The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

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Royal Mail

Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 56 No.10

Royal Mail marks the 75th anniversary of D-Day – a pivotal day in world history



The day the tide turned



D-DAY 75TH ANNIVERSARY STAMPS • POW MAIL FROM STALAGS • MACHIN COLOURS

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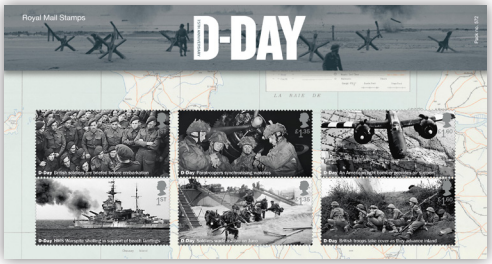
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Royal Mail

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Editor Tim Noble, Royal Mail, 185 Farringdon Road, Floor MP-03, London EC1A 1AA ● **Design and content creation** Ian Boardman, Adesso Creative Ltd ● Price £2.15 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **12 months' subscriptions** £20.95 UK and Europe; £26.95 rest of the world. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK or subscribe online at royalmail.com/bulletin ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.68 and storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95, are also available by post or online ● Copyright and editorial rights are reserved by Royal Mail Group Ltd ● All rights reserved ● Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of Royal Mail Group Ltd ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name and registered trade mark of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ ● Stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd.

Operation Overlord

What a difference a world war makes… back in the beginning at Dunkirk, British soldiers had been the retreating defeated, desperately awaiting evacuation in the sand dunes under the guns and bombs of the Luftwaffe. Four years later, the British and their Allies returned to the French coast, not as losers but as liberators – to free Europe and defeat Hitler. It was 6 June 1944, D-Day was dawning, and so began Operation Overlord, the largest amphibious assault in history. The Allies landed at five bloodily disputed beaches, and often failed to achieve their specific objectives, but overall D-Day was a huge success. By midnight more than 150,000 troops were in France. This was the turning of the tide.

The stamp set comprises: First Class – Briefing before embarkation; First Class – *HMS Warspite*; £1.35 – Synchronising watches; £1.35 – Soldiers wading ashore; £1.60 – American light bomber; £1.60 – Troops taking cover

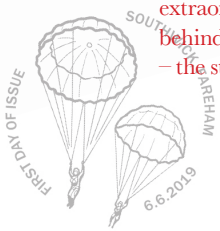




Royal Mail First Day Cover

Royal Mail Tallents House 21 South Gyle Crescent Edinburgh EH12 9PB

Royal Mail marks the 75th anniversary of the Normandy landings with the release of a major issue on 6 June, here we look at the extraordinary events behind the stamps – the story of D-Day.



D-Day – Stamp Specifications

Date of issue	6 June
Number of stamps	Six (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.35 2 x £1.60)
Design	Baxter and Bailey
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	60mm x 30mm
Number per sheet	30/60
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

Commandos briefed Grim-faced fighters from No.4 Commando, 1st Special Service Brigade, are briefed by their commanding officer before setting sail for Normandy to land at Sword beach. No wonder they look so serious: just hours later, the men of No.4, along with French commandos, were engaged in vicious street fighting in the town of Ouistreham to the east of Sword, which they had been tasked to capture. Resistance was stiff, with commandos hit by shells and mortars. The battle centred around a formidable bunker, built on the foundations of the town's demolished casino, but this was eventually seized by the French fighters. *First Class – Briefing before embarkation*



Warspite pounds the enemy The super-dreadnought *HMS Warspite* had the honour of being the first warship on D-Day to open fire on German ground formations and defences. She was more than equipped for the task, sporting no less than eight 15-inch guns. At 0530 hours on 6 June, as part of Bombardment Force D, she began pounding enemy positions, including the 155mm gun battery at Villerville, in support of the landings at Sword. *First Class – HMS Warspite*



The capture of Pegasus Bridge On this stamp British 6th Airborne Division prepare to fly into France to capture strategic bridges inland to blunt German reinforcement and resupply efforts. Their most extraordinary operation was the daring 'coup de main' by glider troops – 6th Airborne's Ox and Bucks Light Infantry – who seized two bridges across the River Orne and the Caen Canal. This was the first battle of D-Day, with Horsa gliders full of Ox and Bucks landing metres from the bridges at 12.20am on 6 June. Within ten minutes, they seized the canal crossing, which was renamed Pegasus Bridge after 6th Airborne's flying horse badge. *£1.35 – Synchronising watches*



Soldiers storm ashore Here British troops exit their landing craft on Juno beach, but this relatively calm image belies the reality of the infantry assaults on D-Day: many German emplacements survived initial Allied bombardment. Inside were vicious weapons waiting to cut them down, such as the MG 42 machine-gun that fired 1,500 rounds a minute. Landing craft keels could be torn open by iron 'Belgian gate' obstacles, and 'teller' mines tied to posts targeted armoured vehicles. *£1.35 – Soldiers wading ashore*



Air assault on Normandy This American A-20 Havoc light bomber was just one of the thousands of aircraft providing vital air cover for the Allied forces landing in Normandy. The RAF had started their day early, and by dawn on 6 June, 1,000 bombers had dropped more than 5,000 tons of bombs on German defences. Allied fighters maintained a protective 'air umbrella' over the landing zones, and were so successful that only two Luftwaffe planes were able to attack the beaches on D-Day. *£1.60 – American light bomber*



Troops take cover Soldiers of the East Yorkshire Regiment shelter from a shell burst as they advance in-country on 19 July. This stark image captures the challenge the Allies faced beyond the beaches: the enemy wasn't giving in easily, danger lurked everywhere, and Allied troops were ambushed by German infantry hidden in the thick hedgerows of Normandy's 'bocage' country. *£1.60 – Troops taking cover* ►



The longest day



First Class – Briefing before embarkation



£1.35 – Synchronising watches



First Class – HMS Warspite



£1.35 – Soldiers wading ashore

156,000
The total number of Allied troops landing in Normandy on D-Day

14,675
The number of missions flown by Allied aircraft on D-Day

11,590
Number of Allied aircraft supporting the Normandy beach assaults

6,939
Total number of ships taking part in D-Day

ALLIES' INNOVATIONS FOR D-DAY

Floating harbours To keep the troops supplied, the components of two 'Mulberry harbours' were towed to Normandy and assembled off the beachheads.

Landing craft Different types of landing craft were designed to take men and equipment ashore. The largest was the 'Landing Ship, Tank', which could carry up to 20 armoured vehicles.

Amphibious tank The Sherman DD tank's 'Duplex Drive' engine powered the tracks on land as well as propellers that allowed the vehicle to 'swim' from the landing craft to shore – this helped bring in armour quickly to support the infantry.

Obstacle destroyer The Sherman 'Crab' tank had a revolving chain flail that detonated mines and cut barbed wire ►





£1.60 – American light bomber

4,413

On D-Day, 4,413 Allied servicemen were killed, including 1,449 British



£1.60 – Troops taking cover

Acknowledgements:
briefing troops © IWM (B 5098);
synchronising watches © IWM (H 39070);
light bomber © Galerie Bilderwelt/Getty Images; HMS Warspite © IWM (A 23916);
wading ashore © IWM (B 5218);
taking cover © IWM (B 7683)

2,000,000

By the close of the Battle of Normandy in August 1944, the Allies had brought more than two million servicemen to France

‘We shall fight

Winston Churchill addressing the House of Commons 4 June 1940



Utah

The assault team 23,000 men from the American 4th Infantry Division.
Objective To secure the coastal roads. However, it would be a challenge to get troops off the beach, as the low-lying terrain behind the landing zone was flooded, with water levels controlled by German locks, and crossable only by four causeways. Paratroops from the US 101st Airborne Division were dropped inland to secure the causeways.
German defences Utah was thinly defended by infantry, since the Germans relied on flooded ground as a natural defence.
The outcome The Utah assaulters suffered the lightest losses of the day – only 197 men were killed or wounded; vitally the 101st took control of the four beach exits, and the 4th Infantry pushed more than 6km inland.



Omaha

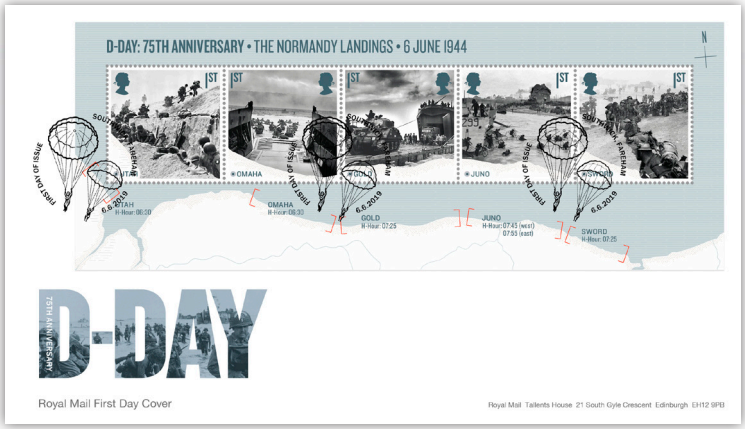
The assault team US 1st and 29th Divisions.
Objective To capture three coastal villages, Vierville, Colleville and Saint-Laurent, then drive south to dominate the Isigny-Bayeux road, and link up with the British from Gold.
German defences were hellishly formidable. The beach bristled with mines, and Omaha was bracketed by 30m-high cliffs, where the Wehrmacht waited in 13 ‘resistance nests’, as the Germans called them.
The outcome They named it ‘Bloody Omaha’ with good reason. Omaha was a killing zone, the Americans were pinned down, and the bodies piled up on the sand. Eventually, the assaulters scaled the cliffs and secured the beach, but with 2,400 casualties – the highest of all the beach landings. The Americans didn’t take the villages, but did land 34,000 troops.



