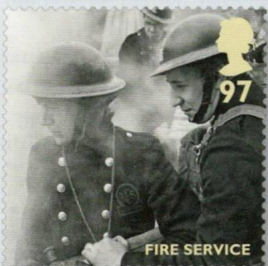
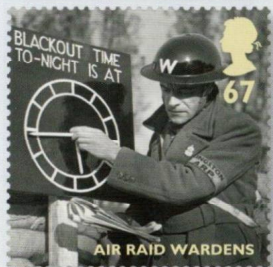
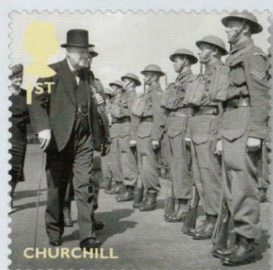


Britain Alone Remembering the darkest moments of 1940

EIGHT STAMPS, a miniature sheet and a prestige book, commemorating Second World War Britain (in 1940), go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and at Royal Mail Talents House on 13 May. The stamps feature: 1st class, Winston Churchill; 1st class, Land Girls; 60p, Home Guard; 60p, Evacuees; 67p, Fire Service; 67p, Royal Broadcast (Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret); 97p, Air Raid Wardens; and 97p, Women in Factories. The stamps are printed in separate sheets. ▶



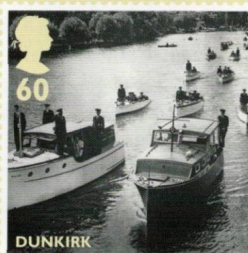
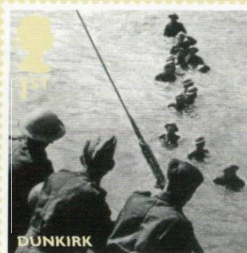


DUNKIRK

26 May – 4 June 1940

A miracle of deliverance, achieved
by valour, by perseverance,
by perfect discipline, by faultless
service, by resource, by skill,
by unconquerable fidelity,
is manifest to us all.

Winston Churchill,
House of Commons
4 June 1940



Previous page: Prime Minister Winston Churchill inspecting bomb damage to the House of Commons after an air raid in 1940. Photograph © Mary Evans Picture Library.

The Britain Alone miniature sheet, entitled 'Dunkirk', contains four stamps – 1st, 60p, 88p and 97p – showing scenes from the evacuation, including the famous 'little ships' which rescued British troops from the beaches.

The individual stamps and the miniature sheet were designed by Why Not Associates and printed in litho by Cartor. The stamps measure 35mm square, perforation gauge 14.5, and have all-over phosphor. The miniature sheet measures 115 × 89mm (shown above at actual size).

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Orders for serviced FDCs must reach Tallents House (address below) by the date of issue. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for the Tallents House postmark), or to their nearest Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centre (for Dover postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD1025' or 'FD1026'. Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Dover postmark.

Details of sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). To receive a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ.

PRESTIGE STAMP BOOK Details of the prestige book for this issue will be given in next month's *Bulletin* ●

Britain Alone prices

Set of stamps	£ 5.30
Miniature sheet (MS)	£ 2.86
Presentation pack (stamps & MS)	£ 8.70
FDC envelope	£ 0.30
Serviced FDC stamps (UK customers)	£ 6.70
Serviced FDC stamps (Overseas)	£ 5.71
Serviced FDC stamps (UK)	£ 3.84
Serviced FDC MS (overseas)	£ 3.27
Stamp cards (13 cards)	£ 5.20
Dunkirk medal cover	£14.95

BRITAIN AT WAR STANDING FIRM ON THE HOME FRONT

Soon after 11am, on Sunday 3 September 1939, the then British prime minister, Neville Chamberlain, made a BBC broadcast from the Cabinet Room at 10 Downing Street. For the first time, a democratic leader had used a new mass medium, radio, to tell his fellow citizens that they were at war after Germany had rejected ultimata from Britain and France to withdraw its troops from Poland. It was news that had been expected, and dreaded.

Radio had brought the war into almost every home, bombs would bring war to every county in Britain. War no longer happened elsewhere. British children would be part of it, working, digging, organising – and dying – for victory. The early months of the conflict were labelled the ‘phony war’, which ended decisively in spring 1940 with the last invasion of the Low Countries, and the subsequent defeat of the Anglo-French forces.



