

# first



'SPITFIRE WOMEN'  
FERRY PILOTS OF THE AIR TRANSPORT AUXILIARY



**UNSUNG HEROES**  
**WOMEN of**  
**WORLD WAR II**

Royal Mail First Day Cover



**UNSUNG HEROES**  
**WOMEN of**  
**WORLD WAR II**

Royal Mail First Day Cover

**UNSUNG HEROES:**  
**WOMEN OF WORLD WAR II**  
**Thursday 5 May 2022**

Paying tribute to the vital  
contribution made by women

Mr C Davies  
14 Imogen Street  
ALTRINCHAM  
WA20 9IW

Royal Mail Talents House 21 South Cyle Crescent Edinburgh EH12 9PB

# Honouring the vital roles undertaken by women in wartime

World War II changed the lives of women around the world. The conflict involved women as never before; not just as victims, but also as active participants. In Britain, they were conscripted into key roles in the military, agriculture and industry. Others joined voluntary organisations, served in civil defence, cared for evacuees and refugees, or supported the war effort at home.

This issue of stamps and souvenirs salutes the nearly seven million women who made a vital contribution to the war effort and the Allied victory. Explore collectibles featuring powerful stories and evocative images – including rare and iconic photographs. You'll discover a Miniature Sheet celebrating the pioneering 'Spitfire Women' of the Air Transport Auxiliary and a Prestige Stamp Book pane of barcoded definitive stamps – a Royal Mail first.

We are proud to recount the often-overlooked stories of brave, groundbreaking women in a range of roles – from factory workers and engineers to pilots and codebreakers.

## 1 Mint Stamp Set | AS8500 £9.50

- Ten new stamps paying tribute to the contribution made by women during World War II.
- The evocative images capture women undertaking a wide variety of roles in support of the war effort.
- The set includes a rare photograph depicting female codebreakers working at Bletchley.
- Ten First Class square stamps presented as two horizontal se-tenant strips.

**Protecting Civilians:** Air Raid Precautions

**Nursing On The Front Line:** Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service

**Repairing Army Vehicles:** Auxiliary Territorial Service

**Arming The Fleet:** Women's Royal Naval Service

**Powering The War Effort:** Factory Worker

**Deciphering Enemy Messages:** Codebreakers

**Supplying Military Production:** Women's Voluntary Services

**Lighting The Way To Victory:** Auxiliary Territorial Service

**Maintaining RAF Aircraft:** Women's Auxiliary Air force

**Meeting Britain's Demand:** Women's Land Army

## It's all in the details

**Stamp format** Square

**Stamp size** 35mm x 35mm

**Number per sheet** 50/25

**Design** Supple Studio

**Printer** International Security Printers

**Print process** Lithography

**Perforations** 14.5 x 14.5

**Phosphor** Bars as appropriate

**Gum** PVA

②



## 2 Miniature Sheet | MZ175 £5.60

- Four stamps celebrating the brave Ferry Pilots of the Air Transport Auxiliary – the ‘Spitfire Women’.
- The two First Class and two £1.85 stamps are set within a 1940 photograph of the first eight women to join the ATA.
- A superb souvenir saluting a groundbreaking group of female pilots.

**First Class** Pilots Meet In Their Ferry Pool Briefing Room

**First Class** Pilot Climbing Into The Cockpit Of A Supermarine Spitfire

**£1.85** Pilot Completing Her Post-Flight Paperwork In A Lockheed Hudson

**£1.85** Pilots of the No 5 Ferry Pool Disembarking From An Avro Anson

### It's all in the details

**Stamp format** Landscape

**Stamp size** 41mm x 30mm

**Miniature Sheet size** 192mm x 74mm

**Design** Supple Studio

**Printer** International Security Printers

**Print process** Lithography

**Perforations** 14.5 x 14

**Phosphor** Bars as appropriate

**Gum** PVA

## UNSUNG HEROES WOMEN of WORLD WAR II

Changing times  
CHANGING LIVES

World War II changed the lives of women everywhere. Women were subject to conscription in Britain, working in industry, agriculture and the women's auxiliary services as well as in medicine, transport and the secret services. Women joined voluntary organisations, working during air raids and helping those in need. Women's participation was vital to the war effort.

Until 1941, women's work was voluntary, but the increased demands of a global war meant that female conscription was increasingly seen

as necessary by the government. By the middle of 1943, the majority of women in wartime employment, both full and part-time, were working in industry, agriculture and the women's services.