Gold

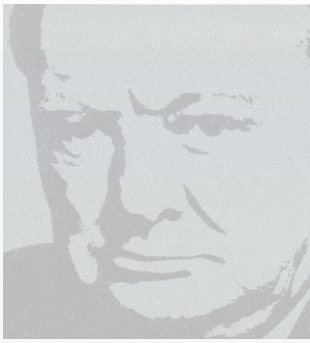
The assault team Around 25,000 men of the British 50th Division.
Objective To take Bayeux, capture a battery of four German 155mm guns, secure the Bayeux-Caen road, and join forces with US troops at Omaha beach, and the Canadians from Juno beach.
German defences Seasoned troops from the 352nd Division were among the defenders, many positioned in homes strung along the coast.
The outcome The British suffered 400 casualties, but they managed to link up with the Canadians, and in the event *HMS Ajax* destroyed the German battery. The British were 10km inland by the end of the day.

on the beaches ’



Royal Mail First Day Cover

Royal Mail Tallents House 21 South Gyle Crescent Edinburgh EH12 9PB



The Miniature Sheet First Day Cover with the alternative handstamp

The assault team Canadian 3rd Division.
Objective To secure the 10km-wide Juno landing zone, link up with British troops either side on Gold and Sword, and capture an airport near Caen.
German defences Juno was heavily defended by elements of the 716th Infantry Division, holed up in seafront buildings that gave them excellent fields of fire. Inland villages had been fortified.
The outcome The first wave of Canadians suffered terrible casualties as they picked their way through beach obstacles and were raked by German machine-guns trapping them in enfilade. But the Canadians ultimately joined the British from Gold.



Juno

The assault team British 3rd Division and British and French commandos.
Objective To capture the strategically important town of Caen; the commandos were to link up with airborne forces at the Orne River and Caen Canal bridges.
German defences Machine-guns and mortars in the sand dunes, with 88mm field-guns inland, as well as longer-range guns at Le Havre. Infantry were supported by the 98 tanks of the 21st Panzer Division.
The outcome German resistance was fierce, and a counter-attack by 21st Panzer resulted in its mechanised infantry units reaching the beach. However, the British saw off the German tanks, with many prisoners captured. The commandos achieved their objective, but Caen was not taken. ►



Sword





FD1912-TH



FD1912-PL



FD1912-NP



Coin Cover Handstamp

HEROES OF D-DAY

Company Sergeant-Major Stanley Hollis VC

CSM Hollis of the Green Howards won the only Victoria Cross of D-Day for two extraordinary assaults. As the Howards moved inland from Gold, they were fired on by a machine-gun in a pillbox. Hollis charged the position, throwing a grenade in, and firing in his Sten sub-machinegun; he killed two Germans and captured others. The Howards were later confronted by a German field-gun; Hollis charged, intending to knock out the gun with a PIAT anti-tank weapon, from a nearby house. But Hollis had his cheek shaved by a sniper's bullet, and the Germans shelled the house. Hollis moved his troops out, but discovering two men had been left behind, returned to draw German fire, which allowed the soldiers to escape.

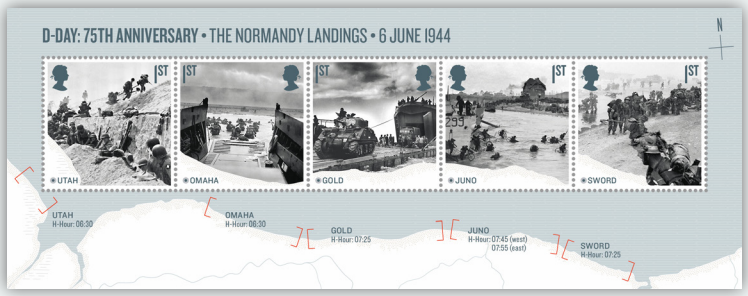
Squadron Leader Johnnie Houlton DFC

Credited with the first RAF kill of D-Day when he shot down a Junkers Ju88 bomber in his Spitfire, the New Zealand-born fighter ace earned a Distinguished Flying Cross for his exploits over Normandy and for previous missions. Houlton attacked the bomber near Omaha, a three-second burst destroying an engine and sending it plummeting into a road. In the following week, Houlton downed two Messerschmitt 109 fighters, the second of which he saw come apart in the air and fall into a cornfield.

Duke of Normandy the paratrooper pigeon

Duke of Normandy had been dropped behind German lines with 6th Airborne's 9th (Essex) Parachute Battalion, which was to attack the guns of the German Merville Battery to prevent them bombarding the Sword landings. The paras captured the battery, but had no working radios to inform Allied high command in England. The bird was therefore despatched across the Channel, braving bullets and shells to deliver the message. For his courage, Duke was awarded the Dickin Medal, known as the animals' Victoria Cross. ►

The Miniature Sheet encompasses five First Class stamps featuring the D-Day landings at Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword beaches



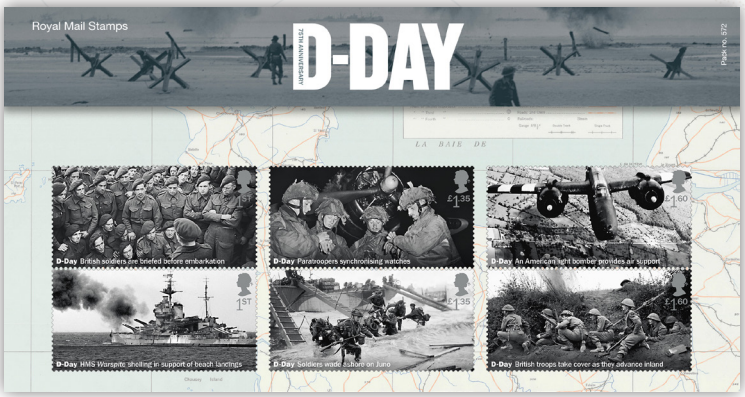
Acknowledgements: Utah © IWM (EA 25902); Omaha © Bettmann/Getty Images; Gold © Galerie Bilderwelt/Bridgeman Images; Juno © IWM (A 23938); Sword © IWM (B 5114)

GOLD
H-Hour: 07:25

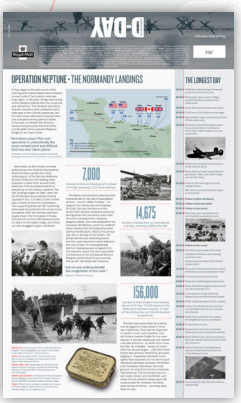
JUNO
H-Hour: 07:45 (west)
07:55 (east)

SWORD
H-Hour: 07:25

The Presentation Pack that houses the three se-tenant pairs of Special Stamps



Presentation Pack Outer



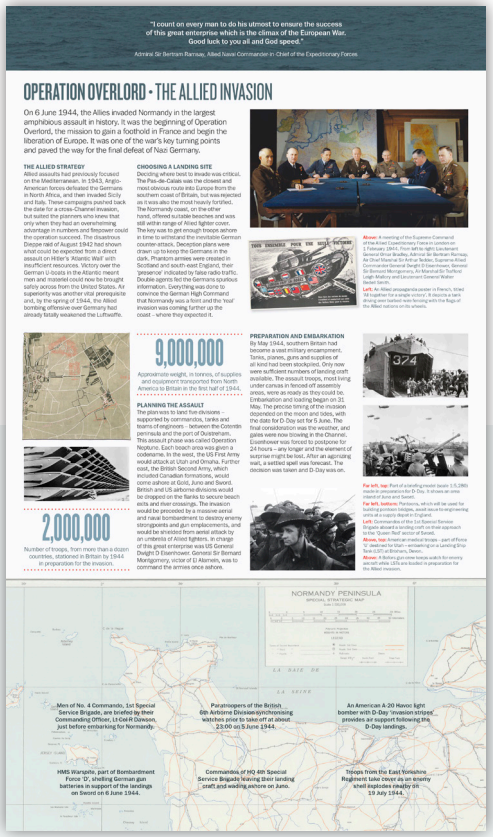
Victoria Cross



Distinguished Flying Cross



Presentation Pack Inner

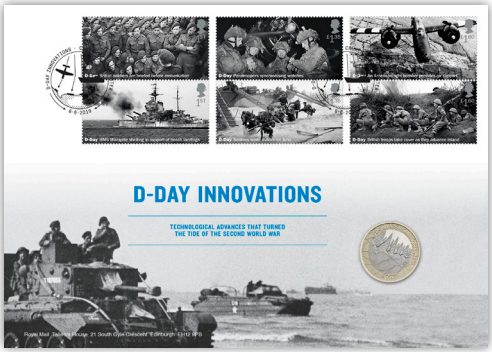


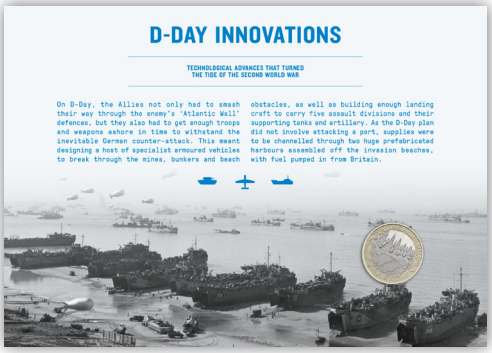
D-Day – Miniature Sheet Specifications

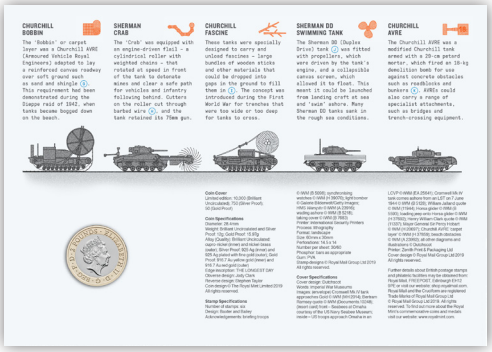
Date of issue	6 June
Number of stamps	Five (5 x 1st Class)
Design	Baxter and Bailey
Miniature Sheet size	192 mm x 74 mm
Stamp format	Portrait
Stamp size	35mm x 37mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

Brilliant Uncirculated Coin Cover Envelope, Insert Front and Insert Back. The Retail Stamp Book with 2 x First Class Special Stamps and 4 x First Class Machins

The tide has turned









SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force!

