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Ice Maidens Ski across Antarctica

The Ice Maiden team, all women soldiers serving in the British Army or Army Reserve, have made history by becoming the first all-female team to use muscle power alone to ski coast-to-coast across Antarctica. Unsupported, and with only two resupply points along the route, they carried all the supplies and equipment needed to survive for up to 600km at a time. The team took 61 days on the ice and finally crossed the finish line on the 19 Jan 2018.

BFPS has produced a commemorative cover to mark this historic crossing to be released on the 1 February 2018. To help raise money for Military charities the Ice Maiden Team carried some of the covers on the expedition.

The cover bears an image of the expedition with its route marked in red. A special handstamp, BFPS 3213 featuring a silhouette of an "Ice Maiden", will be used to cancel a personalised Smiler[®] stamp which bears an image of the Ice Maiden team at the South Pole.

There will be two versions issued:

- Standard version costing £7.50 each.
- Limited special edition '*carried on the expedition*' costing £20 each.

Both of these most sought after covers may be ordered from the BFPS online shop (www.bfps.org.uk/shop).

Also on offer will be a few sheets of the personalised Smiler[®] stamps used on the cover, priced at £38 each.

Covers and stamp sheets may also be ordered by post by sending a cheque (payable to 'BFPS CIC') to BFPS The Old Post Office Links Place Elie LEVEN KY9 1AX.

Ends

An image of the commemorative cover is attached.

About BFPS

The British Forces Philatelic Service (BFPS) fundraises for Service charities through philately and is a not-for-profit organisation run by a small team of volunteers, all of whom are Veterans. BFPS was specially set-up to ensure that the Forces Philatelic Bureau survives and thrives. BFPS is a registered Community Interest Company (CIC) working closely with the British Forces Post Office (BFPO).

The BFPO has had responsibility for all aspects of military mail, including philatelic matters, since its formation in 1882. More recently, as part of a Strategic Defence and Security Review, BFPO was reorganised and as a result of this the Forces Philatelic Bureau was transferred to BFPS, which was specially set up, as the sole authorised body empowered to deal with all matters concerning the Forces Philatelic Bureau. BFPS is officially licensed by the UK MOD.

BFPS is managed by two retired career Army officers, each of whom has had extensive experience working within the BFPO in general and the Forces Philatelic Bureau in particular. The third member of the management team is an ex Royal Engineer Warrant Officer who has a passion for Forces philately. All are volunteers and are dedicated to keeping the Forces Philatelic Bureau alive and are working hard to ensure the future of this unique area of BFPO operations is secure and flourishes.

Links:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/british-forces-post-office-services>

<http://www.royalmail.com/personal/stamps-collectibles-gifts>

<http://www.postalmuseum.org/>

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BFPS fundraises for Service charities through philately and is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company (CIC) limited by guarantee. Registered No 417647.

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