that the relations of those commemorated might wish to contribute.

Having proceeded so far, Dame Ruth now wishes the Government to take on responsibility for planning and organising the ceremony, including the drawing up of a guest list and the issue of invitations. In this event the ceremony would take on an official character, not least since the invitations would presumably have to be issued in the name of HM Government.

J F Halliday Esq

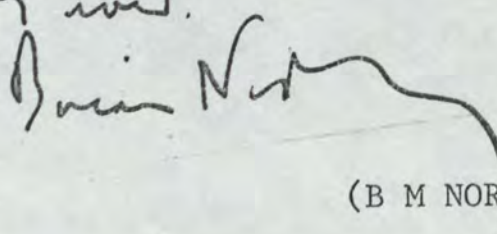


My Secretary of State has some sympathy with the underlying objective, although he recognises that contrary arguments could be put, and considers that, on the whole, it would be appropriate to meet the request for official support, bearing in mind that the project has the patronage of the Duke of Edinburgh and that, given the range of interests involved, it is unlikely that the ceremony could be properly organised by any other means. He also takes the view, however, that the ceremony ought to be on a relatively small scale with the military aspects played low key; that there should be no question of providing support for an annual ceremony (which is what Dame Ruth apparently has in mind); and that there should be no official involvement in any fund-raising activities.

If Ministers are agreed that official support should be provided it will, of course, be necessary for a number of Departments to be involved but my Secretary of State hopes that the Home Secretary will agree that it would be appropriate for the Home Office to take the lead, not only because of Home Office responsibility for the Cenotaph ceremony but also because of the fact that the memorial is intended to commemorate civilians as well as Service personnel. Naturally the Ministry of Defence would play its part.

The provisional date of 3rd November does not, of course, allow much time for the necessary preparations to be made. In my Secretary of State's view it would be preferable to postpone the ceremony for at least six months, but it would be premature to put such a suggestion to Dame Ruth in advance of a decision to provide assistance. To enable this decision to be reached it would therefore be very helpful if you, and those to whom I am copying this letter, could aim to let David Omand here have advice by not later than 7th September.

I am sending copies of this letter to Clive Whitmore (No 10); Brian Fall (FCO), David Heyhoe (Office of the Chancellor of the Duchy), Jim Buckley (CSD), Richard Dykes (Employment), Stephen Boys Smith (NIO), Don Brereton (DHSS), John Rhodes (Trade), Julian West (Energy), Tony Mayer (Transport); and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

*Your servt.*  


(B M NORBURY)

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24 AUG 1981

