



Media Release 4/Feb/2016

## **BFPS cover inspired by Antarctic Endurance Expedition 2016**

A century on from Shackleton's remarkable recovery from the ice, The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Antarctic Endurance Expedition 2016 aims to *Inspire* a new generation of adventurers in the Services; *Celebrate* the success of the 2014 Endurance team returning from the Antarctic; and to *Educate* organisations on the value of adventurous training with individual development.

During January and February of 2016 eleven members of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines will follow the legendary route taken by Sir Ernest Shackleton over the winter of 1915-16. They will be tackling the challenges of sailing in the Southern Ocean and climbing over the mountainous central spine of South Georgia.

To celebrate the historic and safe return of the original expedition and to mark this modern feat of endurance BFPS has produced a limited edition commemorative cover 'BFPS 3194 Antarctic Endurance 2016'. This stunning cover will be released for sale on the 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

The main image of this cover shows the route of the expedition. Two Royal Mail special issue stamps from the 'Shackleton and the Endurance Expedition' have been used and will be cancelled by the exclusive 'Antarctic Endurance' special handstamp, designed especially for the occasion. The postmark also bears the unique serial number 'British Forces Postal Service 3194'.

This limited edition cover will be available to order from the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016 on a strictly first-come-first-served basis from the BFPS online shop ([www.bfps.org.uk/shop](http://www.bfps.org.uk/shop)). They cost just £7.50 (UK/BFPO p&p free). These are also available to order by post by sending a cheque (payable to 'BFPS CIC') to BFPS The Old Post Office Links Place Elie Fife KY9 1AX.

Ends

Images of the special cover and handstamp are attached.

## About BFPS

The British Forces Philatelic Service (BFPS) fundraises for Service charities through philately and is a not-for-profit organisation run by a small team of volunteers, all of whom are Veterans. BFPS was specially set-up to ensure that the Forces Philatelic Bureau survives and thrives. BFPS is a registered Community Interest Company (CIC) working closely with the British Forces Post Office (BFPO).

The BFPO has had responsibility for all aspects of military mail, including philatelic matters, since its formation in 1882. More recently, as part of a Strategic Defence and Security Review, BFPO was reorganised and as a result of this the Forces Philatelic Bureau was transferred to BFPS, which was specially set up, as the sole authorised body empowered to deal with all matters concerning the Forces Philatelic Bureau. BFPS is officially licensed by the UK MOD.

BFPS is managed by two retired career Army officers, each of whom has had extensive experience working within the BFPO in general and the Forces Philatelic Bureau in particular. The third member of the management team is an ex Royal Engineer Warrant Officer who has a passion for Forces philately. All are volunteers and are dedicated to keeping the Forces Philatelic Bureau alive and are working hard to ensure the future of this unique area of BFPO operations is secure and flourishes.

### Links:

[British Forces Post Office](#)

[www.royalmail.com/personal/stamps-collectibles-gifts](http://www.royalmail.com/personal/stamps-collectibles-gifts)

[www.postalheritage.org.uk/](http://www.postalheritage.org.uk/)

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