The women's auxiliary services were established at the outset of the war: the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) in 1938, and the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) and Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) in 1939. To begin with, roles in the ATS were limited to cooks, cleaners, orderlies, storewomen and drivers, but as the war went on these were expanded to include other duties that initially were the men's-only roles. More roles were open to women in the WAAF and the WRNS, while the 'Spitfire women' of the civilian Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) delivered planes to airfields around the country.

Among the volunteers were many women from the British colonies and Dominions, who served in the auxiliary and medical services. Other women worked in the armed forces, and

Available  
until 5 August  
2022



### 3 Stamp Souvenir | AW215 £12.05

- A non-personalised version of the Unsung Heroes: Women of World War II First Day Cover featuring all 10 new stamps cancelled with the alternative London SW1 postmark.
- The First Day Envelope contains the issue's information card.
- On sale until 5 August 2022

## UNSUNG HEROES WOMEN of WORLD WAR II

Changing times  
CHANGING LIVES

World War II changed the lives of women everywhere. Women were subject to conscription in Britain, working in industry, agriculture and the women's auxiliary services as well as in medicine, transport and the secret services. Women joined voluntary organisations, working during air raids and helping those in need. Women's participation was vital to the war effort.

Until 1941, women's work was voluntary, but the increased demands of a global war meant that female conscription was increasingly seen

as necessary by the government. By the middle of 1943, the majority of women in wartime employment, both full and part-time, were working in industry, agriculture and the women's services.

The women's auxiliary services were established at the outset of the war: the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) in 1938, and the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) and Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) in 1939. To begin with, roles in the ATS were limited to cooks, cleaners, orderlies, storewomen and drivers, but as the war went on these were expanded to include other duties that initially were the men's-only roles. More roles were open to women in the WAAF and the WRNS, while the 'Spitfire women' of the civilian Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) delivered planes to airfields around the country.

Among the volunteers were many women from the British colonies and Dominions, who served in the auxiliary and medical services. Other women worked in the armed forces, and

Available  
until 5 August  
2022



### 4 Stamp Sheet Souvenir | AW216 £7.40

- A non-personalised version of the Unsung Heroes: Women of World War II First Day Cover Miniature Sheet.
- This souvenir honours the Ferry Pilots of the Air Transport Auxiliary.
- Cancelled with the alternative postmark on a First Day Envelope containing the information card.
- On sale until 5 August 2022



## 5 Prestige Stamp Book | YB106 £20.75

- This 24-page publication is the first Prestige Stamp Book to include barcoded definitive stamps.
- Historian Professor Lucy Noakes explores topics including female conscription, women in the military and industry across the Empire, the Ferry Pilots, the front line and Home Front.
- The book is filled with insights and imagery, including photographs of women in action in their wartime roles.
- It contains all 14 Unsung Heroes stamps perforated as 'panes' within the book – plus an extra pane of barcoded definitive stamps unique to this issue\*.
- This Prestige Stamp Book is printed litho and gummed, apart from the mixed definitive pane, which is printed gravure, self-adhesive.

\*This Prestige Stamp Book is a slightly larger size to accommodate this barcoded pane – it will be 4mm bigger in height (96mm increased to 100mm). A larger leaf for the PSB album is available for purchase.



## 6 Presentation Pack | AP506 £16.00

- This fact-packed collectible includes stamps, images and stories recalling the range of wartime roles undertaken by women across the UK and around the world.
- All 10 new stamps are included alongside a separate Miniature Sheet carrier card with four stamps depicting 'Spitfire Women' from the Air Transport Auxiliary.
- Professor Lucy Noakes, Rab Butler Chair in Modern History at the University of Essex, writes in detail about the contribution and courage of women in wartime.
- Your Presentation Pack includes the iconic image of Her Majesty The Queen (then Princess Elizabeth) working as a mechanic in the Auxiliary Territorial Service.

7



### 7 Set of 15 Postcards | AQ322 £6.75

- A set of 15 postcards featuring enlarged reproductions of Unsung Heroes: Women of World War II stamps and Miniature Sheet stamps – including a Miniature Sheet montage.
- Perfect for collecting, framing or sending.

06 See the full range online at [royalmail.com/unsungheroes](http://royalmail.com/unsungheroes)

## UNSUNG HEROES WOMEN of WORLD WAR II

Changing times  
CHANGING LIVES

World War II changed the lives of women everywhere. Women were subject to conscription in Britain, working in industry, agriculture and the women's auxiliary services as well as in medicine, transport and the secret services. Women joined voluntary organisations, working during air raids and helping those in need. Women's participation was vital to the war effort.



