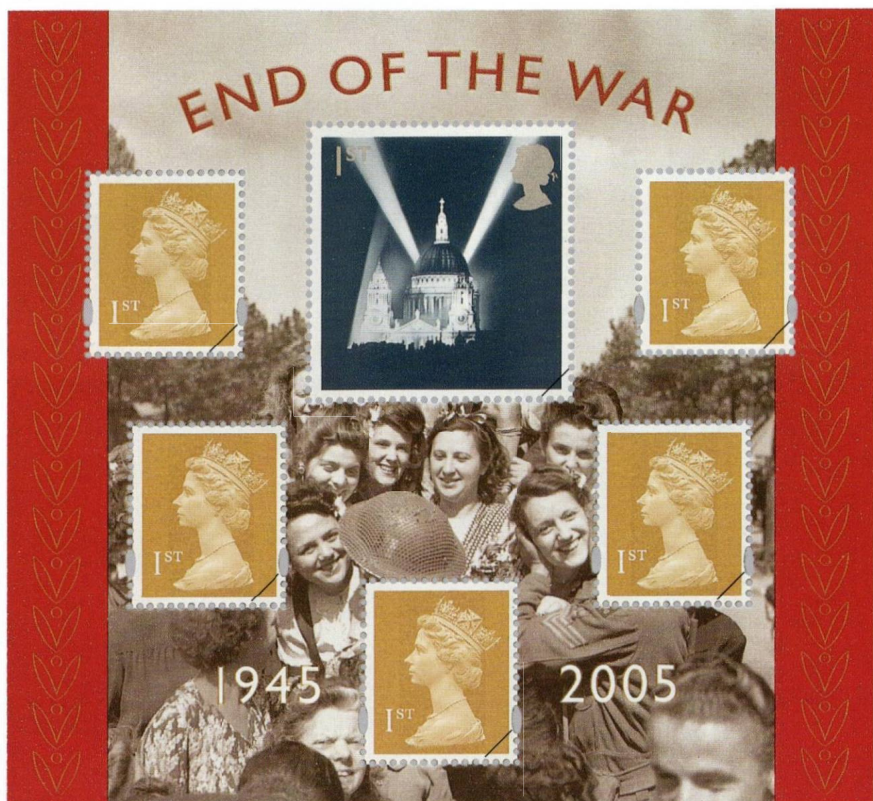


60th anniversary of the end of the war



A MINIATURE SHEET containing six 1st class stamps will be issued on 5 July to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, priced £1.80. The issue date has been chosen to coincide with commemorations in London the following weekend. These will include a march-past of veterans attended by HM The Queen. The sheet (shown above at proof stage) contains a revised version of the 25p Peace & Freedom stamp of 1995 showing a floodlit St Paul's Cathedral, now as a 1st class stamp, and five 1st class definitives printed in gold. The stamps are on a background reproducing the design of the Peace & Freedom 19p stamp showing British troops in Paris on the liberation of France. The sheet has been designed by Jeffery Matthews. There will be no presentation pack or stamp cards.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A coin cover will be available bearing the miniature sheet cancelled by a special St Paul's London EC4 postmark and with a new Royal Mint £2 coin and Ministry of Defence commemorative medal (designed by Jeffery Matthews) encapsulated. Price £15.95, available from Tallents House and selected Post Office branches.

Technical details

Printer Joh Enschedé

Process Grevure

Size 115 × 105mm

Perforation 14.5 (St Paul's);
15 × 14 (definitives)

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA



First day postmarks (top and middle), and the coin cover postmark (bottom).



Details of other 5 July handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 in UK & Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a free sample copy write to the Editor, *British Postmark Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 5 July, price 25p. The cover shows the Union Flag as hung across streets to celebrate the end of the war. Orders for FDCs with the miniature sheet cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House or Peacehaven, Newhaven must reach Tallents House by the day of issue. Price £2.53 UK or £2.16 overseas. Please state clearly which postmark is required.

Stamped covers may be sent on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for Tallents House postmark), or to one of Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres (Peacehaven postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD0515' (Tallents House), or 'FD0516' (Peacehaven). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Peacehaven postmark. A non-pictorial Peacehaven postmark is also available from Special Handstamp Centres, request 'FD0516 NP' ●

The end of the war There have been a number of Royal Mail issues connected with the Second World War, beginning with two stamps (below, top two in the centre) popularly known as the 'Victory' issue, or more accurately Peace & Reconstruction, issued in June 1946 (see *Bulletin* February 1975). A small selection of these issues is shown here •

