



Media Release 26/June/2017

Passchendaele Commemorated

The Battle of Passchendaele, also known as the Third Battle of Ypres was fought between Allied Forces and German troops in some of the worst conditions WWI ever saw. It was even referred to as the "Battle of Mud" due to the amount of mud and grime that was caused by heavy rain and destruction of the land by artillery bombardment. Losses on both sides were extremely high.

British Forces Philatelic Service has produced a commemorative cover to mark the Centenary of this grim Battle on the 31 July 2017.

On the cover a very apt image of the painting "Passchendaele' - Soldiers In Mud Near Ypres In Belgium During World War I" by artist William Hole shows the miserable conditions that the troops had to endure. The cover bears the Royal Mail special issue WW1 1st class stamp "Dead Man's Dump', Isaac Rosenberg" which will be cancelled by the unique British Forces Postal Service special handstamp No 3205. The centerpiece of this handstamp features a sketch by artist Merle Drury of the 'Cross of Sacrifice' from Tyne Cot cemetery in Belgium.

The covers may be ordered from the BFPS online shop (www.bfps.org.uk/shop) at a cost of just £6.

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