

## British Army Uniforms

The first of a series



### Technical details

**Printer** Joh Enschedé  
Security Print

**Process** Litho

**Stamp size** 27 × 37mm

**Sheets** 30 and 60

**Perforation** 14

**Phosphor** Two bands

**Gum** PVA

**Gutter pairs** Horizontal

THE SECOND special issue of September features British Army uniforms. It comprises six stamps and a prestige stamp book. They go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 20 September. The stamp issue comprises of two se-tenant triptychs of three 1st class and three 78p values. The stamps feature illustrations of uniformed working soldiers by Graham Turner, representing significant stages in the development of the British Army's uniforms. The stamps were designed by Atelier Works, who also designed the supporting products.

British Army Uniforms is the first of a series of three new military themes; it will be followed by RAF Uniforms in 2008 (the 90th anniversary of the RAF) and Royal Navy Uniforms in 2009.

**FIRST DAY FACILITIES** Orders for serviced FDCs must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. 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 to the nearest Special Handstamp Centre (Boot, Holmrook, Cumbria postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0721' (Tallents House) or 'FD0722' (Boot). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Boot postmark.

For details of sponsored handstamps and addresses of the Handstamp Centres see the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a free sample copy, write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

**PHILATELIC PRODUCTS** An illustrated pack has been written by military historian Professor Richard Holmes (who also wrote the 2006 *Lest We Forget* pack). It features the uniform and equipment of the Napoleonic Rifleman and also carries illustrations of the many different uniform types worn by contemporary soldiers. Details of a medal cover will be published later.

**PRESTIGE STAMP BOOK** A book entitled *British Army Uniforms* contains four stamp panes: two with Uniforms stamps, one with 1st class country stamps, and one with 1p, 46p and 54p Machin definitives. The book, like the pack, was written by Professor Richard Holmes. Details to follow ●

# on military apparel over the centuries

## British Army Uniforms Prices

Set of stamps	£3.36
Presentation pack	£3.90
Prestige stamp book	£7.66
FDC envelope	£0.30
Serviced FDC stamps (UK orders)	£4.42
Serviced FDC stamps (overseas orders)	£3.77
Serviced FDC book pane (UK)	£3.93
Serviced FDC book pane (overseas)	£3.35
Stamp card set	£1.80
Joint cover (with British Forces PO)	£9.99



**The stamps** Left to right: an NCO, Royal Military Police 1994; a Tank Commander, 5th Royal Tank Regiment 1994; an observer, Royal Field Artillery 1917; a rifleman, 95th Rifles 1813; a grenadier, Royal Regiment of Foot of Ireland 1704; and a trooper in the Earl of Oxford's Horse Guards 1661. The Queen's silhouette and value/service indicator are positioned at top right on all six stamps.

**FDC and presentation pack** The FDC (below) contains a filler card showing contemporary rank insignia of the British Army. The pack (bottom) has been written by the popular military historian Professor Richard Holmes. Both cover and pack were designed by Atelier Works.



## ANATOMY OF A RIFLEMAN

Overseas campaigns in the 18th century, especially in North America, encouraged the development of light troops. This process had several results. A light company became part of every infantry battalion, its officers and men wearing uniform like that of their comrades in the 'battalion companies', with symbolic additions. Next, some battalions were styled 'light infantry' and given special

training, though they still wore red. The most distinctive form of light troops were riflemen, clad in green and armed with the Baker Rifle, a far more accurate weapon than the standard Brown Bess musket that was carried by most infantry. Riflemen were distinguished by more than characteristic uniform: they were encouraged to show individual initiative, and 'the thinking fighting riflemen' was their ideal.



**Left** Baker Rifle, far more accurate than a musket due to the rifled barrel—grooves running the length of the inside of the barrel to impart spin on the bullet. The sword bayonet was longer than a musket bayonet, to give the shorter rifle the same reach. The bayonet scabbard was hung from the waist belt, along with a bullet pouch. The cartridge box was carried on a shoulder belt, with a cord supporting the powder horn. The inside of the box developed over time, the later pattern containing 12 cartridges in a drilled wooden block and 40 more in paper packages. The small flask carried priming powder.

**Right** Rifle and light infantry regiments, in Britain and overseas, put the stymied hunting-horn at the heart of their iconography. This marks the fact that gamekeepers were often recruited as riflemen, and that bugles, not drums, were used to transmit orders. The Experimental Corps of Riflemen formed in 1800 became the 95th Regiment, later the Rifle Brigade.



**Above and below** Rifleman's personal equipment: top, his knapsack, in which he would carry his rations. Below that is his canteen, painted with the regimental number. The knapsack was worn on the rifleman's back and carried his personal belongings. It was made of water-proofed canvas and carried in separate leather slings. The smart rectangular appearance was

