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## **Battle of Cambrai – first use of massed tanks**

The Battle of Cambrai (November 1917, WW1) was an important landmark in the use of tanks. It was the first military offensive where British Army commanders had deployed them in large numbers.

To mark the centenary of this Battle and the first use of mass tanks, the Forces Philatelic Bureau has produced a commemorative cover to be released on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

The cover bears an image showing massed tanks deploying across the battlefield at Cambrai. A specially designed handstamp numbered 'BFPS 3209' will be used to cancel a Royal Mail issued 1<sup>st</sup> class 'Shattered Poppy' stamp. The special handstamp carries a silhouette of the Royal Tank Regiment's cap badge.

The standard covers will cost just £6. Two limited-edition versions, signed by prominent officers from within the Royal Tank Regiment will cost £12.50. These can be bought from the BFPS online shop ([www.bfps.org.uk/shop](http://www.bfps.org.uk/shop)).

Covers may also be ordered by post by sending a cheque (payable to 'BFPS CIC') to BFPS The Old Post Office Links Place Elie LEVEN 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 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:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/british-forces-post-office-services>

<http://www.royalmail.com/personal/stamps-collectibles-gifts>

<http://www.postalmuseum.org/>

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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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## **The Tank Museum**

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