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944 ! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned ! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory !

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory !

Good Luck ! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.

D-day statement to soldiers, sailor, and airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force, 6/44, Collection DDE-EPRE: Eisenhower, Dwight D: Papers, Pre-Presidential, 1916-1952; Dwight D. Eisenhower Library; National Archives and Records Administration.

General Dwight D Eisenhower's Order of the Day (1944), with the promise that 'The tide has turned!' in the war against the Nazis – to encourage Allied soldiers taking part in the D-Day invasion

D-Day – Prices

Set of 6 Special Stamps	£7.30
Miniature Sheet	£3.50
Presentation Pack	£11.60
First Day Cover Stamps	£9.35
First Day Cover Miniature Sheet	£4.80
Stamp Souvenir	£9.35
Stamp Sheet Souvenir	£4.80
First Day Envelope	£0.30
Retail Stamp Book	£4.20
Postcards (12 in set)	£5.40
Framed Stamps	£29.99
BU £5 Coin Cover	£17.50
Silver £5 Coin Cover	£67.50
Gold £5 Coin Cover	£845

D-Day Quiz



1 At what time on 6 June did *HMS Warspite* begin attack?
a) 0400 hours
b) 0530 hours
c) 0630 hours





2 No 4 Commandos fought with French commandos in which town on D-Day?
a) Bayeux
b) Ouistreham
c) Carentan



3 What was the total number of ships that took part in D-Day?
a) 6,939
b) 6,393
c) 6,500



4 Name the largest type of landing craft used on D-Day
a) Landing Craft, Assault
b) Landing Barge
c) Landing Ship, Tank

5 After glider landings, Pegasus Bridge was seized within how many minutes?
a) 10 minutes b) 15 minutes c) 20 minutes





How to enter Please send your answers, with your contact address or phone number, marked 'D-Day Quiz', to: Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Or by email to tim.noble@royalmail.com.

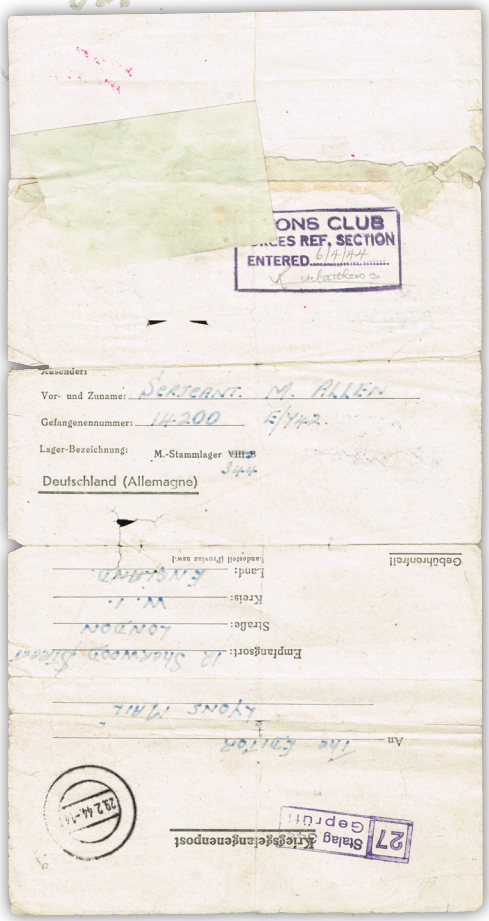
Prizes The first five correct entries drawn after the closing date win the D-Day Presentation Pack.
Closing Date 15 July 2019.

March solutions – The Da Vinci Quiz 1a 2b 3c 4c 5a 6b.
Winners Keith W Hatch, Maidenhead; Mr P Jeffrey, Teignmouth; Linda Sergeant, Boness; Mrs Patricia Katsoudas, Athens; Graham Derbyshire, Clitheroe.

Terms and conditions Promotions are open to any reader aged 18 or over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date stated. For prize draws where readers must answer a question, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent person after the closing date. Royal Mail's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. Entry implies acceptance of these rules. Prizes are subject to availability. The promoter reserves the right to a) substitute a prize of equal or greater value if circumstances so demand and b) to suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. The winners' names are available 28 days after closing date. To receive this please send an SAE to The Editor.



Interned but in touch



In WWII the Lamsdorf POW camp in Poland was one of Germany's largest internment camps for Allied servicemen. Its mark on history being firmly etched with its association with gruelling marches; for Allied troops captured in the Battle of France and marched east to Lamsdorf, and the trek back west with a multitude of other captives at the war's conclusion as the Red Army advanced. The Soviet Army reached the camp on 17 March 1945 but two months prior to this in January the Germans organised the camp's evacuation and marched prisoners westward. Ill-equipped and malnourished POWs had to brave perilous freezing conditions as they walked across Poland and Germany. The four month trek that took the lives of many was subsequently named 'The Long March', 'The Black March' or 'Death March'. However, many refrain from the latter in recognition of the fact that the term is more appropriately reserved for the scale of fatalities and callous brutality meted out to Jews marched from camps to execution. That said, many on the march succumbed to frostbite, pneumonia, diphtheria, pellagra and other diseases. ►

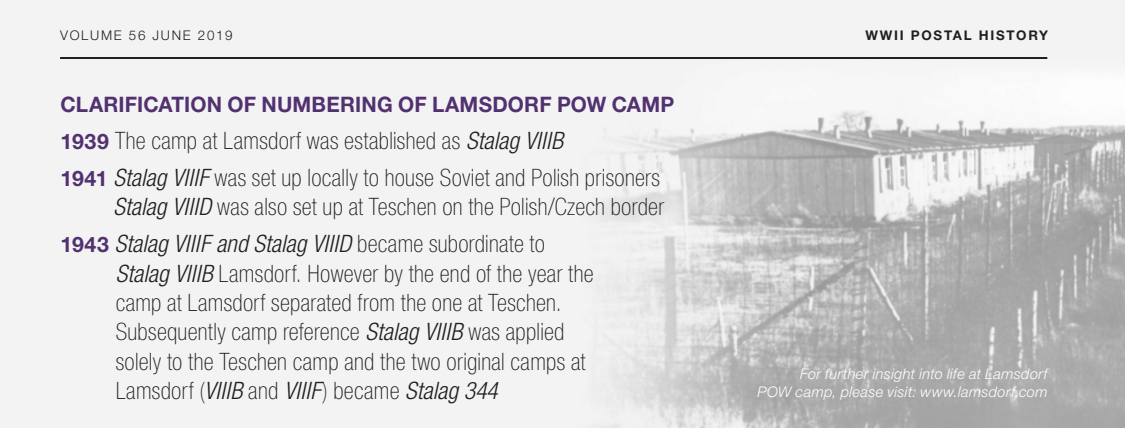
A letter from Sergeant Maurice Allen who served in the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) 1st Battalion. In 1940 the Battalion was part of 132nd Brigade that was transferred to the 44th (Home Counties) Division and sent to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force. In the same year the Battalion was evacuated from Dunkirk, however Allen was captured and spent the rest of the war interned in Poland at Lamsdorf Stalag VIIIB. His letter to 'The Editor / Lyons Mail' in London was written on 20 February 1944 and has the new camp number – 344 cachet. The postmark is dated 29.2.44 and an amendment to camp number is also made by manuscript

CLARIFICATION OF NUMBERING OF LAMSDORF POW CAMP

1939 The camp at Lamsdorf was established as *Stalag VIIIB*

1941 *Stalag VIIIF* was set up locally to house Soviet and Polish prisoners *Stalag VIIID* was also set up at Teschen on the Polish/Czech border

