



Media Release 14/October/2016

First Ever Use Of The Helicopter For An Assault Landing

Operation Musketeer was the Anglo-French plan for the invasion of the Suez Canal in 1956. As part of this helicopters were used to transport Royal Marines of 45 Commando 9 miles from the aircraft carrier HMS Theseus to Port Said. This was the first ever use of helicopters for an assault landing.

BFPS has produced a commemorative cover to mark this groundbreaking use of helicopters.

The images used on the cover and the specially produced smiler stamp were taken by 'troops on operation' and provide a real sense of history in the making. The smiler stamp will be cancelled by the 'BFPS 3201 Operation Musketeer' handstamp, which incorporates an image of the iconic Wessex Whirlwind helicopter.

The cover may be ordered from the BFPS online shop (www.bfps.org.uk/shop) from the 18th October 2016 and will cost just £7.50 (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

www.postalheritage.org.uk/

Contact:

Lt Col (Retd) Graham Meacher MBE MInstRE

Tel: 01333 330 525 Mob: 07713 682 873

E-mail: graham.meacher@bfps.org.uk

Web: www.bfps.org.uk

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

Registered address: The Old Post Office Links Place Elie Leven Fife KY9 1AX