

LUTYENS. E.L.

Add 1/1/3

CWGC Archives

Item: Add 1/1/3

Catalogue no.: 1075

CWGC/1/1/12/48 (ADD 1/1/3)

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LUT 27415

From Sir Edwin L. LUTYENS, R.A.

Telephone No. Victoria 4128.

Telegraphic Address:
Architects, London.

17, QUEEN ANNE'S GATE,

WESTMINSTER, S.W. 1.



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Royal Institute of British Architects
British Architectural Library Drawing Collection

Sir Edwin Lutyens (1869–1944): war memorial to the
missing of the Somme, Thiepval, France. Perspective
sketch of preliminary design, on writing paper, c. 1923

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026-0133



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Missin
Ketch

ADELPHI TERRACE HOUSE,
STRAND, W.C.2.

25 July; 1917

Dear Ware,

Lutyens has been telling me something of the projects. My views are of no worth without more thought and knowledge, but these ideas came into my head.

- 1) The Cross idea is the conventional one. It's what every person from the sexton upwards would think of at once. That doesn't prove it's not the best. Something usable might be devised. Still these are at first thought the things against it - what appeals to the English Church party does not appeal to all, and it seems more for the ordinary cemetery than for those ones. They seem to call for something special to themselves.
- 2) The great stone idea. I call it that rather than the altar, which was Lutyens's phrase and it would be open in the first to the above objections. The Scotch for instance wouldn't like the word. I think there is something rather grand in its simplicity about this proposal. The one stone means little enough, but that one in each of these consecrated places becomes impressive. If a happy name were found for this object it would begin to stand out in our minds, some name that would at least henceforth apply to nothing else. It should be like a new word added to the language. The poetry of the future should make it an immortal word. Lutyens's is one of the most imaginative minds I have ever known, and I'd like to see some practical development of this idea from him.
- 3) Permanency should be aimed at. The average person's idea of permanency is probably the span of his own life, but here one should surely think in centuries.
- 4) It seems advisable that nothing should appear in the papers at present because (1) nothing has even been begun to be decided (2) There are many who have to die yet.
- 5) Perhaps I might mention this idea I have had myself. I see a bell-fry in each resting place and I then see the bells ringing at some particular moment of the evening. This should go on thro' the centuries. My idea is not that they should ring quite simultaneously but that one should wake up another. As thus, the one furthest north (say) should ring first, the next takes it up, then the next and so it passes from one graveyard to another all along the line. Practically it would perhaps work out best thus - the first bell is taken up by the second followed by the third and so on to the 20th. The 21st begins at the same time as the first, 22nd. takes it up and so on to 40th. The 41st begins with the first and so on. From some points only one bell would be heard, from others several. All the world that heard would take of its cap. The bell-ringing should be very brief - almost startlingly brief - not longer in the sense of ring one bell then the clock trying to strike time etc. The message each bell is sending to the next is "All's Well". This ~~(is)~~ all the graveyards (-) for the moment to send this cry down the line. Almost more impressive than bells would be bugles but when peace time comes they might seem too military.

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I told Lutyens of this and he thought it might work into his ideas.

Individuals and sections of people wishing to raise memorials in particular places might supply special bell-frys and special bells.

Of course these are just first thoughts.

Yours Sincerely

J.M.Barrie

CWGC/1/1/12/48 (ADD 1/1/3)

17 Queen Anne's Gate,
Westminster, S.W.1.

May 27. 17.

Mon General

This is a sort of letter I have written Barrie.

Here is a stoneology

"Altar" - The Stone - The war stone - The great stone

The Great war stone	England's stone	
Old Calion stone	The stone of Britain	
Ad moment stone	The Battle stone	
Commemoration stone	The stone of Peace	
Foundation stone	The stone of Pity	
White stone	The waiting stone	
The stone in France	The stone of sleep	
The stone of France	The stone of attendance	
The King's stone	The stone of Righteousness	
The King Superiors stone	The stone of Right	
OUR stone	The stone of Might	
The command stone	The watching stone	
The stone of Prayer	The stone of victory	
The stone of Praise	The stone of Fame	
The stone of appeal	The famous stone	
The stone of Reverence	The prostate ^{stone} prostrate.	
	The stone and thought	

The memorial stone
The memory stone
The image stone



For "God made man in his own likeness the image of his Eternity" and they are gods those men

On platforms made of not less than 3 steps the upper and the lower steps of a width twice that of the center step: to give due dignity: place one great stone of fine proportion 12 feet long set fair or finely wrot - without undue ornament and tricky and elaborate carvings and inscribe ^{thereon} there one thought in clear letters so that all men for all time may read and know the reason why these stones are so placed throughout France - facing the West and facing the men who lie looking ever eastward towards the emeny.