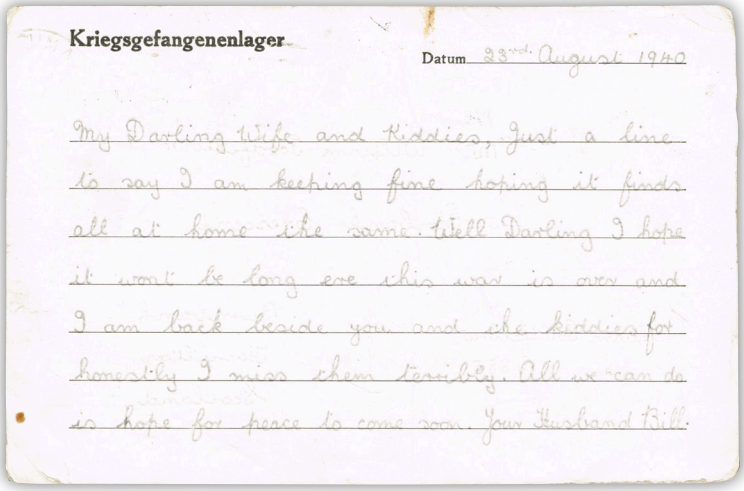
1943 *Stalag VIIIF and Stalag VIIID* became subordinate to *Stalag VIIIB* Lamsdorf. However by the end of the year the camp at Lamsdorf separated from the one at Teschen. Subsequently camp reference *Stalag VIIIB* was applied solely to the Teschen camp and the two original camps at Lamsdorf (*VIIIB* and *VIIIF*) became *Stalag 344*



For further insight into life at Lamsdorf POW camp, please visit: www.lamsdorf.com



A German POW card from Stalag VIIIB written on the 23 August 1940 to Hamilton, Lanarkshire, re-addressed to Kirklee, Glasgow. The card has a dumb postmark dated 2 September 1940 and a clear Stalag VIIIB cachet. Also a British passed censor P.W.1 cachet and a 19 DEC / 1940 Hamilton machine cancellation



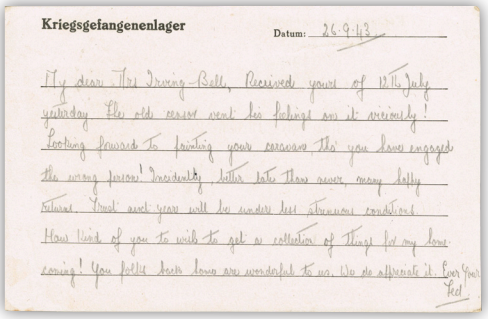
William Goodfellow served as a Private in the Gordon Highlanders 1st Battallion. In 1940 the Battalion was with the 51st (Highland) Infantry Division during the Battle of France when they were trapped and had to surrender at Saint-Valéry-en-Caux. Goodfellow was captured and marched to Stalag VIIIB in Poland where he was interned until the camps evacuation and 'The Long March', which he endured and survived. The letter written after his first trek east reassured his 'Darling Wife and Kiddies' that he was 'keeping fine' and hoping for an early end to the war, unfortunately that wasn't to be

In WWII the camp had initially housed Polish prisoners after the German September 1939 offensive. As the war progressed the confines were swelled with over 100,000 Allied servicemen. This wasn't the first time that the camp was home to British soldiers – the barracks were originally built for British and French troops captured in WWI. In fact the site was also the place of confinement of soldiers captured during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71.

Today The Central Prisoner of War Museum in Łambinowice (formerly Lamsdorf), Poland, houses objects and mementos that help to record the experiences of the POWs interned. The Lamsdorf camp, numbered Stalag VIIIB and later Stalag 344, proved to be a hub of POW transference activity throughout the Second World War. Here British postal correspondence helps to log these developments and the vicissitudes of British captives held in Germany and Poland throughout the war ●



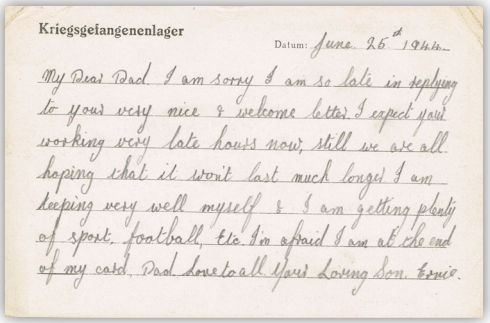
Edward Lees' card written 26 September 1943 addressed to Bristol has a different type of Stalag VIIIB cachet to that on Goodfellow's card. The dumb postmark has a clear date of dispatch on 22.10.43. Lees was a Sapper in 213 Army Field Company that in May 1940 was detached to 51st (Highland) Division and Arkforce during the Battle of France. The force's engineers



blew up the bridges over the River Bresle to slow the German advance, as well as fighting as infantry. The officer commanding 213th Field Company and part of one section (including Lees) were captured with the bulk of 51st Division, but the rest were evacuated from Le Havre in June in Operation Cycle. Lees served time in Stalag Trier Petrisberg before transference to Lamsdorf



This card has excellent Stalag XXID and British passed P.W.3263 censors. It's not known when Samuel Mellanby was captured in WWII but he spent the final months of his internment at Lamsdorf having been imprisoned at Stalag XXID in Posnan from where he wrote to his father on 25 June 1944. Whilst wishing an end to hostilities he



reassured his dad he was well and 'getting plenty of sport, football etc'. Mellanby was a Driver in the Royal Army Service Corps. The RASC was the unit responsible for keeping the British Army supplied with non-weaponry and ammunition provisions. He was reported as having survived the 'The Long March' at the end of the conflict


Kriegsgefangenenpost

Postkarte

PASSED P.205

15.12.44.-14

5265

An MR. C. H. FRETTINGHAM

Gebührenfrei!

Absender:

Vor- und Zuname: WOOLLATT Cl

Gefangenennummer: 31281

Lager-Bezeichnung: M.-Stammlager 344

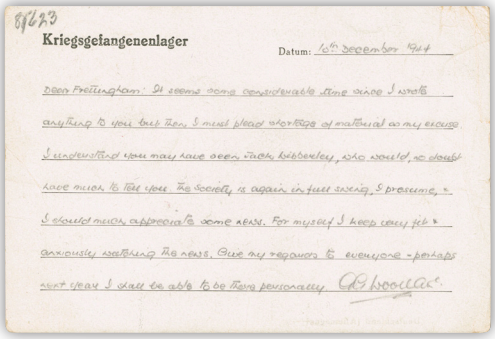
Deutschland (Allemagne)

Empfangsort: WEST BRIDGFORD NOTTINGHAM

Straße: TAVISTOCK ROAD

Land: ENGLAND

Landesteil (Provinz usw.


Kriegsgefangenenlager

Datum: 10th December 1944

Dear Frettingham. It seems some considerable time since I wrote anything to you but then, I must plead shortage of material as my excuse. I understand you may have seen Jack Ibberley, who would, no doubt, have much to tell you. The Society is again in full swing, I presume, & should much appreciate some news. For myself I keep very fit & anxiously awaiting the news. Give my regards to everyone - perhaps next year I shall be able to be there personally. CG Woollatt.

This card from Stalag 344 Lamsdorf to West Bridgeford, Nottingham was written on 10 December 1944. It has a dumb postmark dated 15.12.44., a Stalag 344 cachet and a British passed censor P.205. Lance Sergeant Woollatt served in the Royal Artillery – 68 Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment. He was captured by Rommel's Afrika Korps at Cyrenaica on the eastern coastal region of Libya. He was imprisoned in Italy at POW Camp number 52, Pian di Coreglia (Genova/Chiabari) prior to his internment at Lamsdorf







From top: it's washing day at Lamsdorf; time for a brew or a beer; the POWs staple (or may be an advert for Klim!)


Kriegsgefangenenpost

PASSED P.W.700

An Mrs. Mrs I. Freeman

54 Kimberley Avenue

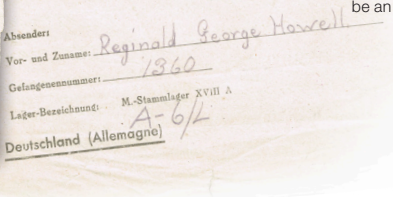
Geprüft Stalag XVIII A 19

Empfangsort: Nunhead

Straße: LONDON S.E.15

Kreis:

Land: ENGLAND


Absender:

Vor- und Zuname: Reginald George Howell

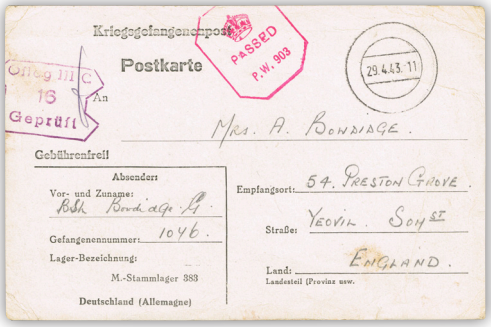
Gefangenennummer: 1360

Lager-Bezeichnung: M.-Stammlager XVIII A

A-6/4

Deutschland (Allemagne)

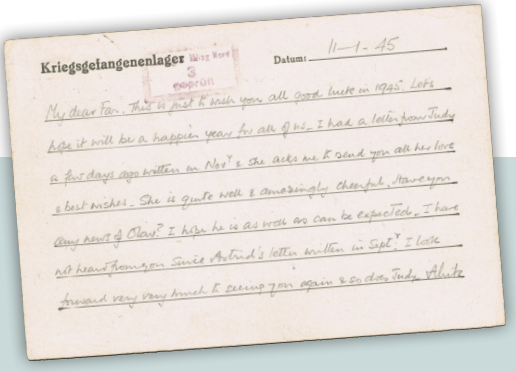
Reginald George Howell served as a Private in the Essex Regiment 1st Battalion. The regiment was deployed in Egypt in WWII before being shipped to Greece in the Spring of 1941. The campaign was aborted by the end of April after German forces had made rapid advancements having traversed Yugoslavia. The retreating British troops were rescued from the beaches of southern Greece, however thousands were captured including Howell who was then interned at Stalag XVIIIA, Wolfsberg Austria, until the war's conclusion. Howell's letter to family three years later in the July of 1943 expressed looking forward to the war's end of which he confidently wrote: 'I'm sure is not far off'



