

## The Soldiers' Tale

The tenth of the 12 sets of Millennium stamps to be issued during 1999 is on the theme of soldiering



The Soldiers' Tale stamps go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 5 October

THE DESIGN of the **19p** stamp, by Andrew Davidson, features King Robert the Bruce at the site of his famous victory against the English at Bannockburn in 1314. This was a turning point in the Scottish Wars of Independence. The equestrian statue of Bruce by C Pilkington Jackson, unveiled by HM The Queen at Bannockburn in 1964, was studied by Fritz Wegner when he designed the 1974 Great Britons (Medieval Warriors) stamps (see *Bulletin* July 1974). The statue has featured on special handstamps used on 21 July 1987 (Scottish Heraldry issue) and 25 January 1996 (Robert Burns). On the new stamp the King is shown holding a shield painted with the Lion Rampant of Scotland – as shown on the recently issued 26p Scottish country stamp.

The **26p** value, designed by Rod Kelly, recalls the Civil War, showing a cavalier and roundhead helmet, symbolic of King Charles I's disagreements with Parliament which led to the seven year war and his eventual execution. Four stamps marking the 350th anniversary of the Civil War were issued in 1992.





The 19p stamp shows King Robert the Bruce at Bannockburn. The 26p value recalls the Civil War, fought between supporters of the King and Parliament. The 44p represents the horror of the world wars, in contrast to the 64p stamp, which celebrates the peace-keeping soldier of today. Above, British troops moving up to the front, Ypres, 1917 (Hulton Getty).

## Cylinders and colours

**19p** W1 black ● W1 stone ●  
W1 silver ● W1 phosphor

**26p** W1 lemon ● W1 black ●  
W1 grey ● W2 silver ● W1  
black ● W1 gold ● W1 phos-  
phor

**44p** W1 grey-black ● W1 black ●  
W1 silver ● W1 phosphor

**64p** W1 greenish-yellow ● W1  
red-orange ● W1 bright  
magenta ● W1 pale new blue  
● W1 black ● W1 bright blue  
● W1 phosphor

Don McCullin's sombre design for the **44p** stamp reminds us of the horrors of the two world wars in which many millions perished or were severely injured. The lives of countless families were ruined or disrupted by the conflicts, particularly the First World War – the war to end all wars.

In contrast, Christopher Corr's colourful **64p** design celebrates the peace-keeping activities of soldiers since the end of the Second World War. Under the aegis of the United Nations or NATO, British troops have performed an important role in containing conflict and the rebuilding of communities, most recently in Kosovo.

For three of the four designers, these are their first Royal Mail stamps. Andrew Davidson, on the other hand, designed the 1993 Sherlock Holmes stamps and illustrated the 1988 Transport & Communications and 1988 and 1990 Christmas stamps. He has also designed stamp book covers. Born in Cambridgeshire in 1958, Mr Davidson was brought up in Scotland.



Ireland, England and Wales. The onset of war found the south and east of England and many large towns backing Parliament, while Charles drew support from Wales and the north and west of England. At the crucial battle of Marston (1141) Charles was defeated by Parliament's well-disciplined New Model Army under Oliver Cromwell.

More than 200 years passed before Britain again experienced conflict as traumatic. Euphoria at the outbreak of war in 1914, fuelled by expectations of a short conflict, turned to grim resolve as armies dug in across north-eastern France. Conditions in the trenches were unimaginable, the casualties horrific. Heavy losses were experienced by Britain's dominions and allies: Australians and New Zealanders suffered appallingly at Gallipoli; more than 45,000 Canadian troops died in Europe; and in total more than 800,000 Indian soldiers fought for the British.

Vass Pappas – The World Wars spared the international community the need for the military's aid. In crisis areas around the world troops are peace keepers preventing conflict and dealing with the aftermath of hostilities.

troops established positions between the warring communities in Cyprus in 1964. With the collapse of the 'Iron curtain' and the end of the Cold War stand-off between East and West, adversaries and alliances have been reappraised. Tragically there has not been an end to hostilities. More recently Britain has joined multinational forces in the former Yugoslavia, in measures aimed at resolving conflict in the region.

When we remember war it is not only to recall a powerful and painful sacrifice, it is also to understand the hardships and sufferings that bind the generations. Those born since 1945 have experienced decades of peace, years very different from those of our forebears. There are people alive today who have memories of both of the world wars, and we all need to understand and appreciate the sacrifice of those who fought and the millions who died and suffered.



DO YOU TRAIL THAT LEAD TO THE TOP?  
"I think I remember you a little one."  
"I don't know, but you are a little one."  
"I don't know, but you are a little one."



ROYAL MAIL MILLENNIUM FIRST DAY COVER

TOWARDS  
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FIRST DAY OF ISSUE BY BRITISH PHILATELIC BUREAU ENDBURGH

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Soldiers' Tale

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**Presentation pack** The well-illustrated pack above (price £1.90) will be available from philatelic outlets and main post offices.

**FIRST DAY FACILITIES** Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 5 October, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of the Bureau or London SW must reach the Bureau by 5 October. Price £2.22 UK (including VAT) or £1.89 overseas (no VAT).

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB (London SW postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD9923' (Bureau), or 'FD9924' (London SW). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the London postmark. A non-pictorial London postmark is also available from the Special Handstamp Centre, request 'FD9924 NP'.

Bilingual Welsh/English versions of the London SW handstamps can be obtained by sending covers to the Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF1 1AA, quoting reference FD9924 Bil (pictorial) and FD9924 NP Bil (non-pictorial).

Sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from the Bureau (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, Gavrelle House, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ. Covers may bear just the 19p Soldiers' Tale stamp for any philatelic postmark in use on 5 October.

**MILLENNIUM PHILATELIC PRODUCTS** A well-illustrated Soldiers' Tale pack (price £1.90) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets. A Millennium Stamps Album, with pages for the 1999 issues, is available from the Bureau. Price: album and slipcase £19.99; sets of pages only £9.99. A presentation case has been produced to display the Millennium packs and covers. Enquiries: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT •

**Future millennium issues** The Christians' Tale set (2 November) features Charles Wesley's hymn 'Hark, the Herald Angels sing' (19p), King James 1 and his Bible (26p), St Andrew's Cathedral, Scotland (44p), and the First Christmas, painting by Craigie Aitchison (64p). Books containing the 19p and 26p stamps will also be issued on 2 November. The Artists' Tale set (7 December) features specially commissioned paintings *World of the Stage* by Allen Jones (19p), *World of Music* by Bridget Riley (26p), *World of Literature* by Lisa Milroy (44p), and *New Worlds* by Sir Howard Hodgkin (64p).

A 'Millennium Timekeeper' miniature sheet containing four new 64p stamps by David Gentleman will be issued on 14 December and a Millennium definitive on 6 January 2000. The Millennium 2000 series begins on 18 January with a set entitled *Above & Beyond*. This is followed by *Fire & Light* (1 February), *Water & Coast* (7 March), *Life & Earth* (4 April), *Art & Craft* (2 May), *People & Place* (6 June), *Stone & Soil* (4 July), *Tree & Leaf* (1 August), *Mind & Matter* (5 September), *Body & Bone* (3 October), *Spirit & Faith* (7 November), and *Sound & Vision* (5 December) •



#### Technical details

**Printer** Walsall Security Printers

**Process** Litho 19p, gravure others

**Size** 37 × 35mm

**Sheets** 100

**Perforation** 14 × 14.5

**Phosphor** One band 19p • two bands others

**Gum** PVA

**Central gutter** Horizontal