- after this you can plant the desks and erect cloisters - chapels - crosses buildings of as many varieties as to suit the always varying sites -

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Every grave "Enclosure should be made for permanence and to have one covered and permanent building wherein the roll of honour may be kept indelible.

- Any individual grave will be marked with a +  or  for gentile, Jew or "pagan".

- I said to Barrie

I like your idea of a bell my objections are practical

500 - 1000 cemeteries would mean 500 - 1000 men in perpetuity to bring *ring* them - a bell has to move which means tackle that will wear.

The vibration essential to a bell is not conducive to permanency.

For some sites and for bigger monuments ^{etc} - a bell would be very good but it could not I think for the above reasons be the one recurring note through France and ~~instead~~ ^{indeed} wheresoever our men have ~~thought a fell.~~ *fought and fell*

I have asked Barrie

if he ? could or would state any case for the "Altar"

Ever yours

Edwin Lutyens

Director of Graves Registration and Enquiries,
 War Office,
 Winchester House,
 St. James's Square, S.W.

My dear Sir,

Messer is over here on leave which he needs badly. He is hiding himself in the country for ten days and I don't want him to do any work during this time, but could you meet him any time on Monday, 13th August, and discuss with him certain plans that he has ready for your approval.

Meanwhile, would you instruct anybody whom you think suitable for one of the posts of Architect (of the Pearson type) in France to write direct to Messer and to ask for an interview with him on Monday, 13th August? His address is Empire Hotel, Bath.

I don't want this opportunity missed for Messer to interview these men. He is in urgent need of two more officers working under him in France and we shall have to fill up these posts without delay.

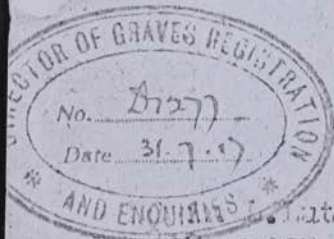
I am very glad to hear from Colonel Taylor that you came to a satisfactory arrangement as to the headstamps and I am hoping to have a further talk to you about this when I am next back here - about the middle of August.

Yours sincerely,

(s) Fabian Ware

Brig-General.

I have heard from Barnett & will write you in a day or two



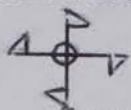
L. Latyons Esq.,
 17, Queen Anne's Gate,
 Westminster, S.W.1.

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17, Queen Anne's Gate,
Westminster, S.W.

Aug. 3. 17

Mon General,



forming fours I greet you!

I was sorry not to have seen you in London, better luck next time.

I have seen many people and they one and all like the idea of the big stone to the East the flanking, pyramid oaks and the sky of frame forming the vault to the all etc. Barrie has written to you.

I met Arthur Balfour - he said the idea appealed to him greatly, even stronger than he spoke.

Minister McKenna Leverton Harris whose ^{only} criticism was that the stone proposed 12ft was not big enough!

Labour members, Jews, R. Catholics, Non-conformists, ladies of fashion especially those that suffer a loss, all seem and like ~~it~~ in the banality of the ~~to~~ ^{and agree}

I have not had the courage to tackle a Bishop, ~~what~~ ^{but} do you think it wise if I asked Cantuar to see me, he would I think, but if I catch sight of the apron it is apt, at a critical moment, to give me the giggles, especially when they get pompous and hold their hands across their knees - why?

^{and} Lytton says he will write to you on Sunday he thinks the idea "great".

Aitken writes as thought the whole job ^{was} has a garden suburb for the ^{enjoyment} employment of people during the next 25 years, whilst the work goes on!!

^{folk} He has got hold of the idea that my assessment of the £20 per man 350,000 men = £7,000,000 was an estimate of cost.

It ~~would~~ be just as useful if you put it at a penny a man making up £1,468. 6s. 8d., both are as absurd. They write about sympathy with France! and artistically well-in a country of poplars you want your building lines horizontal, not vertical.

so not I

Such fun last night at the other club with French in the chair a new member was introduced.

Buchan and I sat next to him and had a good talk and he is lunching with Baker today so I forestalled he is all against the idea and like the big stone and promised to push it with Baker in the right way.