This card was sent by George Bowdidge who was held at Oflag IIIC (originally Hohenfels in Bavaria) addressed to Yeovil, Somerset. The card written on 19 April 1943 has a dumb postmark dated 29.4.43., a camp Gepruft (examined) censor and a British censor P.W.903. Bowdidge states that he is in good spirits and that he has postponed his studies until he returns. Bowdidge served as a War Substantive Battery Sergeant Major in the Royal Artillery, 23 Field Regiment. He was captured on 10 May 1940 in the opening phase of the Battle of France. After the war he was awarded the Gallantry Awards: Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Conditions for the award of this medal were twofold. Firstly the soldier needed to have 18 years of service, although this figure was originally higher at 21 years. In 1977 this was reduced to 15 years. The second prerequisite – the good conduct aspect of the medal was dependent on the man receiving a recommendation from their commanding officer, as well as their service record passing a detailed check. Minor offences such as having a dirty weapon or losing your ID card, even shortly after joining, could prevent the award of this medal fifteen years later. There are many highly decorated soldiers who despite their long service never qualified for this award

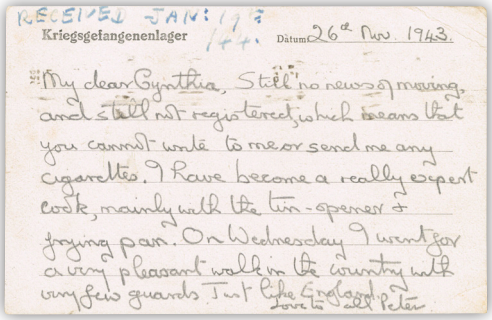


Harry Nelson Barker was a War Substantive Sergeant serving in the Royal Artillery, 65th Anti-Tank Regiment when he was captured in the Western Desert in June 1942. He was interned in Italy at PG 53 Urbisaglia Macerata (also listed as Sforza Costa) and was moved to Germany after the Allied invasion of Italy. He sent this card to The Royal Artillery Regimental Paymaster at Sidcup, Kent from Stalag IVB Muhlberg, Elbe, a coal mining area where many prisoners were illegally made to work with 25,052 other ranks and 1,310 officers (7,792 were British). The camp was liberated by the Red Army on 23 April 1945 and Barker was finally confirmed as no longer a POW in August 1945. The card written on 27 March 1944 has a dumb postmark dated 14.4.44. It also has a GB passed censor PW 5185 and RA Record and Pay Office, Field Branch cachets dated 15 May 1944



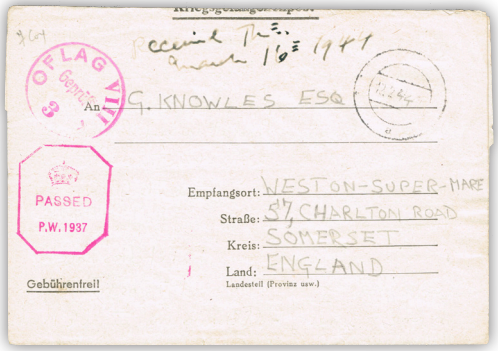


The British merchant marine sailor Lieutenant Commander Alexander Reid was held in Marlag und Milag Nord near Westertimke, Germany. His card to a friend in Norway was written on 11 January 1945. The dumb postmark is dated 26.1.45. Milag (Marineinterniertenlager, 'Marine internment camp'), the Merchant Navy camp, was 300 m (980 ft) to the east of Marlag. This also divided into two separate compounds for officers and men. The area in-between contained the guard house, a prison block, fuel bunker, and the camp hospital. Just outside of the gates of Milag was the Kommandantur ("Headquarters") and accommodation for the guards. In-between the camps there was a large shower block which was used by men of both camps. Each camp contained a number of single-storey wooden huts; 29 in Marlag and 36 in Milag. Most of them were barracks, while the others contained kitchens, dining rooms, washrooms, guard barracks, storehouses, a post office, and other administrative buildings. The barracks were divided into rooms each accommodating 14 to 18 men who slept in two and three-tiered bunks. There was a camp theatre in Marlag and the POWs performed concerts and plays. Each camp had its own sports field. Prisoners ran courses in languages and mathematics, as well as commercial, vocational, economic, and scientific subjects. Sports equipment and textbooks were obtained from the Red Cross and YMCA. POWs were allowed to send two letters and four postcards each month. There were no restrictions on the number of letters a POW could receive. A popular diversion was provided by the "Milag Jockey Club" which held race meetings every Saturday evening. The "horses" were wooden models that raced on a 36-foot (11 m) track, controlled by dice. The POW bet on the races, and money was raised and donated to the Red Cross. Under normal conditions the camps had a capacity of 5,300. According to official figures in April 1944 there were 4,268 men held there


RECEIVED JAN: 19 44.

Kriegsgefangenenlager Datum 26th Nov. 1943.

My dear Cynthia, Still no news of mine, and still not registered which means that you cannot write to me or send me any cigarettes. I have become a really expert cook, mainly with the tin-opener & frying pan. On Wednesday I went for a very pleasant walk in the country with only two guards. Just like England. Love to all Peter


OFLAG VII C

PASSED P.W. 1937

An G. KNOWLES ESQ

Empfangsort: WESTON-SUPER-MARE

Straße: 57 CHARLTON ROAD

Kreis: SOMERSET

Land: ENGLAND

Landesteil (Provinz usw.)

Gebührenfrei


Kriegsgefangenenpost

PASSED P.W. 1525

An L. KNOWLES ESQ.

57 CHARLTON ROAD,

Empfangsort: WESTON-SUPER-MARE,

Straße: SOMERSET

Kreis: ENGLAND.

Land:

Landesteil (Provinz usw.)

Gebührenfrei

Lieutenant G P Knowles served in the Royal Artillery, 2nd Indian Field Regiment and was taken captive in the Middle East in May 1942. Knowles got to experience life in a succession of internment camps until his release at the end of the war. He was initially transported to Italy where he was interned at PG 21 Chieti. He was then one of the British POWs who were told to stay put in their camps after the Allied invasion of Italy. The Germans reached the camp before the Allies and marshalled prisoners to PG 78 near Samona. Thereafter, Knowles was held captive in Germany's largest WWII POW camp – Stalag VIIA, near Moosburg, Bavaria, from where he wrote the above letter on 26 November 1943 (received on 19 January 1944). The camp was the central point in southern Germany for the distribution of Red Cross food parcels. It housed 76,248 POWs (7,975 British) plus 1,960 from Greece and Crete. Knowles also sent letter sheets from Oflag VIIIF Wahlstatt, Liegnitz, on 12 February 44 and another from Oflag 79, Waggum, near Braunschweig dated 19 February 45, both to Weston-super-Mare, Somerset. They show camp identification cachets, dated dumb postmarks and British censor cachets for P.W.1937 and P.W.1525



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The camp had a library with around 3,000 books. This may have resulted in Reid binge reading – given the insightful illustration by Phillip Dark. His work *Lieutenant Commander Alec Reid: 'Too Much Reading'*, is one of several engaging pieces of artwork that Dark produced whilst interned at Marlag and Milag POW camps. Paints, crayons and cartridge paper were obtained through a German doctor and parcels sent from his wife. In 1945 when Allied troops advanced, the Germans evacuated the camp and Dark's works were left behind. However POWs unfit to march safeguarded his works, and to Dark's joy and amazement, they were returned to him after the war, at the years end in December. Commensurate to the boring grey life of internment are the vibrant colours of many of his works that can be viewed online at abbottandholder-thelist.co.uk.



Stamp Scene Dane Garrod keeps you posted on events and activities in the philatelic world

1 June Chester Stamp Fair, Hoole United Reformed Church, Hoole Road, Chester CH2 3AU, 10am to 3.30pm, 7 dealers. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 01514 862610.

• Lichfield Stamp Fair, Boley Park Community Hall, Ryknild Street, Lichfield WS14 9XU, 10am to 4pm, 6 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, stamps@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.

• Leicester Stamp Fair, Derby Room, Holiday Inn, 129 St. Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 5LX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Suschitzky, 01162 350441.

• Rawreth Stamp Fair, Rawreth Parish Hall, Church Road, Rawreth SS11 8SH, 10am to 4pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Steve Search, 01702 323682, stevesearch@hotmail.com.

• Ruislip Stamp & Postcard Fair, Methodist Church Hall, Ickenham Road, Ruislip HA4 7BZ, 10am to 4.30pm. Enquiries: David Milton, 01895 637283, david.milton139@gmail.com.

• Charing Cross Market, 1 Embankment Place, Villiers Street, London WC2N 6RH, 7am to 3pm. Enquiries: Bridget Petticrew, 01252 842906, bridget@charingcrossmarket.com.

• Beckenham Stamp & Postcard Fair, Azelia Hall, Croydon Road, Beckenham BR3 4DA, 9am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 0208 395 9285.

• Redruth - Cornwall Postcard & Stamp Fair, Redruth Methodist Church, Wesley Street, Redruth TR15 2EG, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Doug Luxford, 01736 786284.

2 June Hopton Stamp Fair, Hopton Village Hall, Station Road, Hopton NR31 9BE, 9.30am to 2pm. Enquiries: Terry Allaker, 01502 563759.

