

## RAF Uniforms The second issue in a series



THE SECOND SET in the series on service uniforms will go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 18 September. The issue features RAF uniforms and comprises six stamps and a prestige stamp book. It is appropriate that these stamps are issued this year, as the RAF was formed 90 years ago, on 1 April 1918.

The stamps, like the Army Uniforms set last year, are printed as set-tenant triplets – three 1st class stamps and three 81p stamps. Each stamp bears an illustration by the artist Graham Turner, representing a significant stage in the development of RAF uniforms over the past 90 years: a Drum Major RAF Central Band, 2007; Helicopter Rescue Winchman, 1984; and Hawker Hunter Pilot, 1951 (1st class); Lancaster Air Gunner, 1944; Plotter, WAAF, 1940; and Pilot, 1918 (81p). The Queen's silhouette and value/service indicator are positioned top right on all six stamps. Royal Navy uniforms will feature in the third issue, in 2009.

The stamps were designed by Atelier Works design group of north London, and printed in litho by Walsall.

**FIRST DAY FACILITIES** The FDC envelope has been designed by Atelier Works. Orders for serviced FDCs must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark), or to the nearest Special Handstamp Centre (Hendon, London NW9 postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FDO821' (Tallents House) or 'FDO822' (Hendon). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Hendon postmark.

For details of sponsored handstamps and addresses of the Handstamp Centres see the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a free sample copy, write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ.

**PRESTIGE STAMP BOOK** *Pilot to Plane: RAF Uniforms* was written by Andrew Cormack of the RAF Museum and designed by Silk Pearce. The four stamp panes were printed by Walsall, the other pages by Cartor. The serviced FDC will bear the definitives and label stamp pane, as shown opposite ►

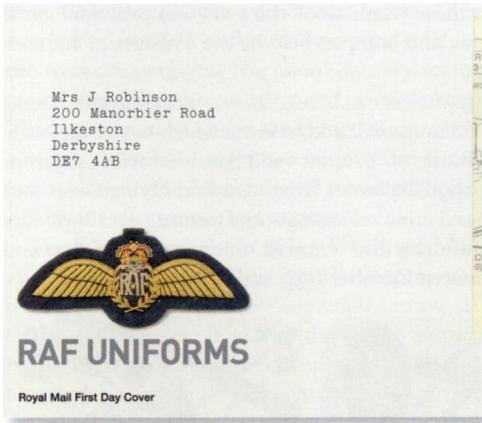
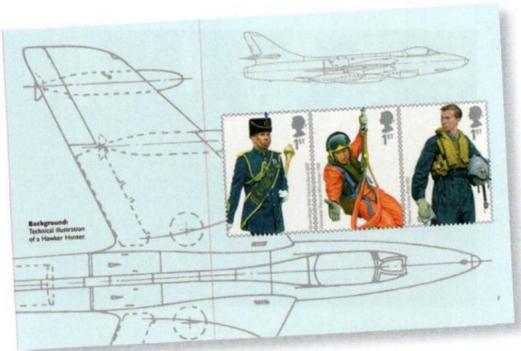


# on the history of military dress



**The stamps** 1st class (from left to right): a Drum Major, RAF Central Band, 2007; a Helicopter Rescue Winchman, 1984; and a Hawker Hunter Pilot of 1951. 81p: a Lancaster Air Gunner, 1944; a WAAF Plotter, 1940; and a Pilot of 1918.

**Prestige stamp book** The book, *Pilot to Plane: RAF Uniforms*, contains the four panes shown here. Prestige book first day covers will be serviced with the pane of 1st class definitives and RAF roundel label, as shown below.



**Prestige stamp book** The PSB contains four panes of stamps.

**Pane 1** 81p RAF Uniforms stamps

**Pane 2** 1st class RAF Uniforms stamps

**Pane 3** Top row: 1997 20p Spitfire and 2008 1st class Air Displays stamps. Bottom row: 1st class Air Displays, 20p Spitfire

**Pane 4** Definitives. Top and bottom rows: 1st class, 2nd class, 1st class. Middle: 2nd class, label (RAF roundel), 2nd class

**RAF Uniforms prices**

Set of stamps	£3.51
Presentation pack	£4.05
Prestige Stamp Book	£7.15
First day cover (FDC) envelope	£0.30
Serviced FDC stamps (UK customers)	£4.60
Serviced FDC stamps (overseas customers)	£3.92
Serviced FDC prestige book pane (UK customers)	£3.44
Serviced FDC prestige book pane (overseas)	£2.93
Stamp cards set	£2.40
Joint cover (with BFPO)	£9.99





RAF Halton Pipes & Drums, performing at the anniversary celebrations in the Strand, in London.

**Anniversary ceremonies** To mark the RAF's 90th anniversary, veterans gathered in London on 30 March 2008 to see a plaque unveiled by Air Chief Marshal Sir Glenn Torpy, at the site of the RAF's first headquarters at 80 The Strand (formerly the Hotel Cecil). The ceremony of unveiling was followed by a service at the RAF church, St Clement Danes, where the RAF Halton Pipes and Drums (left) played as the RAF standards were paraded. Amongst the players was Alastair Pether of Royal

Mail's Stamp Design team. Also in celebration of the anniversary, the Red Arrows joined four Typhoon aircraft in a flight down the River Thames, and the Duke of Edinburgh, as Marshal of the RAF, was principal guest at a special sunset ceremony and banquet held by the Trustees of the RAF Museum, Hendon •

**RAF on stamps** This set of stamps will add to those which have previously honoured the RAF: 1965 Battle of Britain; 1968 Anniversaries 1s stamp; 1986 History of the RAF; 1990 Gallantry (Distinguished Flying Cross and Medal); 1994 D-Day (ground crew reloading RAF Bostons); and 1997 Aircraft Designers. Military aircraft also featured on the covers of 80p and £1 stamp books issued between October 1979 and September 1980 •