^{Buchan is full of the Ypres salient in and monument.}
It looks as though you will only want one monument for the Somme and that in the Boot!

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Say you have ^a structure full of bronze columns bearing the names of men.

The walls inside might be cut ^{and} modelled and carved to make a plan of those battlefields. ~~It~~ might be a very beautiful.

What do you think? then France can cultivate a little more in due course of time.

Did you want me to write and confirm the suggestion that one cemetery might be formed and adorned now as a pattern.

The ~~consensus~~ ^{consensus} of opinion is unanimous for a permanent ^{containing} confai wing wall, and blow the casual hedge and apple stump and for the big stone.

I have written to Messer welcoming him to old Blighty ^{directly} he comes up I shall try to give ^{him a good} ~~a good~~ time and return ^{turn} his many days of generous hospitality and help ^{seriously}-all I can.

~~Buchan~~ ^{Buchan} is d - against London Bishop of d - ^{aga} against a church face and liked my ~~whims~~ ^{idias!!}.

God help us.

Yours sincerely,

E. Lutyens

Don't escape me next time
you come to London.
My Salaams to
the Mess. ~~MS~~ ^{MS}.

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THE ATHENAGUM
PALL MALL, S.W.1

August 7. '17.

Cherie
Mon General

As you did not answer my last letter - to say "no dont"
- why should you ?

I bearded the Archbishop of C., in this ^{the} above Pot house - and laid with all due humility the Big Stone idea in his apron - and made him a little ~~French~~ croquis thereof. ^{French!}

He said he was impressed and liked the idea, but could not give an answer at once.

So I gave him your address at Winchester House and he said he would think it over and write to you.

He said he could certainly (my word perform) the Sacrament on such a stone, and he should thank his R.C. brother of Westminster - as well as our Brer Hindu. ^{think}

Ect. Etc.

Everyone seems to like the idea and but I bear the digested "buts" and of course "nots".

I hope he turns up trumps for the stone unless he can evolve something better.

He saw the points against the Cross richer and empty.

Montagu was pleased too. The ~~Few~~ ^{of} but I think I told you ^{of} all the others.

As you don't answer letters there is no harm writing to you so I go on.

I am in touch with notre Colonel of Bath and we meet on the 13th but I do think it a bit of a pity to go on in details etc. whilst the tenor bell idea ~~that~~ ^{the} big stone or better is unsettled

Barries "all is well" ^{grows on one.} ~~in one~~
and I asked Davison if he could think of a better.

Am I behaving properly.

Votre Toujours

~~Subalteru~~

Subaltern.

Edwin Lutyens

From Mr. E.L. Lutyens, A.R.A.

Telephone No 95 Gerrard.

17, QUEEN ANNE'S GATE,
WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

Aug. 16. 17.

Mon General,

Did I hear guns saluting your return to this our capital city ?

If so

Will you have a minute before 3 in which to see me ? tomorrow Friday.

Ever yours,

E. LUTYENS

17 Queen Anne's Gate
Westminster, S.W.

Aug 20.17

Mon General,

○ The luck of the Leg when both are bad.

Let me know when you are back in a room near the office and I will occupy it with you - the room when so ever you will it.

I nearly [?] ~~proposed~~ myself to Rose Cottage but it is hard to break into and leave without it!

I saw George Riddell with whom Lloyd George is staying therefore you may get a letter from Lloyd George.

~~Arthur~~ ^{Arthur} Chapman was staying with us he dined with Cantuar the night I saw him.

He Cantuar was impressed favourably. I hope he will write to you.

All this is re - big stone.

I was wondering if before we go to far with detail ^{I am} - to thank us all for our trouble etc. and ^{miss} ~~dismiss~~ the "genius" committee.

fooling

Then you settle on the big stone - and get us all to ^{work} ~~wish~~ again on another ^{fooling} fooling with the big stone settled

Lytton said that if a man - like L? Salisbury - who he knows very well - gets into the Chair - with 2 opinions before him - he is bound to compromise and then he should get a stone which is not a cross and a cross which is not a stone - and some such absurd finding.

The enclosed is what I am writing ^{to} ~~for~~ Riddell for Lloyd George.

I had one or two talks with the gallant Messer.

It would cost comparatively little only a few gallons of petrol and tyre wear - if you wish for sentiment for each and every stone to spend a night rolled into the nave of Westminster Abbey where all might see ~~there~~ ^{them} touch them from King to itinerant pedlar or in the forecourt of Buck Palace.

