

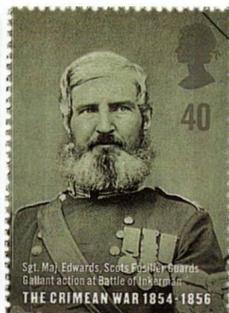
## The Crimean War 1854-56 The 'Crimean

The six stamps are captioned as follows.

**2nd class** Pte McNamara, 5th Dragoon Guards, mounted charge at Battle of Balaklava

**1st class** Piper Muir, 42nd Regiment of Foot, amphibious landing to take Keich

**40p** Sgt Major Edwards, Scots Fusilier Guards, gallant action at Battle of Inkerman



**57p** Sgt Powell, 1st Regiment of Foot Guards, fought at Battles of Alma and Inkerman

**68p** Sgt Maj Poole, Royal Sappers & Miners, defensive line at Battle of Inkerman

**£1.12** Sgt Glasgow, Royal Artillery, gun battery besieged Sevastopol



### Technical details

**Printer** Walsall Security Printers

**Process** Lithography

**Size** 30 × 41mm

**Sheet size** 25 and 50

**Perforation** 14 × 14.5

**Phosphor** One band 2nd class, two bands others

**Gum** PVA

**Gutter pairs** Horizontal

### Plates and colours

**All values** W1 silver ● W1 grey ● W1 grey-black ● W1 black ● W1 phosphor

SIX STAMPS marking the 150th anniversary of the Crimean War will be available from Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and from Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh from 12 October. They feature soldiers who fought in the War, from photographs produced and sold under the title 'Crimean Heroes' in 1856. The Queen's silhouette and value/service indicator are positioned at top right, and the identity of the soldiers and the inscription THE CRIMEAN WAR 1854-1856 are printed at the foot. The stamps were designed by Atelier Works using photographs by Cundall and Howlett, courtesy of the Director, National Army Museum, London

The War was the first conflict to be comprehensively photographed. Roger Fenton, who travelled to the Crimea with the patronage of Prince Albert, is often regarded as the first war photographer. The 'Crimean Heroes' series, shown on the stamps, was photographed by Joseph Cundall and Robert Howlett of the Photographic Institution of London in June and July 1856. Most of the images were taken at Aldershot where returning troops congregated for a grand London parade. The Heroes series was for general sale, and copies were sent to Queen Victoria, who had earlier commissioned Cundall and Howlett to photograph disabled war veterans.

An exhibition 'A Most Desperate Undertaking' telling the story of the Crimean War from the soldiers' perspective is on at the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, London SW3 until October. The Museum is open daily 10.00-17.30, admission free. Enquiries: 020 7730 0717.

## Heroes' return to mark the war's anniversary



**FIRST DAY FACILITIES** Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 12 October, price 25p. Orders for serviced FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House Edinburgh or London SW3 must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Price £4.25 UK, £3.62 overseas.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark), or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB (London postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0427' (Tallents House), or 'FD0428' (London). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the London postmark.

Details of other handstamps for 12 October 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 containing the six stamps (price £3.80) and stamp cards (30p each) will be available from Tallents House, main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets. The pack was written by Alastair Massie of the National Army Museum, and designed by Atelier Works ●