• Oxford Stamp Fair, Botley W.I. Hall, North Hinksey Lane, off Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0LT, 10am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

• Taplow Stamp & Postcard Fair, Taplow & Hitcham W.I. Hall, Institute Road, Taplow SL6 0NS, 10am to 4.30pm. Enquiries: David Milton, 01895 637283, david.milton139@gmail.com.

7 June Strand Stamp Fair, The Galleon Suite, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, Russell Square, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm. Enquiries: Kate Puleston, 0208 946 4489.

8 June Norton (Teesside) Stamp Fair, Norton Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Norton TS20 2QQ, 9.30am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Mike Lewis, 07742 153669, mikeval9b@yahoo.co.uk.

• Middlewich Stamp Fair, Middlewich Community Centre, Civic Way, Middlewich CW10 9BX, 10am to 3.30pm, 7 dealers. Enquiries: Fred O'Reilly, 01226 765069.

• King's Lynn Stamp Fair, Gaywood Church Rooms, Gayton Road, Gaywood, King's Lynn PE30 4DZ, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Tony Hender, 01328 829318.

• Charing Cross Market, (as entry above).

DIARY DATES JUN 19

• Canterbury Postcard & Collectors' Fair, Westgate Hall, Westgate Road, Canterbury CT1 2BT, 10am to 3.30pm, 60 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Clive Baker, 01843 862707, info@clivebaker.co.uk.
• Bexhill Stamp Fair, St. Martha's Church Hall, Cooden Sea Road, Bexhill-on-Sea TN39 4SL, 10am to 4pm, 4 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.
9 June Chelmsford Stamp & Postcard Fair, Old Chelmsfordians Club, Roxwell Road, Chelmsford CM1 2LY, 9am to 3pm, 7 dealers, tea and coffee available. Enquiries: Steve Burnell, 01708 229763.
• Uckfield Stamp Fair, Ridgewood Village Hall, New Road, Ridgewood, Uckfield TN22 5TE, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.
12 June Ripley Stamp Club Fair, Village Hall, High Street, Ripley GU23 6AF, 12.30pm to 3.30pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Martin Mathewson, 01932 565814, martin.mathewson100@gmail.com.
• Plymouth Stamp Fair, St. Andrew's Abbey Hall, Catherine Street, Plymouth PL1 2AD, 10am to 2pm. Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 0117 962 3203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk.
13 June Clyst St. George Stamp & Postal History Fair, Clyst St. George Parish Hall, Woodbury Road, Exeter EX3 0RE, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 0117 962 3203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk
14-15 June Stafford Stamp Show, Ingestre Suite, Staffordshire County Showground, Weston Road, Stafford ST18 0BD, Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm, over 50 dealers. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, stamps@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.
• Preston Stamp Fair, Barton Village Hall, Garstang Road, Preston PR3 5AA, 10am to 4pm, 12 dealers, hot & cold refreshments available. Enquiries: John Roberts, 07943 174958, john.roberts591@virginmedia.com.
• Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 692)
• Orpington Stamp & Postcard Fair, Christ Lutheran Church, 227 Poverest Road, Petts Wood, Orpington BR5 1RD, 10am to 4pm, 20 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Keith Jupp, 01689 827086, kjstampspts@btconnect.com.
• Sittingbourne Stamp & Postcard Fair, Carmel Hall, Ufton Lane, Sittingbourne ME10 1JB, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.
• Dover Stamp & Collectors' Fair, Biggin Hall, Biggin Street, Dover CT16 1BD, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Jan Shepherd, 07729 967206, keithstamps61@aol.com.
• Brighton Stamp Fair, Church of the Good Shepherd Hall, 272 Dyke Road, Brighton BN1 5AE, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.
• Phoenix Fairs South West Stamp & Postcard Fair, Plymstock Community Centre, The Broadway, Plymstock, Plymouth PL9 7AW, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Rex Eccott, 01288 381489, eccott@gotadsl.co.uk.
16 June Slip End Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Markyate Road, Slip End, Luton LU1 4BU, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845 shawdunton@aol.com.
• Amersham Stamp & Postcard Fair, Jubilee Scout Hall, Rectory Hill, Amersham HP7 0BT, 10am to 4.30pm. Enquiries: David Milton, 01895 637283, david.milton139@gmail.com. ▶

Events and Meetings

• The Warwickshire Event Centre hosts MIDPEX 2019 on Saturday 6 July from 10am to 5pm. With 50+ dealers in stamps, postal history, postcards, albums, catalogues and accessories, as well as 40 specialist society displays, this premier event has free admission, a large free car park, and refreshments available. The address for the Event Centre is The Fosse, Fosse Way, near Leamington Spa CV31 1XN, and should you feel that driving there is not for you, then a train ride to Leamington Spa railway station and a free shuttle bus will bring you to the door. Enquiries: Steve Harrison, sharrison500@btinternet.com.

• The annual event known as SWINPEX will be from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 8 June at St. Joseph's R.C. College, Ocotal Way, Swindon SN3 3LR. A large number of dealers stands are a feature of this show, which is a stamp, postcard and postal history fair. There are specialist society meetings and displays, plenty of parking, and refreshments are available.

• The annual PHILANGLIA event takes place on Saturday 22 June this year, where over 25 dealers are expected to attend from 10am to 3.30pm in St. Ives, Cambridgeshire at Burgess Hall, Westwood Road. For road travellers, the postcode is PE27 6WU, and there is free admission and parking, as well as refreshments available. If you want to know more before the day, then call Tony Hender on 01328 829318.

• The June meeting of the National Philatelic Society is at the society's venue of the Postal Museum, 15-20 Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DA, where on Saturday 8 June, society President Michael Thompson will give his Presidential display from 2.45pm. Visitors and prospective new members are most welcome with tea, coffee and food being available. The Annual General Meeting (attendance for members only) will be followed at 2.45pm on Saturday 13 July with members' displays, where visitors are again welcome.

22 June Liverpool Stamp Fair, St. Columba Church Hall, Hillfoot Road, Hunts Cross, Liverpool L25 0NR, 10am to 3.30pm, 7 dealers. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 01514 862610.

• PHILANGLIA, Burgess Hall, Westwood Road, St. Ives, Cambridgeshire PE27 6WU, 10am to 3.30pm, 25 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Tony Hender, 01328 829318, info@arunstamps.co.uk.

• Kenilworth Stamp Fair, Kenilworth School, Leyes Lane, Kenilworth CV8 2DA, 10am to 4pm, 8 dealers. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, info@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.

• Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 692)

• Crawley Stamp Fair, St. Paul's Church Hall, Woodfield Road, Northgate, Crawley RH10 8ER, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

23 June Knowle Stamp Fair, Knowle Village Hall, St. Johns Close, Knowle, Solihull B93 0NH, 9.30am to 3pm, 10 dealers, tea, coffee and light refreshments available. Enquiries: Dave Burnett, 07765 792998.

• Sandy Stamp Fair, Scout Headquarters, Sunderland Road, Sandy SG19 1QY, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.

29 June Bilsborrow Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Bilsborrow PR3 0RE, 10am to 3.30pm, 12 dealers, food available all day. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 01514 862610.

• Great Barr Stamp Fair, Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 7NF, 10am to 4pm, 14 dealers, full refreshments available. Enquiries: Dave Burnett, 07765 792998.

• Ealing Stamp Fair, Ealing Parish Church, St. Mary's Road, Ealing W5 5EU, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

• Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 692)

• Eastbourne Stamp Fair with Postcards, St. Mary's Church Hall, Decoy Drive, Eastbourne BN22 9PP, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

• Shoreham Postcard & Collectors' Fair, Shoreham Centre, Pond Road, Shoreham-by-Sea BN43 5WU, 10am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Janette McCutcheon, 07810 564299, forestfairs.janette@gmail.com.

30 June Bracknell Stamp Fair, Red Cross Centre, 21 Martins Lane, Bracknell RG12 9EN, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

• Maidstone Stamp Fair, Royal British Legion Hall, Hall Road, Aylesford ME20 7NL, 10am to 4pm, 6 dealers. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

6 July Wigginton Stamp Fair, Wigginton Recreation Hall, Wigginton, York YO32 2LL, 9am to 2pm. Enquiries: Mike Lewis, 07742 153669, mikeval9b@yahoo.co.uk.

• Sutton Coldfield Stamp Fair, Trinity Centre, Church Hill, off Mill Street, Sutton Coldfield B72 1TF, 10am to 4pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, stamps@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.

• Leicester Stamp Fair, Derby Room, Holiday Inn, 129 St. Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 5LX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Suschitzky, 01162 350441.

• MIDPEX, The Warwickshire Event Centre, The Fosse, Fosse Way, near Leamington Spa CV31 1XN, 10am to 5pm, over 50 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Steve Harrison, sharrison500@btinternet.com.

• Rawreth Stamp Fair, Rawreth Parish Hall, Church Road, Rawreth SS11 8SH, 10am to 4pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Steve Search, 01702 323682, stevesearch@hotmail.com.
• Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 692)
• Cardiff Stamp, Postcard & Collectors' Fair, Cardiff City Hall, King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff CF10 3ND, 10am to 4pm, 40 dealers. Enquiries: Malcolm Harrington, 01792 415293, malcolm.harrington1@hotmail.co.uk.
• Beckenham Stamp & Postcard Fair, Azelia Hall, 258 Croydon Road, Beckenham BR3 4DA, 9am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 0208 395 9285.