Get better and may you soon be on your war horse saying ho ho I ~~swill the bottle afar~~ but not too near.

Smell the battle from afar

For the sake of

ever yours

E. L.

13 Manfield Street,
W.1.

My Dear Fabian,

I enclose a note to you requesting that I visited France, Arras and Thiepval in the company of Col. Robinson and Col. Higginson.

Edwin Lutyens

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GRAVEYARDS ON THE BATTLE FIELDS.Memorandum by Mr. E. Lutyens.

28-5-17

In many of our battlefields the dead lie buried, sometimes in considerable numbers in authorised cemeteries near the places where they fell; when this is so, and the number of graves in one group is not less than fifty, that place will become a permanent cemetery. But where the field burials are scattered over a wide area, the bodies will be collected and re-interred, perhaps to as great a number as ten thousand in each, in larger cemeteries in selected sites. It is not possible at present to compute the number of the permanent places of burial, but it may be as many as five hundred in France and Flanders alone.

But I most earnestly advise that there shall be one kind of main monument throughout, whether in Europe, Asia, or Africa, and that it shall take the form of one great fair stone of fine proportions, twelve feet in length, lying raised upon three steps, of which the first and third shall be twice the width of the second; and that each stone shall bear in indelible lettering, some fine thought or words of sacred dedication. They should be known in all places and for all time, as the Great War Stones, and should stand, though in three Continents, as equal monuments of devotion, suggesting the thought of memorial Chapels in one vast cathedral whose vault is the sky. Each great stone would stand facing Westward, towards the graves, on greensward in northern countries, and would be flanked with sentinel cypresses or pyramidal oaks. The graves will face eastward, as our men faced when they fell; every grave will be marked with a headstone bearing the soldier's name and rank, and possibly the sculptured badge of his regiment, also some symbol denoting his religious faith. But besides this, the name of the dead would also be graven in stone or bronze in some building within the cemetery, whether cloister or chapel or noble church, such as, with the funds available it would be possible to rear.

The design of any further arrangements, or of any planting of evergreen trees - Ilex, Box, Bay, Cypress, Yews or Juniper, or of other trees or shrubs of such a kind as may be suitable to a special climate, would be determined by the character of the buildings, and by the area and the nature of the ground; but all should be planned on broad and simple lines - there must be nothing trivial or petty where our valiant dead lie in oneness of sacrifice and in glorious community of Brotherhood in Arms. All that is done of structure should be for endurance for all time and for equality of honour, for besides Christians of all denominations, there will be Jews, Mussulmans, Hindus and men of other creeds; their glorious names and their mortal bodies all equally deserving enduring record and seemly sepulture.

But though it will be important to secure the qualities of repose and dignity there is no need for the cemeteries to be gloomy or even sad looking places. Good use should be made of the best and most beautiful flowering plants and shrubs; indeed it is much to be desired that the Roses of England and the Lilies of France should meet and blossom together in the places where the fighting men of both countries fell side by side.

The French and Belgian Governments have decided that the sites of the burial places shall be acquired in perpetuity at the cost of the French and Belgian Nations. They should have a containing wall, in the first place of nine inches only, so that the boundary shall be clearly defined and made inviolate.

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Aug. 30.17

Mon General,

Is this, the enclosed, ~~letter~~. I am ^{dining} ~~signing~~
with Macready on Monday - and will report to you.

Will you be in London next Tuesday.

I am away today until Monday.

Ever yours

E. Lytyens

- All is well - J.M.B.

There are they
which came out of great tribulation

M.W.

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From Mr. E L. LUTYENS, A.R.A.

Telephone No. 95 Gerrard,

Telegraphic Address:

"Aedificavi, Vic, London"

17, QUEEN ANNE'S GATE,
WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

- All is well - J.M.B.

These are they which
came out of great M.W.
tribulation.

CWGC/1/1/12/48 (ADD 1/1/3)

Meeting held on the 31st. September 1917 at Winchester House, St. James's Square, London, S.W.

Present :-

Brig-General Fabian Ware, C.M.G., D.G.R.S.E.,
 Lieut. Colonel G.H. Stobart, D.S.O., A.A.G.,
 Lieut. Colonel A.A. Messer, Inspector, G.R. Unit.,
 E. L. Eutyens Esq.,
 Herbert Baker Esq.,
 Charles Aitken Esq.,

Brig-General Fabian Ware in the Chair.

