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BFPS Forces Cover Celebrates Sapper Tercentenary

On the 26th May 1716 by Warrant of King George I, the Engineers and the Artillery were placed on separate establishments and so the Corps of Engineers was born. The following 300 years has seen the talents the Royal Engineers successfully cover an incredibly broad spectrum of disciplines. Sapper 300 commemorates this special tercentenary anniversary.

To celebrate this historic moment in time, BFPS has produced a limited edition commemorative cover 'BFPS 3196 Sapper 300'. This colourful and striking cover will be released for sale on the 26th May 2016.

The main image shows the Corps cypher placed over the Royal Engineers stable belt. A uniquely designed smiler stamp, incorporating the Sapper 300 logo, will be cancelled by the BFPS numbered 3196 special handstamp. which shows the Corps' grenade.

Retired Sapper officer, Lt Col Graham Meacher MBE said, *"Very few regiments or corps can count themselves members of the 'Tercentenary Club'. The Corps of Royal Engineers has a very long and proud history and continues to this day to live up to its motto 'Ubique' - everywhere. Sappers, who on operations are usually first in and last out, are renowned for their ability to get the job done, even under the harshest and most challenging of conditions. Their skills are diverse and problem-solving is their stock in trade."*

This limited edition cover will be available to order from the 16th May 2016 from the BFPS online shop (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.

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BFPS fundraises for Service charities through philately and is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company (CIC) limited by guarantee. Registered No 417647.

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