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BFPS Celebrates the Founding of the RAF

On the 1st of April 1918 the World's first independent air force was formed by merging the Royal Naval Air Service and the Royal Flying Corps. Entitled 'The Royal Air Force' (RAF), this new service was the British response to the growing role of airpower in warfare.

2018 sees the centenary of the RAF and to celebrate this BFPS has produced a commemorative cover to be released on the 1st April 2018.

This superb looking cover bears the images of the four founding fathers of the RAF, Lord Hugh Trenchard, Field Marshall Jan Christian Smuts, Air Vice Marshall Sir Charles Longcroft and Sir Winston Churchill. The BFPS 3214 special handstamp featuring the RAF logo will be used to cancel one of the Royal Mail's specially issued 1st class 'RAF Centenary' stamps.

There will be three versions issued:

- Standard unsigned version bearing a 'Hurricane Mk1' stamp costing £6 each.
- Limited edition bearing a 'Lightning F6' stamp signed by the current Chief of the Air Staff - Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Hillier KCB. CBE. DFC. ADC. MA. RAF. costing £12 each.
- Limited edition bearing a 'Lightning F6' stamp signed by former RAF pilot, Falkland Islands legend and author Flight Lieutenant David (Mog) Morgan DSC. costing £18 each.

Customers who choose the signed covers will also receive a complimentary copy of the RAF Centenary edition of the 'British Philatelic Bulletin', which includes an interview with David Morgan in which he talks about his Falkland Islands experience.

These covers come with a double insert, featuring the history of the RAF on one and the story of the forgotten founding father, Sir David Henderson, on the other.

All of these most special covers may be ordered from the BFPS online shop (www.bfps.org.uk/shop).

Also, on offer will be a few sheets of the personalised Smiler® RAF100 stamps, priced at £38 each.

Covers and stamp sheets 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

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:

<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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