HEADSTONES.

General Ware informed the Committee that it had been decided to get suggestions from men actually in at the front fighting with regard to the regimental headstones. The proposal was that there should be attached to the Memorandum, which would be sent out to Armies and distributed to Corps, Divisions etc. asking them to send in any suggestions, specimens of headstones designed by Mr. Eutyens and Mr. Baker. But the first thing to do was to draft the Memorandum which would be submitted to the Armies asking for these designs.

After some discussion the following draft was arrived at :-

It is desired to obtain suggestions from officers and men, practised in the Arts, as to headstones for the graves of those who have fallen and been buried in all the various theatres of war

It is intended that every Regiment should have its distinctive regimental headstone, which will be placed on the grave of every officer and man of that Regiment.

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should differ in form but would be distinguished by the various badges of the regiments.

In addition to the regimental badge space should be left on the headstones for a Cross or other distinctive religious emblem (e.g. the Sign of David). (NOTE :- Footnote to be added to Memorandum with diagrams).

The design of the headstones should include the man's rank (in case of N.C.O's and men their regimental numbers) initials, name, manner of death, (killed in action, died of wounds etc.), date of death.

The width of the stone should not exceed 18 inches and the height should not be more than double the width. The thickness of the stone should not be less than 3 inches.

It should be borne in mind that these headstones will be seen in rows, and in varying conditions of site in some cases three feet apart and in others actually adjoining.

Specimens which have been designed by a Committee or Artists are attached, further copies of which may be obtained from Divisional Headquarters.

All suggestions should be sent in not later than and should be addressed to :-

The Secretary,
Imperial War Graves Commission,
c/o D.G.R.S.E.,
G.H.Q., 2nd Echelon.

General simplicity of design, depending largely on well designed lettering, is desirable.

All designs sent in should not be less than a quarter of full size.

NOTE :- In addition to the regimental badge it has been suggested that in the case of Dominion Troops, and possibly of English, Scotch, Welsh and Irish, the national emblems should be added.)

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France 30, Novr.

Substitute address
Egypt, etc.

The question of the provision of the sketches to accompany the Memorandums was also discussed when it was resolved that this be left to Mr. Lutyens and Mr. Baker to arrange for the lithographing etc. of 2,000 copies and that these should be supplied as soon as possible.

A discussion followed regarding the correct badges of regiments and General Ware ~~again~~ telephoned to General Childs at the War Office and ascertained that he was the proper authority for regimental badges and that they were all comprised in the Dress Regulations of the Army.

It was resolved that three copies of this publication be obtained.

The question concerning the amount of the regimental badge to be placed on the stone was also discussed.

Mr. Baker suggested that it might be possible to have a talk with the D.P.S. and get his views on this question. He also referred to the badge of the Royal Scots.

General Ware thought that this would be an excellent idea.

(NOTE :- Director to speak to General Childs).

Col. Messer produced plans of cemeteries with Lieut. Hill's notes as to gardening, for the consideration of the Committee.

CONTRACT. Resolved that a row of trees be planted by the Horticultural Department on the South West side of the cemetery. Two trees on the N.W. side approved.

Trees on the North East side approved but

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in even numbers (i.e. 4 not 3).

WARREN BAILLON. Some crab apple trees to be planted. Any eatable fruit trees to be avoided.

CHOCQUES. This plan was left over for Mr. Baker to discuss with Licut.Hill.

It was resolved that the plans prepared by Mr. Baker and Mr. Lutyens respectively should be discussed by them with Licut.Hill . It was also resolved that Licut.Hill should be asked to get into touch with Mr. Baker and Mr. Lutyens and get the plans settled and that those should be returned to Col. Messer in France as soon as possible. The plans were left with Mr. Baker and Mr. Lutyens.

The Committee was of opinion that lilacs, yews, arbutus, holly etc. should be planted, and strongly opposed the planting of Red May and Laburnum and the usual suburban cemetery shrubs.

17, Queen Anne's Gate,
Westminster, S.W.1.

Sept. 27. 17

Personal and Private

Dear Ware,

I meant to have remembered to say

that

Blomfield is ante Mr. Hare.

President of the Royal Institute of British Architects and is
all for Poynter P.R.A.

