



Media Release 16 November 2020

## **NAAFI - 100 Years of Service to the Services**

The Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes (NAAFI) was established by the British Government in December 1920 when the Expeditionary Force Canteens (EFC) and the Navy and Army Canteen Board (NACB) were combined to run the recreational establishments needed by the Armed Forces, and to sell goods to servicemen and their families. Since then NAAFI has supported the British Forces at home and abroad, including the conflicts in The Falklands, the two Gulf Wars and Afghanistan amongst many others.

In December this year NAAFI celebrates its one hundredth birthday and to mark this BFPS has produced a commemorative cover to be issued on the 9th December 2020.

This centenary cover will feature the NAAFI centenary logo with a Royal Mail bespoke Personal Smiler<sup>®</sup> stamp bearing the current NAAFI corporate logo. The stamp will be cancelled by a BFPS special handstamp carrying the unique BFPS number 3232.

The standard version of the cover will cost just £9, whilst the limited edition signed by the Managing Director of NAAFI will be £18.

All covers include an information insert telling the story of the organisation and will be presented in a protective cellophane sleeve making a very collectable souvenir of NAAFI's Centenary.

The covers can be ordered from the BFPS online shop ([www.bfps.org.uk](http://www.bfps.org.uk)) or 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, both 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 a retired career Army officer, who has had extensive experience working within the BFPO in general and the Forces Philatelic Bureau in particular. The second member of the management team is an ex Royal Engineer Warrant Officer who has a passion for Forces philately. Both 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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