

Royal Mail Update Salute the Gurkhas, see stamps on post boxes and catch Sustainable Fish

Left: the new Gurkhas Commemorative Sheet Royal Mail celebrates 200 years of loyal service to Britain

THE GURKHAS
CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF SERVICE 1815-2015

THE FURKASH REGIMENT
Gurkhas are of high public esteem and are highly respected throughout the world. They have been awarded the Victoria Cross 200 times.

INDIAN MUTINY (1857-59)
The first time British troops were sent against the mutiny, Gurkhas were sent to the aid of the British. They fought bravely and were instrumental in the final victory.

BATTLE OF BARFLEIGH HILL (1842)
During the British campaign in the North West Frontier, the Gurkhas fought bravely against the Afghans. They were instrumental in the final victory.

FIRST WORLD WAR (1914-18)
The Gurkhas fought bravely in the First World War. They were instrumental in the final victory.

SECOND WORLD WAR (1939-45)
The Gurkhas fought bravely in the Second World War. They were instrumental in the final victory.

BORNEO (1963-66)
The Gurkhas fought bravely in Borneo. They were instrumental in the final victory.

FALKLANDS (1982)
The Gurkhas fought bravely in the Falklands. They were instrumental in the final victory.

AFGHANISTAN (2001-14)
The Gurkhas fought bravely in Afghanistan. They were instrumental in the final victory.

ROYAL MAIL

As I write these last words, my thoughts return to you who were my comrades, the stubborn and indomitable pioneers of Nepal... Once more I hear the laughter with which you greeted every hardship. Once more I see you in your bivouacs or about your fires, your canteens, your messes and your messes, and at the last your memories live forever in the hearts and souls of your people.
PROFESSOR SIR RALPH LACEY (1894-1970) (1914-18) (1939-45)

LIMITED EDITION No. 101 OF 2500

Gurkha grit A new Commemorative Sheet Royal Mail salutes the courage and fighting prowess of the Gurkhas. The Sheet, released on 20 August, marks 200 years of the elite troops' service to Britain since the first Gurkha regiment was formed in 1815.

Ten First-Class Union Flag stamps with illustrated labels cover the many campaigns and huge variety of combat theatres where the Gurkhas served. The labels resemble a roll-call of history. The Indian Mutiny. The First World War and the Second. Borneo in the Sixties. Falklands 1982. Afghanistan today. In the Commemorative Pack the grit of these hardy heroes is revealed with the story of the Gurkhas as a people and as a ►

The Gurkhas Commemorative Sheet – Specifications

Date of issue	20 August
Number of stamps	10 x 1st Class Union Flag Stamps
Stamp design	CDT design
Stamp format	Portrait
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Sheet and Pack design	Demographic
Sheet format	A4
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	Die-cut simulated
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive
Words	Gordon Corrigan
Price	£14.95

fighting unit: their rugged, harsh homeland of Nepal where they stride the mountains with ease; the Gurkha selection test, which involves carrying 55lb of stones three miles over a 1,500-foot peak; the 26 Victoria Crosses they have won battling everyone from the Nazis to the Taliban.

The Pack also explains the work of the Gurkha Welfare Trust, which aims to alleviate hardship suffered by veterans – a thank-you for their bravery and loyalty to Britain ●

Acknowledgements: All imagery provided courtesy of The Gurkha Museum, Winchester, except for: *Assault on the Kashmir Gate* © Jason Askew (Indian Mutiny label); *Storming of the Heights of Dargai* by Vereker Hamilton courtesy of and © The Gordon Highlanders Museum (Battle of Dargai label and backing card); the image used on the Afghanistan label was produced by the Ministry of Defence. © Crown copyright. Reproduced under the terms of the Open Government Licence; Gurkha soldier monument, India © Sherab/Alamy; Gurkha Welfare Trust image and Gurkha 200 logo kindly provided by The Gurkha Welfare

Trust; quotation from *A Comparative and Etymological Dictionary of the Nepali Language* (Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd, 1931) by Ralph Lilley Turner MC, MA.

Backing card All imagery provided courtesy of The Gurkha Museum, Winchester, except for: Machapuchare mountain, Nepal – Robert Harding Images; Himalayan village © salajeau; *Assemblage of Gurkhas*, 1820, James Baillie Fraser (1783–1856) (after)/Private Collection/Photo © Christie's Images/Bridgeman Images; Gurkha troops at San Carlos Bay, Falkland Islands – Martin Cleaver/PA Archive/Press Association Images; veteran Gurkha image and Gurkha 200 logo kindly provided by The Gurkha Welfare Trust; the Regimental Insignia of the Brigade of Gurkhas is a trade mark registered in the name of the Secretary of State for Defence and is used under licence.

Coming to a post box near you? To celebrate 50 years of Special Stamps, Royal Mail is installing 50 plaques with images of some of the most popular stamps on 50 post boxes across the country. The locations chosen are cities, towns and villages that have a special connection with the featured stamp.

Last month the WWF Polar Bear stamp was unveiled on a postbox in Woking – where WWF UK's Living Planet Centre is based – to coincide with WWF's 50th anniversary celebrations. Other stamps on postboxes include Winston Churchill, Bagpuss, Dylan Thomas, Robert Burns, the Giant's Causeway, York Minster and Sherlock Holmes.

A total of 2,663 Special Stamps have been issued since July 1965. They have featured many landmarks and landscapes, and mirrored many changes in UK society and culture. If you think one of them has a connection with your hometown, why not write and tell *Bulletin* about it? If there is enough demand, then your local post box could be chosen for a second wave of Special Stamp plaques ●



On your marks... A year ago Royal Mail celebrated the sporting glory of the Glasgow 2014 XX Commonwealth Games with a special issue comprising six Special Stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Book and Stamp Cards. There is just time to catch them before they are withdrawn from sale on 16 July ●