Now

Poynter P. R. A. is ^{opportunism} sibilant with opportunist. The poetic sentiments
of Victoria's long reign is his ^{he} "He" is P before R. A. and R. A. before
all else artistry included. Blomfield is pro Academy and thinks the R. A.
has not been getting sufficient due from ~~heaven~~ ^{heaven.}

There always seems to be something that pulls against the job in hand

You appoint L

P. R. A. B

and then the trench ^{competition} ~~completion~~ with = plums to ^{Baker} ~~Baker~~ and others.

To prevent him filing this I sign myself yours

Lutyens "uber alles !

I have quieted Blomfield on the telephone.

No.
26/11

NOT TO BE SENT

226 16

Mr. E. L. LUTYENS, A.R.A.

W. 918.

17, QUEEN ANNE'S GATE,
WESTMINSTER, S.W. 1.

Telephone No. 95 Gerrard.
Telegraphic Address:
"Aedificavi, Vic, London."

Sept 27 - 17

Personal, Print

De' ware

I meant to have remembered

to say - that

Blomfield is ^{Mr} ante Have

President of the Royal Institute

of Print Architects. . . is all for

Poynter P.R.A.

Now

Poynter P.R.A. is scholastic

with opportunism. The ~~strong~~ poetic
sentiments of Victoria's long reign is his.

Le CWGC/1/1/12/48 (ADD 1/1/3) P.A.

before all else artistry included.

WESTMINSTER, SW1
IN GREEN ANGLE DATE

MR. E. LUTYENS, A.R.A.

1, Grosvenor Gardens,
London, W.1.

Blomfield is pro Academy & thinks

the R.A. has not been getting sufficient

due from Leaven -

There always seems to be
something that pulls against
the job in hand -

In appoint L.

P.R.A. B.

& then the trench competition with

plans to Baker - there -

To prevent you filing this

I sign myself yours

Lutyens abn allos!

I have CWGC/1/1/12/48 (ADD 1/1/3)

telephone -

21
17, Queen Anne's Gate,
Westminster, S.W.1.

Oct. 12. 17

Dear General

I enclose Myers, Hudson and Kearns estimate for prints of 2000 copies of my sketches for headstones.

It comes to 15 guineas and I think is a reasonable price.

Yours sincerely

Brigd. Gen.

Fabian Ware D.S.D.

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Ref. W.G. 18.

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From Mr. E. L. LUTYENS, A.R.A.

Telephone No. 95 Gerrard.
Telegraphic Address:
"Aedificavi, Vic. London."

17, QUEEN ANNE'S GATE,
WESTMINSTER, S.W. 1.

December 10th. 1917.

Lt. Col. G.H. Stobart,
Winchester House,
St. James's Square.
S.W.

Dear Sir,

I am instructed by Mr. Lutyens to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 8th. inst., and to say that he is satisfied that the price quoted for printing 2,000 copies of Headstone designs supplied by Mr. Baker and himself is reasonable, and he has therefore given the necessary instructions for the full number of copies to be made and the account to be forwarded to your Office as soon as the Contract is completed.

Yours faithfully,

Albert J. Thomas

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CWGC/1/1/12/48 (ADD 1/1/3)

Jan. 31.19

My dear Sir Frederick,

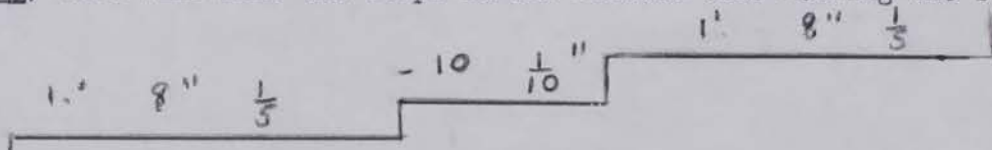
We agreed to reduce the great war stone to and not less than 10 ft. in length in ratio of all its proportions.

length
This only where it was physically impossible to place the approved size of 12 feet; and its platform of steps 24' 6" x 15' 3/4" over all.

It would be better to = if in a case of width; back to front to omit the return of the steps on the Eastside.

In the case of length North to South to reduce the steps in their width or tread.

To reduce the 12 ft. stone to 10 ft. will give in ratio a platform
{ (20' 5") } instead of (24' 6") how a 12 ft. stone will leave 8' 5" for steps,
{ 12.8 x 17/24 } (15 x 3 1/4)
i.e. 4' 2 1/2" on each side and cover an area of 20' 5" x 11' 2 1/4". This will entail steps (4. 2 1/2) this will make the steps in the reduced size leaving the stone 12 ft.