7 July Milton Keynes Stamp Fair, The Irish Centre, Manor Fields, Watling Street, Fenny Stratford MK2 2HX, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.
• Oxford Stamp Fair, Botley W.I. Hall, North Hinksey Lane, off Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0LT, 10am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.
• Worthing Stamp & Postcard Fair, Heene Community Centre, 122 Heene Road, Worthing BN11 4PL, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.
• Newhaven Stamp & Postcard Fair, Denton & Mount Pleasant Social Centre, Denton Road, Newhaven BN9 0PX, 10am to 4pm, 7 dealers. Enquiries: Tony Trevis. 07966 151073.

10 July Cheltenham Stamp & Cover Fair, St. Andrew's United Reformed Church, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham GL50 1SP, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 01179 623203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk.
• Ripley Stamp Club Fair, Village Hall, High Street, Ripley GU23 6AF, 12.30pm to 3.30pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Martin Mathewson, 01932 565814, martin.mathewson100@gmail.com.

12 July Strand Stamp Fair, The Galleon Suite, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, Russell Square, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm. Enquiries: Kate Puleston, 0208 946 4489.

13 July Norton (Teesside) Stamp Fair, Norton Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Norton TS20 2QQ, 9.30am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Mike Lewis, 07742 153669, mikeval9b@yahoo.co.uk.
• North Wales Stamp & Postcard Fair, Ysgol Eirias, Eirias Road, Colwyn Bay LL29 7SP, 9.30am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Steve Chapman, 01745 826434, northwalesstampfairs@gmail.com.
• Northampton Stamp Fair, The Abbey Centre, East Hunsbury NN4 0RZ, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.
• Telford Stamp & Card Fair, Belmont Community Hall, Tan Bank, Wellington, Telford TF1 1LT, 10am to 3pm, 15 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Bob Pilkington, 01299 211737, sbpilkington02@outlook.com and Richard Camp, 01952 405458, mail@richardcamp.co.uk.
• Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 692)
• Chichester Stamp & Postcard Fair, Donnington Parish Hall, Stockbridge Road, Chichester PO19 8QR, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175 •

• The Saturday 22 June meeting of the Great Britain Philatelic Society will not be at Devonshire Place, as originally advised in the society's 2018-19 programme guide, due to the move of the Royal Philatelic Society London. Instead, members will assemble at The Dorchester Hotel, 53 Park Lane, Mayfair, for the 11am presentation of the President's Guest, John Horsey FRPSL, on the '£5 Orange', this being the well-known large format GB Victorian stamp. Visitors are most welcome to attend.

Image: Stanley Gibbons

Machin colours

One of the attractive features of the Machin series is the wide range of colours that have been used, which makes for a varied display. Some denominations have appeared in two or three different basic hues, due to values being withdrawn when no longer needed, and then reintroduced in a new colour when rate changes brought them back into play. This sometimes gives the impression that colours are picked by opening a Pantone catalogue at a random page, but in fact they have been chosen with care for both aesthetic and operational reasons… well, most of the time, anyway.

Many features of Machins have seen regular changes over the half-century of their existence, with the reasons varying over time, and this can make for a complicated story in which it's easy to get lost among the details. Colour palettes are certainly one such, so this piece will try to give a general overview of the ones used for the small format stamps, together with examples that may whet your appetite for investigating the more specialised aspects.

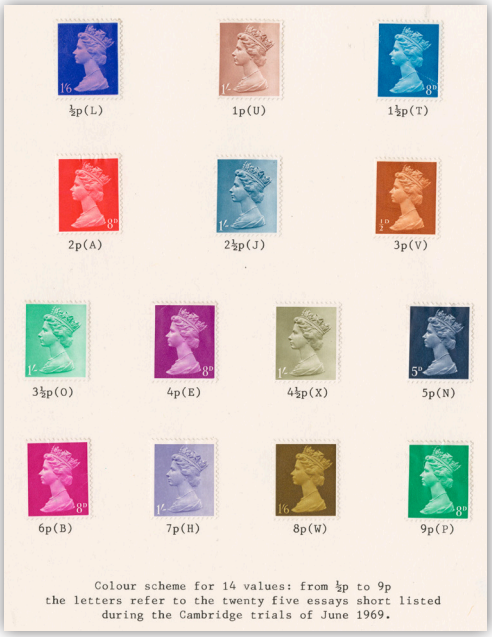


Fig 1: The 14 colours selected for non-confusability

Image: The Postal Museum

The first article in this series looked at the original pre-decimal stamps and highlighted some of the teething problems with the choice of colours. With decimalisation rapidly approaching and the consequent need for a new set of stamps, the Post Office took a detailed look at the whole question of colour. There were several factors involved, which tended to pull in different directions. Firstly, there was 'confusability': could people easily tell the stamps apart, even in poor lighting? Secondly, the way they interacted with sorting machinery had to be taken into account. Finally, there was the purely artistic consideration of whether they simply looked good.

A Comprehensive Colour Trial Process for the Original Decimal Set At the request of Don Beaumont of the Marketing and Printing Section of the Post Office, tests were conducted by the Applied Psychology Unit of the Medical Research Council at Cambridge University[1]. Pairs of stamps in a wide range of colours were briefly shown to volunteers, who were asked to say whether they thought them the same or different, and how confident they felt on a five-point scale from 'certain' to 'guessing'. This resulted in a set of 14 candidate colours (Fig 1).

Arnold Machin was not impressed by the aesthetic quality of the selection and offered his own suggested set, and one of the researchers, a Mr Brown, proposed a set based on a theory of memory retention (Fig 2). Machin's set kept only five of the original 14 colours and Brown's eight, although they

1 See *Cambridge University Machin Colour Trials of 1969* by Tony Walker in the *GBPS GB Journal, vol.48, nos.3-5.*

did agree on five of the replacement colours. Neither set did as well on the confusability metric. Examples of stamps from these trials have subsequently come onto the market. Nonethelesss, recognition by human beings was not the only criterion that had to be considered – recognition by machine was increasingly important. It had initially been assumed that a phosphor signal would not be affected by the underlying stamp, but that had proved optimistic. With the apparatus in use at the time the ideal was to have 'large areas of white', which was practical for commemoratives but not for the Machins. Second best was 'very pale colours' as some deep tones had caused problems for



Image: Tony Walker

Fig 2: The Machin and Brown palettes

the sorting machinery. Artistically, the 3D effect of the sculptured Queen's head had also been partly lost in the original dark background stamps, which had required a new portrait negative.

However, the report on the Cambridge tests noted: 'As it was impossible to obtain 14 different acceptable hues for the lower-value range of decimal stamps, and because twin-hued stamps increased confusability, brightness and saturation [depth of colour] had to be used as cues for identification.' It concluded drily: 'It is probably impossible to design a range of stamps of this size which is both maximally pleasing aesthetically, and minimally confusing.' Beaumont's ▶

Fig 3: The issued decimal set of 1971



Fig 4: Examples of issued stamps in Matthews palette



Image: Steve McGill

task was to balance all these competing considerations and recommend a workable set, for which 12 values were eventually needed. Only five of the original 14 recognisably made it through to his final choice, together with some from the Machin and Brown sets, and two colours (the pale magenta 2½p, and the odd choice of charcoal grey for the 1½p) that were in none of them!

There was little overlap with the colours of the pre-decimal stamps, which would continue to be valid for the next year. The 5p and 9p stamps were however very similar to their old currency equivalents, the 1s and 1s 9d (the latter was not an exact value match, but both paid the Zone C airmail

rate). Although red such as used for the 4d was rated top of the charts for non-confusability in the Cambridge tests, it was not used for any of the 1971 range. The first similarly-hued decimal stamp was the 8p of 1973.

The 'Jeffery Matthews' Palette General Royal Mail policy for new Machins over the years has been to use colours that are clearly different from those of recently withdrawn values, in order to avoid confusion. However, the high inflation of the 1970s and early 1980s meant regular increases in postal rates, and the number of stamps and colours needed increased rapidly, in a rather ad hoc manner. In 1984, the Post Office asked Jeffery Matthews MBE FSAID to carry out a review of the colours used. His brief included making the Queen's head more prominent, which meant that the gradated and pale backgrounds used in many of the stamps up to that point were no longer suitable. Matthews produced a batch of 16 brighter and stronger colours, and a further batch of 16 in 1988. Two of these were dropped to give a final total of 30, although four more were subsequently required (Fig 4).

The 'Jubilee' Palette From 1995, some stamps were printed with iridescent overprints for security reasons. 2011 saw the introduction of the current 'ROYAL MAIL' wavy line overprint on NVIs and higher values, and in 2012 this was extended to all definitives. Unfortunately, this was not without hitches. Fig 5 shows an early example, and the 2012 overprints caused phosphor readability problems when used with some colours in the Matthews palette. Replacement colours had to be formulated – the first of these was a 'diamond blue', used for the 1st class NVIs issued in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year, and hence the new colours have been dubbed the 'Jubilee palette' by Royal Mail (Fig 6). At present, a mixture of colours from the two palettes are in use, and although some Jubilee colours have been repeated, new ones are still being added – for example, this year's £3.60 stamps are in a deep orange not previously used. ►

Fig 5: in the transition from intaglio to photogravure high values in 2003 the existing colours were retained, except for the £5 – its colour was apparently affected by the overprint, and a grey-blue ink was used instead. The (unissued) gravure printing in brown is far darker than it should be (14 examples known)



Image: Scott Kibby



Fig 6: Royal Mail's Jubilee palette



Fig 7: the CDS portions of machine cancellations used in the 'transposed' position (slogan to left away from the stamp, datestamp to right), in green on the 1991 second-class 18p light green, red on the 1993 first-class 25p salmon-pink, and blue on the light blue 2nd-class NVI

Postmarking Considerations Very dark colours make postmarks hard to read, which can sometimes be important – one of the complaints about the original sepia 4d came from football pools companies, which couldn't tell if a winning entry had been postmarked before or after the results were known. Such colours have generally been avoided, although the lesson has periodically been forgotten! The 1st class NVI booklet stamps of 1989 were printed in black in a nod to the upcoming Penny Black sesquicentenary, but just as in Queen Victoria's day the colour was changed to red within a year. In the early 1990s some other stamps had this problem – at the time slogan postmarks were available for commercial advertising, and some users requested coloured inks. Fig 7 shows the rather less than clear results when these matched current stamps.