After a course of the Women's Land Army (working in fields)

As necessary by the government. By the middle of 1943, the majority of women in wartime employment, both full and part-time, were working in industry, agriculture and firewomen's services. The women's auxiliary services were established at the outset of the war: the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) in 1939, and the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) and Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) in 1939. To begin with, roles in the ATS were limited to clerks, cleaners, orderlies, stenographers and drivers, but as the war went on these were expanded to include rubber plantations, notably in the air-raid factories. More roles were added to success in the WAAF and the WRNS.

Among the...  
in the...

Only available  
until 5 May  
2022

Your name and  
address will  
be printed here



Royal Mail, Trenchard House, 21 South Quay Crescent, Edinburgh, EH4 1DF

### 8 First Day Cover Prestige Stamp Book Pane | HF100 £5.45

- A First Day Cover featuring a unique pane of definitive stamps from the Unsung Heroes Prestige Stamp Book.
- Personalised with the name, address and postmark of your choice on the first day of issue – 5 May 2022.
- The definitive pane is the first to feature barcoded stamps.
- An information card inside your special-edition envelope includes details about women's wartime roles and specifications for this stamp issue.

### 9 First Day Envelope | AE441 £0.30

- Your First Day Envelope features the issue's title alongside an image of an Auxiliary Territorial Service motorcycle despatch rider.

10



#### 10 First Day Cover | AF486 £12.05

- A unique time-limited collectible personalised with the name and address of your choice.
- All 10 Unsung Heroes: Women of World War II stamps cancelled with your preferred special-edition postmark on the first day of issue, 5 May 2022.
- The stamps showcase the many roles women undertook and the contribution they made.
- Your First Day Envelope features the issue's title alongside an image of an Auxiliary Territorial Service motorcycle despatch rider.
- Inside is an information card containing an overview of the women's wartime roles and the issue's stamp specifications.
- This strictly limited souvenir is only available until 5 May 2022.

#### Choose your postmark

The Tallents House and alternative postmarks are inspired by iconic World War II recruitment posters. The alternative SW1 postmark represents the location of the Memorial to the Women of World War II on Whitehall.

11



#### 11 First Day Cover Miniature Sheet | MF170 £7.40

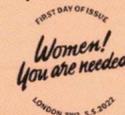
- The Unsung Heroes: Women of World War II Miniature Sheet personalised with the name, address and postmark of your choice.
- The four stamps honouring the Ferry Pilots of the Air Transport Auxiliary are displayed above a photograph featuring the first eight women to join the ATA in 1940.
- Inside the special-edition envelope is an information card detailing wartime roles and the issue's stamp specifications.
- Postmarked on the first day of issue – 5 May 2022.

#### Choose your handstamp

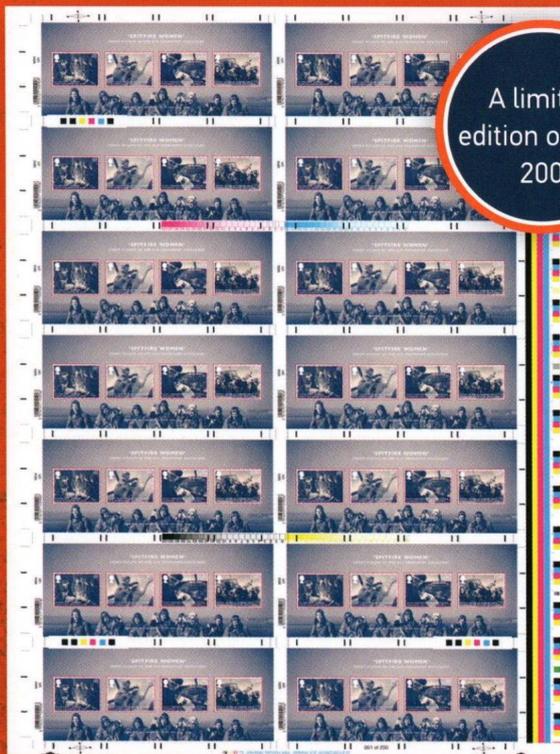
Standard  
postmark



Alternative  
postmark



12



### 12 Press Sheet | PZ061 £78.40

- An exceptional, highly collectible keepsake, direct from the printing press.
- A Press Sheet including 14 Unsung Heroes Miniature Sheets.
- A limited edition of only 200 individually numbered souvenirs.

