



Media Release 11/June/2016

## **World War 1 Special Issue stamps - BFPO Official First Day**

Royal Mail will be issuing its next selection of World War 1 stamps on 21 June 2016. The ongoing themes of Poppies, Poetry, War Art, Memorials and Artifacts form a beautiful and poignant collection that serves as a fitting way to commemorate this tragic conflict. Accompanying this issue will be the First World War Minisheet entitled 'The Post Office at War 1914 -18'.

The Forces Philatelic Bureau will be producing three BFPO official first day covers to compliment this stamp issue.

Two of the covers will bear original artwork silhouetting a typical wartime scene. One of these covers will be serviced using a full set of stamps, whilst the other will use the three 1<sup>st</sup> class stamps only. The third cover will be the BFPO Tri-Service generic FDC and will bear the Minisheet.

All three covers will be franked by the new 'Philatelic Forces Bureau First Day of Issue special handstamp BFPO 707'.

The covers may be ordered from the BFPS online shop ([www.bfps.org.uk/shop](http://www.bfps.org.uk/shop)). They cost £15 for the full issue version, £6 for the half issue version and £8 for the Minisheet (UK/BFPO p&p free).

You can also order the covers 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 commemorative 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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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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