



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 July 1981

Dear Nicholas

Thank you for your letter of 8 July about the proposal to erect a memorial statue to Lord Mountbatten in London.

A number of possible sites for the statue were carefully considered, including the one you propose in Trafalgar Square. Lord Mountbatten's place in our national life and the striking variety of roles which he performed with such distinction in a long career make it unusually difficult to find a location certain to command universal approval.

The site on the Foreign Office Green, which was chosen after thorough consideration of the alternatives and in consultation with The Queen and the Mountbatten family, recognises that Lord Mountbatten was more than just an eminent sailor or military man. The naval connection is not lost sight of, since his statue in naval uniform will look out across Horseguards Parade to the Old Admiralty Building which he knew so well. But the proximity of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office also recognises, as I believe is right, his role as Viceroy of India at an important moment in the history of that country and this.

Yours ever

MT

Nicholas Fairbairn, Esq., Q.C., M.P.

jfh



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1
Telephone 01-~~836 7822~~ 218 6169

D/S of S/PS/10

20th July 1981

Dear Willie,

*Pl type for PM
WM
2/1/1*

You sent me with your letter of 9th July a copy of one to the Prime Minister from Nicholas Fairbairn MP, in which he suggests that an equestrian statue of Lord Mountbatten on the vacant plinth in Trafalgar Square would be preferable to the proposed naval statue on the Foreign Office Green. I now attach a draft reply for the Prime Minister to send to Mr Fairbairn.

The draft attempts to explain to Mr Fairbairn the reasons behind the choice of the site on the Foreign Office Green. Here, however, we are at something of a disadvantage, since I do not believe that these have ever been explicitly spelled out by the Prime Minister in any document of which we have a copy. I have stated some of the considerations which I suspect may have weighed with her in making the choice, but you may well wish to revise this part of the draft to reflect her thinking more accurately if I have guessed incorrectly!

I am copying this letter to Jeff Channing (Department of Environment).

Yours ever,

D T Piper

(D T PIPER)

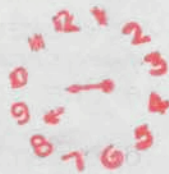
William Rickett Esq

~~The P.M. has asked me~~ MOUNTBATTEN STATUE

Thank you for your letter of 8th July about the proposal to erect a memorial statue to Lord Mountbatten in London.

~~Careful consideration was given to~~ ^{which} ~~A~~ ^{at} number of possible sites for the statue, ^{were carefully considered} including the one you propose in Trafalgar Square. Lord Mountbatten's place in our national life and the striking variety of roles which he performed with such distinction in a long career make it unusually difficult to find a location certain to command universal approval. ^{at the alternatives} ~~However,~~ ^{the} site on the Foreign Office Green ~~was chosen~~ ^{was chosen} after thorough consideration of the alternatives and in consultation with ~~The Queen and~~ ^{the} the Mountbatten family, ~~It~~ recognises that Lord Mountbatten was more than just an eminent sailor or military man. The naval connection is not lost sight of, since his statue in naval uniform will look out across Horseguards Parade to the Old Admiralty Building which he knew so well. But the proximity of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office also recognises, as I believe is right, his role as Viceroy of India at an important moment in the history of that country and this.

21 JUL 1984



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22/7

N. FAIRBAIRN MP

9 July 1981

I enclose a letter to the Prime Minister from Nicholas Fairbairn, M.P. He suggests that the Mountbatten Memorial should be sited on the equestrian plinth in Trafalgar Square.

I should be grateful if you could provide a draft reply for the Prime Minister to send to Mr. Fairbairn, to reach us by 23 July.

I am copying this letter to Jeff Channing (Department of the Environment).

W F S RICKETT

Derek Piper, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence

As

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9 July 1981

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 8 July about the Mountbatten Statue.

I will place this before the Prime Minister at once and you will be sent a reply as soon as possible.

WILLIE RICKETT

Nicholas Fairbairn, Esq., Q.C., M.P.

Handwritten initials

From:- Nicholas Fairbairn, QC., MP.



c.c. Mr. Pattison

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

8th July, 1981.

My dear Margaret

Mountbatten Statue

I am delighted by your announcement that there is to be a statue of Lord Mountbatten, but may I make a suggestion as to a preferable site to that chosen. In Trafalgar Square there is an empty equestrian plinth.

Mountbatten was a great sailor, probably the last we will be able to identify, and a great horseman, and the last action we saw him in public was on horseback at the Birthday Parade. If he doesn't sit on a horse on that plinth, no-one ever will.

I know it will be more expensive, but he ought to join the great sailors.

I hope this suggestion
appeals to you & all
concerned
with the
—

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
10, Downing Street,
London, S.W. 1.