



Media Release 2/May/2017

BFPS commemorates the Centenary of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission ensures that 1.7 million Commonwealth Forces who died in the two world wars will never be forgotten. They care for cemeteries and memorials at 23,000 locations, in 154 countries. The values and aims, laid out in 1917, are as relevant now as they were 100 years ago.

On the 21st May this year the Commission celebrates its Centenary and to mark this special anniversary BFPS has produced a commemorative cover.

An image of Tyne Cot Cemetery in Belgium shows the care and attention that the Commonwealth Graves Commission takes when carrying out its works and along with the 1st Class commemorative stamp it gives a very reflective theme to the cover. The stamp will be cancelled by a unique British Forces Postal Service special handstamp No. 3203. The centerpiece of this cancellation features the Commissions Centenary logo.

The covers may be ordered from the BFPS online shop (www.bfps.org.uk/shop). They cost just £6 for the standard version and if produced £12 for the signed limited edition version, which will bear a 1st class poppy stamp.(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

An image of the commemorative cover is 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.postalmuseum.org

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

About the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)

The CWGC ensures that 1.7 million Commonwealth Forces who died in the two world wars will never be forgotten. They care for cemeteries and memorials at 23,000 locations, in 154 countries. The values and aims, laid out in 1917, are as relevant now as they were almost 100 years ago. The CWGC works in close association with many other organisations to achieve its task of commemorating those who died in the two world wars.

For further information please contact the CWGC:

English Enquiries: +44 (0)1628 507200

French, Dutch and German Enquiries: +32 (0) 57224750

E-mail: enquiries@cwgc.org

Web: <http://www.cwgc.org>