This can be worked with the provided templates.

height

If the stone is reduced in ratio you will have remaining an undignified light of altar and by reducing the steps only (which I should request). The equality of the altar stone is kept.

Please forgive this untidy letter.

CWGC/1/1/12/48 (ADD 1/1/3)

From Sir Edwin L. LUTYENS, A.R.A.

Telephone No. 95 Gerrard.

Telegraphic Address:
"Aedificavi London."

From WG 615
17, QUEEN ANNE'S GATE,
WESTMINSTER, S.W. 1.

John Talbot Esq,
The Imperial War Graves Commission,
Winchester House.
S.W. I.

September 24th. 1919.

30/K/305/S.

26/K/10/S

*cruciform
headstone*

Dear Sir,

I thank you for your letter of the 22nd.
enclosing copies of the alternative design submitted to
the Commission for Headstones.

If you really ask my opinion, all I can
say is that I think it is extraordinarily ugly and very
difficult to transport without fracture.

Yours faithfully,

Edwin L. Lutyens

CWGC/1/1/12/48 (ADD 1/1/3)

C O P Y.

998/2/2
INITIALS
M
16/6

R.F.A.C./37.

June 8th, 1926.

Sir,

REFERENCE 23C/18151/26.

The Royal Fine Art Commission have examined with great interest the designs prepared by their colleague, Sir Edwin Lutyens, for the War Memorial to the Mercantile Marine. The Commission regret that they cannot recommend the adoption of the scheme, which involves destruction of the outstanding feature of the Thames Embankment as completed by Sir Joseph Bazalgette. This construction, known as the Temple Pier, consists of an arch some thirty feet in height, flanked by rectangular bastions, all carried out in granite, and with every appearance of having been designed to harmonise with Waterloo Bridge and Somerset House. Its scale is considerable, being 160 yards from end to end, and it is clear that in placing the construction midway between Waterloo Bridge and Blackfriars, Bazalgette intended it to be the dominating monument of the River stretch, and that its modest height and shallow projection should not impede the view as it unfolds from either direction.

My Commission are of opinion that the replacement of this noble granite arch by a much larger construction in Portland Stone would be inappropriate; nor would Bazalgette's severe and massive lateral bastions allow justice to be done to Sir Edwin Lutyens' design. This in turn, being much higher than the existing arch, would be out of scale with the flanking bastions and alter the whole proportions of the adjacent Embankment. It would thus impair the unity of Bazalgette's composition.

CWGC/1/1/12/48 (ADD 1/1/3)

998/2/2

An alternative site is therefore suggested to the East of London Bridge. Though this would naturally entail modification of Sir Edwin's design, perhaps indeed a wholly new project, my Commission feel their suggestion is justified, in order to secure a more fitting site where the monument will be visible to ocean-going ships of the whole world.

I am further directed to add that, should the First Commissioner of Works so desire, my Commission will be ready to offer observations about an alternative site.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd) H. C. BRADSHAW.

Sir Lionel Earle, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., C.M.G., J.P.,
H. M. Office of Works,
Storey's Gate, S. W. 1.

CWGC/1/1/12/48 (ADD 1/1/3)

17, Queen Anne's Gate,
Westminster, S.W.1.

June 9.26.

My dear General (what ~~W~~ares well)

Here is a copy of the F.A.C. Report - for Crawford.

It is all to my mind too silly and too small for words. Are
Earls only to be commemorated in the House of Lords, Kings in Buckingham
Palace, and Tropical Florence Nightingale in a sick ~~mind~~ ^{ward}.

^{you} We must have some civic centre ^{all} for commemoration. Wherein [?]bravery
is common to the nation

- Brown ~~Ed~~chers commemorated at Smithfield.

- Fishmongers at Billingsgate.

The idea is too futile even I should have thought for ~~cleaner~~ [?]
An erection 50' high on that sweep of river - it is simple talk and silly
at that.

The "The importance of knowing English" the tongue part of it. That
is all. Bryalgettes composition is nothing simply a ^{grandiose} and impossible
scheme to attract an innocent public in the Victorian Era.

ERA
That arch a terrible affair and an encumbrance quite senseless ^{OR}
sensitive. Why did not Blomfield and Crawford protest against the destruction
of Regent Street. Bloomy had the job of rebuilding it, it too selfish and ~~or~~
^{laughable} would be ~~comparable~~ in any sane period. I think it is a thing that might
be fought if they don't ~~not~~ the L.C.C.