08 See the full range online at [royalmail.com/unsungheroes](http://royalmail.com/unsungheroes)

13



### 13 Full First Class Sheet | AS8500AFS £47.50

- A Full Stamp Sheet containing 50 First Class stamps from the Unsung Heroes: Women of World War II issue. Contains first five stamps in the set.

### 14 Half First Class Sheet | AS8500AHS £23.75

- A Half Stamp Sheet containing 25 First Class stamps from this issue. Contains first five stamps in the set.

### 15 Full First Class Sheet | AS8500BFS £47.50

- A Full Stamp Sheet containing 50 First Class stamps from the Unsung Heroes: Women of World War II issue. Contains last five stamps in the set.

### 16 Half First Class Sheet | AS8500BHS £23.75

- A Half Stamp Sheet containing 25 First Class stamps from this issue. Contains last five stamps in the set.

16

17



### 17 Framed Stamps | N3287 £29.99

- The Unsung Heroes: Women of World War II stamps professionally mounted in a black ash-effect frame.
- The 10 images, including a rare photograph of female codebreakers at Bletchley, capture women in a range of wartime roles.
- Dimensions: 33.5cm x 20.5cm
- A stunning collectible to display and treasure.

18



### 18 Framed Miniature Sheet | N3288 £29.99

- This framed Unsung Heroes Miniature Sheet celebrates the 'Spitfire Women' of the Air Transport Auxiliary.
- Four stamps are set above a photograph of the first eight women to join the ATA.
- The Miniature Sheet is mounted in a black ash-effect frame.
- Dimensions: 33.5cm x 20.5cm

# Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 50p Coin Cover

Limited edition souvenirs featuring The Royal Mint's 2022 50p coin.

- In celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Royal Mail is releasing a limited edition Coin Cover featuring the 2022 Commemorative 50p coin released by The Royal Mint.
- Affixed to the Coin Cover envelope is the definitive pane from Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Prestige Stamp Book issued 4 February 2022.
- The special-edition envelope and information card celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's lifelong love of horses.
- Released as Brilliant Uncirculated, Silver, Gold and Platinum editions.
- Issued on 1 June and available to pre-order from 21 April.

## 19 Brilliant Uncirculated Coin Cover | AN211 £17.50

- Brilliant Uncirculated Coin Cover with The Royal Mint's 50p coin and the Prestige Stamp Book's definitive pane.
- Limited to 15,000 editions.

## 20 Silver Coin Cover | AN212 £57.50

- Silver Coin Cover with The Royal Mint's 50p coin and the Prestige Stamp Book's definitive pane.
- A limited edition of just 1,200 collectible Coin Covers.

## 21 Gold Coin Cover | AN213 £1,095

- Gold Coin Cover with The Royal Mint's 50p coin and the Prestige Stamp Book's definitive pane.
- A limited edition of only 100 collectible Coin Covers.

## 22 Platinum Coin Cover | AN214 £1,395

- A stunning Platinum Coin Cover with The Royal Mint's 50p coin and the Prestige Stamp Book's definitive pane.
- This highly collectible keepsake is strictly limited to 20 editions.

10 See the full range online at [royalmail.com/hmqueen](https://royalmail.com/hmqueen)



# Order in a way that suits you

Due to high demand for our products, you may find it more convenient to place your order at [royalmail.com/unsungheroes](http://royalmail.com/unsungheroes) and [royalmail.com/hmqueen](http://royalmail.com/hmqueen)

Complete the order form or use a separate sheet of paper, including your debit/credit card details, cheque or postal order and send to **Freeport ROYAL MAIL STAMPS AND COLLECTIBLES**. If ordering from overseas, return your form to **Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, PO Box 1373, SUNDERLAND, SR5 9PG, United Kingdom** (stamp required). You can also order online at [royalmail.com/unsungheroes](http://royalmail.com/unsungheroes) or by phone on **03457 641 641<sup>1</sup>** (+44 3457 641 641<sup>2</sup> from overseas). Phone lines are open between 8.30am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

<sup>1</sup>Calls made from the UK are charged at the standard network rate.

<sup>2</sup>Please contact your network provider to check what rate may apply before making a call.

