





The 1941 cotton reel appeal

For more than 100 years, community spirit has been at the heart of Girlguiding. The cotton reel appeal of 1941 was no exception. In 1941, the RAF gave us a mysterious mission. To collect 11,000 cotton reels. Within a week we'd exceeded expectations, collecting over 42,000 for the Royal Corps of Signals as well as further batches for the RAF. We sure know how to go above and beyond and achieve brilliant things when we work together!

Many years later, we discovered that the reels were used by the intelligence department at MI9 to send secret messages to soldiers on the front lines. From microfilm, to maps, and even German currency.



50% of the profits from the sale of this product will be paid to the Royal British Legion Trading Limited which gives its taxable profits to The Royal British Legion (Charity no. 219279) and Poppyscotland (Scottish Charity no. SC014096). The other 50% of profits will go to Girlguiding (Charity no. 306016)