

Trooping the Colour A spectacular parade captured in six stamps and a miniature sheet



Technical details

Printer Walsall Security Print

Process Lithography

Stamp size 35mm square

Sheet size 25 and 50

Perforation 14.5

Phosphor One band 2nd class, two bands others

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

Miniature sheet size 115 x 105mm

Plates and colours

All values W1 silver ● W1 yellow ● W1 magenta ● W1 cyan (blue) ● W1 black ● W1 phosphor

A SET OF SIX STAMPS and a miniature sheet featuring the colourful spectacle of Trooping the Colour goes on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and at Royal Mail Tallents House on 7 June. This year the ceremony, to mark HM The Queen's official birthday, takes place on 11 June when the Colours to be trooped are those of the Irish Guards.

The stamps are: 2nd class, Ensign of the Scots Guards, 2002; 1st class, The Queen taking the salute as Colonel-in-Chief of the Grenadier Guards, 1983; 42p, trumpeter of the Household Cavalry, 2004; 60p, Welsh Guardsman, 1990s; 68p, The Queen on horseback, 1972; and £1.12, The Queen with Duke of Edinburgh in open carriage, 2004. The stamps were designed by Andy Altmann of design group Why Not Associates using images by Tim Graham (2nd, 60p and 68p), John Shelley (1st), Anwar Hussein (42p), and Bruno Vincent (£1.12). The Queen's silhouette, in silver, is positioned at top right on the 2nd, 42p, and 60p values; the silhouette was not required on the other stamps as The Queen features prominently in the image. The value/service indicator is positioned top left and all stamps are captioned TROOPING THE COLOUR at bottom left.

Why Not Associates designed the Happy & Glorious stamps marking 40 years of The Queen's accession (1992), The Future (children's faces) Millennium stamps (2001), and the Rugby Winners miniature sheet (2003).

The stamps will be issued to Post Office branches in sheets of 25. However, sheets of 50 with gutter margins will be available from Post Office philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House. The miniature sheet, containing one of each stamp in a se-tenant block, costs £3.33.

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TROOPING
THE COLOUR



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE ROYAL MAIL TALLENTS HOUSE EDINBURGH
6 FIELD GUNS
256 MUSICIANS
978 SOLDIERS
254 HORSES

7.6.2005



FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 7 June, price 25p. The cover shows the Irish Guards emblem. Orders for FDCs with the stamps/miniature sheet cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House or London SW1 must reach Tallents House by the day of issue. Price £4.33 UK or £3.69 overseas. Please state clearly if stamps or miniature sheet required.

Collectors may send stamped covers 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 the Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centres (London postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD0513' (Tallents House), or 'FD0514' (London). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the London postmark. A non-pictorial London postmark is also available from Special Handstamp Centres, request 'FD0514 NP'.

Details of sponsored handstamps for 7 June will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, *British Postmark Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack (price £3.85) and stamp cards (30p each) will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Tallents House. There will be seven cards, one for each stamp plus one showing the miniature sheet.

The pack (above), written by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, gives details of the origins of Trooping the Colour and leads us through the complicated manoeuvres of the ceremony. The pack, designed by Why Not Associates, features photographs of the ceremony and uniforms of the soldiers taking part.

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Trooping the Colour stamps

Left to right, top to bottom

Lord Mayor's Show 1989

The 2nd & 5th stamps: Escort of Blues and Royals, and Drum Horse of Blues and Royals

Special postmark 1981

British Forces Post Office

Omnibus Golden Wedding 1997

Scenes of The Queen, Duke of Edinburgh and Prince of Wales featured on stamps from Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Kiribati, and St Kitts

Queen's 60th birthday 1986

The first portrait on second 17p and 34p is The Queen at the 1958 ceremony

Accession 40th anniversary 1992

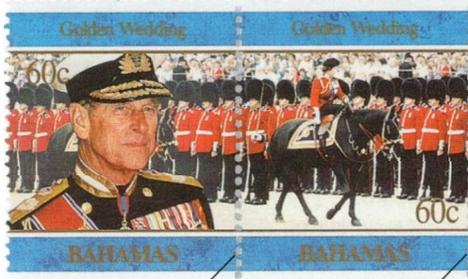
Fourth stamp in the set-tenant strip

The Queen's Horses 1997

63p River Star, which used to be ridden by the Duke of Edinburgh at the ceremony.

Trooping the Colour stamps and postmarks This is the first set of stamps devoted to Trooping the Colour although portraits of The Queen at the ceremony have featured on earlier stamps. As well as those shown here, the 28p stamp of the 1983 British Army issue featured the Irish Guards.

The Queen has been shown in military uniform for Trooping the Colour on a number of Commonwealth stamps. She stood in for George VI in 1951 and was thus shown on New Zealand's high value stamps of 1954-57. The 2s6d stamp in this series was voted the favourite stamp of The Queen's reign by visitors to the Thematica exhibition in 2003 (see *Bulletin*, August 2003, p381). The excellent book *The Royal Image: Stamp Portraits of Britain's Monarchs* by the late Lois E Young lists stamps (issued up to 1986) showing The Queen in Trooping the Colour uniform from the following countries: Anguilla, Antigua, Bermuda, Fiji, Grenada, Guernsey, Nauru, St Vincent Grenadines, Kiribati, St Kitts, Tonga, and Tristan da Cunha.



Trooping the Colour The parade is based on an old military practice of displaying the regimental colours at a special parade so all ranks would be able to identify their own colours as a rallying point during battle. The first reference to the Sovereign's birthday being 'kept' with such a ceremony is in *The First Guards (Grenadier) Order Book for 30 November 1748* during the reign of George II. The parade has evolved into a major annual event, involving Guardsmen and musicians from the five regiments of Foot Guards (Grenadier, Coldstream, Scots, Welsh, and Irish), troopers, mounted musicians and horses from the two Household Cavalry regiments (Life Guards and Blues and Royals), and field guns, soldiers and horses of The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery. A feature article on Trooping the Colour will be included in the June *Bulletin* •

Photograph by Sandro Sandano