By completing the order form you agree to Royal Mail's Terms and Conditions, which can be found at [royalmail.com/stamps-termsandconditions](http://royalmail.com/stamps-termsandconditions) or requested using the contact details on this order form. We aim to deliver products in the UK within 7-10 working days of receiving your order, subject to availability and delivery option(s). You may return products or cancel your order for any reason (except personalised products). Please contact us first so that we can help you with any cancellation or return. Where products are not faulty, returns should be made within 30 days.

If you have a general enquiry, please go to [royalmail.com/stampsenquiries](http://royalmail.com/stampsenquiries)

If you would like to send a personalised First Day Cover as a gift, please add the recipient's name and address on a separate piece of paper and enclose along with your order form.

No.	Product name	Code	Price	Qty	Total
Orders of First Day Covers, Stamp Souvenirs and Stamp Sheet Souvenirs only, do not attract a handling fee. <sup>1</sup>					
1	<b>Mint Stamp Set</b>	AS8500	£9.50		£
2	<b>Miniature Sheet</b>	MZ175	£5.60		£
3	<b>Stamp Souvenir</b>	AW215	£12.05		£
4	<b>Stamp Sheet Souvenir</b>	AW216	£7.40		£
5	<b>Prestige Stamp Book</b>	YB106	£20.75		£
6	<b>Presentation Pack</b>	AP506	£16.00		£
7	<b>Set of 15 Postcards</b>	AQ322	£6.75		£
8	<b>First Day Cover Prestige Stamp Book Pane</b>				
	- Standard postmark	HF100	£5.45		£
	- Alternative postmark	HF100	£5.45		£
9	<b>First Day Envelope</b>	AE441	£0.30		£
10	<b>First Day Cover</b>				
	- Standard postmark	AF486	£12.05		£
	- Alternative postmark	AF486	£12.05		£
11	<b>First Day Cover Miniature Sheet</b>				
	- Standard postmark	MF170	£7.40		£
	- Alternative postmark	MF170	£7.40		£
12	<b>Press Sheet *</b>	PZ061	£78.40		£
13	<b>Full First Class Sheet (top row)</b>	AS8500AFS	£47.50		£

<sup>1</sup>Other orders attract one of the following handling fees: UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, Rest of World £2.15. For bulky handling fees: UK £2.95, Europe £5.00, Rest of World £14.00. One fee will be charged per order, per address. The bulky handling fee will apply to mixed orders where at least one of the products is a bulky item.

No.	Product name	Code	Price	Qty	Total
14	<b>Half First Class Sheet (top row)</b>	AS8500AHS	£23.75		£
15	<b>Full First Class Sheet (bottom row)</b>	AS8500BFS	£47.50		£
16	<b>Half First Class Sheet (bottom row)</b>	AS8400BHS	£23.75		£
17	<b>Framed Stamps *</b>	N3287	£29.99		£
18	<b>Framed Miniature Sheet *</b>	N3288	£29.99		£
19	<b>Brilliant Uncirculated Coin Cover</b>	AN211	£17.50		£

Due to anticipated high demand we would advise placing orders by phone on **03457 641 641<sup>1</sup>** (+44 3457 641 641<sup>2</sup> from overseas) for the silver, gold and platinum Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee 50p Coin Covers.

\*Bulky handling fee applies

**Subtotal** £

**Postage** £

**Total** £

Royal Mail Group would like to keep in touch with you about our products, services and offers that might interest you, unless you have indicated an objection to receiving such communication by ticking the relevant box(es) below and returning to **Freeport ROYAL MAIL STAMPS AND COLLECTIBLES**. Please include your customer account number, name and address. If posting from overseas, **Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, PO Box 1373, SUNDERLAND, SR5 9PG, United Kingdom** (stamp required). Alternatively, you can call **+(44) 3457 641 641<sup>1,2</sup>**.

Post - opt out  Telephone - opt out  Email - opt out  Text - opt out

We may, on occasion, still need to send you important service messages. Royal Mail takes your privacy and security very seriously. For more details please read our Privacy Policy at [royalmail.com/privacy-policy](http://royalmail.com/privacy-policy)

Tick here if your order is a gift (please provide address on a separate sheet)

Visa  Mastercard  Maestro

Cheque/Postal Order (made payable to Royal Mail Group Ltd)  Debit my Royal Mail Account (including by VDD)

Card number

Valid from                      Expiry date                      Issue no.

Cardholder's signature

Date

Contact telephone number

Email

Your customer number

Royal Mail Group Ltd, registered in England and Wales, number 4138203, registered office: 185 Farringdon Road, London, EC1A 1AA.