



MO 27/5/1/2

Memorials WH 15/2
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1
Telephone 01-222 7622 218 2111/3

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.



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



File in CF

807

The Pavilion
Greenfield Park

Dublin 4
695870

231
March 27th
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



^{Memorials}
Please file

cf. ^{John Stephens}

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
25th 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