EVACUATING BRITAIN'S CHILDREN

‘The bomber’, said politician Stanley Baldwin in 1932, ‘will always get through’, obliterated Britain’s metropolises and creating thousands of casualties. Such fearful speculation helps to explain why, in early September 1939, almost 1.5 million people – mostly schoolchildren, mothers with babies, expectant mothers and children under five – were evacuated from target zones to the relative safety of the countryside.

By January 1940, the absence of any bombing raids during the so-called ‘phony war’ had resulted in almost 200,000 evacuees in England and Wales coming back home. With the Blitz, however, evacuation returned as a new wave of bombed-out people washed over the country.

There was a clash of cultures as town and country, rich and poor and those in between were brought face to face. For some of the ‘vacs’, and their hosts, the experience would be a test of endurance, but for others it was an adventure of a lifetime.



(Top left) A milkman on his round routes, his way through the rubble after an air raid in London. (Top middle) Londoners take refuge to the tunnels of the Underground during the Blitz in September 1940. (Top right) A member of the LDV (later the Home Guard) receives instruction in marksmanship and drill from regular army soldiers in 1940. (Bottom left) Evacuees from Britain's towns and cities arrive at a South Wales railway station in June 1940. (Bottom middle) For some young children, the evacuation process was an amusing experience. (Bottom right) The Chief Instructor of the LDV in the Bow Street Garage of London instructs LDV recruits how to use a Browning gun.

On 22 June 1940, France signed an armistice with Germany. A year later, on 22 June 1941, Hitler launched Operation Barbarossa – the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union. During that year the United Kingdom, with the Empire and Commonwealth, waged war alone against the Nazis – the democratic beacon against Nazi domination of mainland Europe.

Once the decision had been made to fight on, war visited the British Isles with malignant force. The Blitz, a sky-borne bombing campaign launched by the Germans in September 1940, devastated Britain's towns and cities, largely by night, and killed thousands in sustained raids until May 1941. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of ordinary people, however, defences held, and, with them, hope for the rest of the world. Ultimately, Britain did not win the war alone, but vitally, its people did not lose it.

‘Let us to the task, to the battle, to the toil, each to our part, each to our station... There is not a week, nor a day, nor an hour to lose!’



SERVING IN THE HOME GUARD

On 14 May 1940, the Secretary of State for War, Anthony Eden, broadcast an appeal to men between 17 and 65 who were ‘not at present engaged in military service’. He called on them to join the new Local Defence Volunteers (LDV). Within 24 hours, there were more than 250,000 applicants, and by the end of June the LDV had almost 1.5 million members, ranging from teenagers to octogenarians.

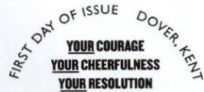
The LDV was renamed the Home Guard in August 1940, but it was some time before they were issued with proper weapons, including old rifles from North America. While they waited, they armed themselves with pitchforks, golf clubs, prodgers, catapults and even Creative War inventions.

The Home Guard was formed with the intention of delaying an enemy invasion for as long as possible. Its dedicated members patrolled coastlines, airfields and factories, becoming integral to Britain's civil defence.

BRITAIN ALONE



13.5.2010



WILL BRING US VICTORY

13.5.2010

The presentation pack (left), includes archive photographs showing the uncertainty and hardships of life in Britain in 1940. It was written by Nigel Fountain and designed by Why Not Associates. The two first day covers available are shown below.

“What is our aim? ... Victory, victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror; victory, however long and hard the road may be; for without victory, there is no survival.”

Winston Churchill, 13 May 1940



Royal Mail First Day Cover
BRITAIN ALONE



Royal Mail First Day Cover

BRITAIN ALONE

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorber Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

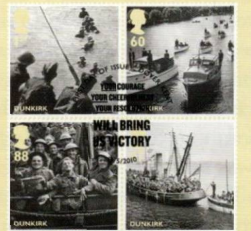
DUNKIRK

26 May – 4 June 1940

A miracle of endurance, achieved by valour, by perseverance, by perfect discipline, by British spirit, by unswerving faith, by magnificent leadership, is recorded in us all.

Winston Churchill
House of Commons
4 June 1940

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE DOVER, KENT
**YOUR COURAGE
YOUR CHEERFULNESS
YOUR RESOLUTION
WILL BRING US VICTORY**
12/5/2010



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorber Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Royal Mail Talents House 21 South Gyle Crescent Edinburgh EH12 9RF