Colour Matching Beginning from the 1980s, Machin contracts have been given to several printers, meaning that Royal Mail have more options for supplies of stamps. As their specification called for strict adherence to the Matthews palette, all the printers were supplied with sheets of stamps for each colour to act as a colour standard. Sample sheets were taken from a print run and compared against them under defined light conditions, using specially designed apparatus. These testing stamps were printed by De La Rue, and look exactly the same as normal issues except that the value is shown as '00' (Fig 8). A number of them have come onto the philatelic market in recent years. The most recent development is to use the standard Pantone formulae directly – the first example being the red used for the first-class NVI stamps, amended in October 2016 to match the general 'Royal Mail Red' branding (a slightly darker and less orangey colour than before). There have, of course, also been accidental variations of colour. While there were some outright errors (see the article in the January *Bulletin*) generally the colour consistency of the photogravure printings was good. The decision to have some stamps printed in lithography in the 1980s, however, changed this – there was much greater potential colour variation with this process. An example that drew much comment at the time was the 20p dull purple of 1986, noted as varying considerably from light to dark. Modern printings have been very consistent.



Fig 8: a selection of the '00' testing stamps, printed by De La Rue. A number have come onto the philatelic market in recent years

Image: Scott Kibby

Naming the Colours This has proved to be trickier than you might expect! The official Royal Mail names are generally usable, but there are snags – a number of them have been used more than once for colours that are



visibly different. For example, the 1975 8½p, 1980 12p and 1984 22p were all designated as 'yellowish green' – the first two are similar, but the 22p is a much darker colour. A particularly egregious case was the 1982 5p and 1983 3½p, on sale at the same time and so (correctly) clearly different colours. Unfortunately both were officially referred to as 'light reddish brown'.

The potential confusion is not lessened by the way the stamps are catalogued. The specialised Deegam[2] listing generally uses the Royal Mail names; in cases where these could cause confusion, alternative names are drawn from the Methuen colour catalogue. The Stanley Gibbons catalogues, however, have a tendency to apply their own names, apparently based on their general colour guide. So for example both Royal Mail and Deegam generally concur in using the names 'light green', 'salmon-pink', and 'light blue' for the 18p, 25p, and NVI 2nd stamps shown above under 'Postmarking'. In the SG listing these are 'bright green', 'rose-red', and 'bright blue'. Sometimes a single stamp can have three colour names – the 1971 6p shown above was also described as 'light green' by Royal Mail, but is clearly different to the 18p stamp, in a Matthews palette colour given the same name. Deegam refers to this as 'pastel green', SG as 'light emerald'. Finally, SG's use of 'bright blue' rather than 'light blue' for the NVIs is understandable, as Royal Mail have used both names for them – as well as for two 15p values issued in 1989-90. All three appeared in one pane in the 1990 London Life prestige booklet, printed from the same cylinder! So when writing up your Machin collection, just pick the one that seems best…



Fig 9

2 Douglas Myall's VERY comprehensive listing of Machins, together with a large number of reports on developments, can still be obtained via www.deegam.com.

*By Maurice Buxton a longterm collector, and webmaster for the Great Britain Philatelic Society – **www.gbps.org.uk***

Queen Victoria
Bicentenary Special Stamps



1890 Queen Victoria in her later years – *First Class*
Portrait of Victoria wearing the Small Crown of 1870, the Royal Family Order and the star and ribbon of the Garter



1878 Queen Victoria and Benjamin Disraeli – *First Class*
The painting '*Peace with Honour*' – Queen Victoria with Benjamin Disraeli following the signing of the Berlin Treaty



1876 Queen Victoria with servant, John Brown – *£1.35*
Painting by Charles Burton Barber of the queen with her Scottish ghillie, a gift presented to him on his 50th birthday



1859 Queen Victoria wearing her Robes of State – *£1.35*
Portrait by Franz Xaver Winterhalter. The queen is wearing the State Diadem, the crown depicted on the Penny Black



1840 Marriage of Victoria and Albert – *£1.60*
A painting by Sir George Hayter. The ceremony took place on the 10 February 1840 in the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace



1830 Princess Victoria aged 11 – *£1.60*
A painting by Richard Westall, Victoria's drawing master. Here he depicts his young pupil sketching from nature

Model Lodge, Kennington – *First Class*
The 'model house for families' was built for the Great Exhibition of 1851 and later moved to Kennington. It now houses the charity 'Trees for Cities'



Balmoral Castle, Scotland – *First Class*
The castle has been the Scottish home of the Royal Family since it was purchased for Queen Victoria by Prince Albert in 1852



The New Crystal Palace, Sydenham – *£1.55*
Towards the end of WWI, the palace re-opened as the first Imperial War Museum. Sadly in November 1936 the building was destroyed by fire



The Royal Albert Hall, London – *£1.55*
Since the hall's opening by Queen Victoria in 1871, it has been the venue for some of the most notable events in British culture



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE · EAST COWES

British Forces Philatelic Service
Fundraising for Forces



50th Anniversary of the Harrier Aircraft

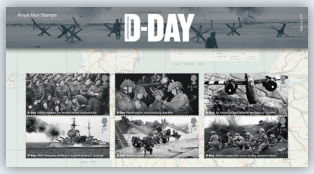
To commemorate this fantastic aircraft's entry into service and its achievements, BFPS published a commemorative cover that was issued on 2 May 2019. This cover bears images of the first and last variants of the aircraft in service with the British Military (Airfix images were kindly supplied by Hornby Hobbies Ltd). A First Class stamp is cancelled by the unique BFPS 3222 special handstamp, the centre of which displays a striking silhouette of the Harrier Jump-Jet. Besides the standard unsigned version there will be a numbered limited edition of 50 covers signed by former RAF and Royal Navy pilot David Morgan who flew Harriers during the Falklands War. These covers have an A4 information insert and both are presented in a protective cellophane slip. They cost £7.50 and £15 respectively for the standard and signed versions.

Also currently available is our D-Day anniversary cover featuring an image of the proposed British Normandy Memorial to be built overlooking Gold Beach. The stamp is from the Royal Mail issue and the profits from the cover will go to the British Normandy Memorial Trust fund. For more information visit: www.normandymemorialtrust.org. All BFPS covers can be ordered online at www.bfps.org.uk/shop or alternatively can be purchased by post by sending a cheque payable to 'BFPS CIC', to BFPS, The Old Post Office, Links Place, Elie, LEVEN, KY9 1AX ●



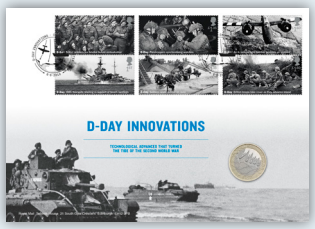
The Forces Philatelic Bureau, operated by BFPS, designs and produces special handstamps and commemorative covers to mark British State and Armed Forces events. They are unique and specific to the occasion. Special handstamps carry the British Forces Postal Service number obtainable only from the Bureau

New Issues and Withdrawals



6 June

Issue D-Day: Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.35, 2 x £1.60 – 3 vertical se-tenant pairs). Miniature Sheet (5 x 1st Class). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir. Postcards (12 in set). First Day Cover. First Day Cover Miniature Sheet. First Day Cover Envelope. Stamp Book (4 x 1st Class Machin definitives, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps). BU Coin Cover. Silver Coin Cover. Gold Coin Cover. Framed Stamps.



14 June

Withdrawal Marvel: Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir.



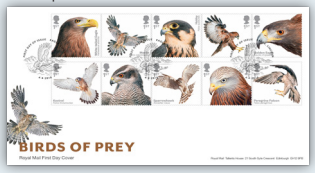
26 June

Withdrawal Dad's Army: Stamps (2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.45, 2 x £1.55 – 4 horizontal se-tenant pairs). Stamp Book (4 x 1st Class Machin definitives, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps). Collector Sheet (10 x 1st Class Dad's Army Stamps).



4 July

Withdrawal Birds of Prey: Stamp Souvenir.



9 July

Issue Curious Customs: Stamps (2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55, 2 x £1.60 – 4 horizontal se-tenant pairs). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Postcards (8 in set). First Day Cover. First Day Cover Envelope.

31 July

Withdrawal Hampton Court Palace: Stamps (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.55). Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.45). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir. Retail Stamp Book. Press Sheet. Postcards (11 in set).

You can order any of the Royal Mail stamp products listed above, by visiting **www.royalmail.com/stamps** or from Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK. (Overseas subscribers will need to use a stamp.) Or use the Royal Mail telephone order service on 03457 641 641 (08.30 – 17.00 Monday to Friday). For overseas customers: +44 3457 641 641. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15.

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