We want a civic center where men who have served the Empire are
commemorated and the Embankment would be such a place - not hole and corner
brave men because they happen to have been low in social status.

The beggar says I = ~~Earls~~ the Earls at Shroditch or better to [?]
the Tower.

Would I go on?

Need

Ever Yours
Edwin Lutyens.

? No
I 26/11

CWGC/1/1/12/48 (ADD 1/1/3)

From Sir Edwin L. LUTYENS, R.A.

Telephone No. 4129 Victoria.

Telegraphic Address:
"Aedificavi, Parl. London."

✓ 29/F26/2/V
17, QUEEN ANNE'S GATE,
WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

June 28th, 1926.

998/2/2

My dear General,

MERCANTILE MARINE MEMORIAL.

I saw Mr. Humphreys and found him very sympathetic.

He took a great deal of trouble - doubting if the Office of Works had powers to stop us.

He gave me an extract from the Act (which I enclose).

He thinks there might be a loophole in it, but it is a matter for a lawyer.

Personally, I agree and think it is a lawyer's question - it being a structure and not a house or building, under the Act. The Office of Works agreeing, would be an act of courtesy.

Mr. Humphreys says there is no reason why we should not begin, as far as the London County Council are concerned - their approval being emphatic.

Let's begin and leave it to the Office of Works to stop us with the odium of a threatening injunction.

I yet hope you will be able to convince the Office of Works that the Fine Art Commission's advice is best.

CWGC/1/1/12/48 (ADD 1/1/3)

ENCL.

Edwin Lutyens

998/2/2

25° & 26° VICTORIAE, CAP. 93.

An Act for embanking the North Side of the River Thames from Westminster Bridge to Blackfriars Bridge, and for making new Streets in and near thereto. (7th August, 1862).

.....

No House to be erected in front of the Gardens of the Inner and Middle Temple.

28. No House or Building shall be erected upon any Part of the Lands to be acquired or reclaimed as aforesaid situated between the River Thames and the Gardens of the Societies of the Inner and Middle Temple respectively, other than any such Porters or Gardeners Lodges, Alcoves, or other Buildings of a like Nature, of only One Floor each, as are from Time to Time, whether before or after the passing of this Act, approved by the First Commissioner of Her Majesty's Works and Public Buildings, by Writing under his Hand.

CWGC/1/1/12/48 (ADD 1/1/3)

SD 39

13 Mansfield Street,
W.1.

June 26. 31

In June 22nd I ^{went over} ~~would arrive~~ to France with Col. Robinson and on that afternoon visited the memorial and the missing in the Faubourg d'Amiens ~~and~~ ^{at} Arras.

The progress made was good and the monument promises well.

Would it be possible and in order for me to petition to you to add two pools one in ~~Eastern~~ of the 2 Courts? it would entail running water, i.e. a water tank. ^{each}

The garden was looking extremely well-happy in its colour effects.

Great credit is due to all your horticultural people.

The next morning, 23rd we visited Thiepval. Good progress has been made here and the monument ^{grows} ~~grows~~ and is nearing the ^{throng} ~~throng~~ ^{ed} of the main arch for which the ~~cometary~~ ^{cometary} is now being prepared. I suggest that the Canal Gate Way towards the small monument be omitted as it gives no direct access to the main monument and might mislead strangers as to ^{how} ~~the~~ best to approach it.

We decided to omit the Macadam road up to the monument from the ground point and substitute grass ~~and~~ in the forecourt. This will prove an economy and will add to the repose in the setting of the monument. In our way home we visited the Canadian monument in the Vimy Ridge and entered the precipitous site and the ample park and in all showed great and intelligent interest in the project and pleased the Canadian General his name escapes my memory-who had a justified pride in showing it to us.

Edwin Lutyens

CWGC/1/1/12/48 (ADD 1/1/3)

Sept. 8. 27.

My dear Robinson,

Here is a tentative sketch for the Air monument at Arras for the apex I suggest a world with 6 wing round it surmounted by a star which I have drawn too big, but if the idea is adopted I shall take more trouble in designing.

I send my first shot.

Ever yours

EDWIN LUTYENS

CWGC/1/1/12/48 (ADD 1/1/3)

CWGC/1/1/12/48 (ADD 1/1/3)

CWGC/1/1/12/48 (ADD 1/1/3)