

60th ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMALGAMATION – 7th FEBRUARY 2021

Many of you would have seen my post in December about the commemorative cover that the British Philatelic Service (BFPS) are producing to mark the 60th anniversary of the formation of the Queen's Own Highlanders. Some might even have visited their website (bfps.org.uk) to find out the names of the two veterans of the amalgamation who would be signing the 79 limited editions of the cover.

**Lt Col (Ret'd) Graham Meacher,
Director of British Forces Philatelic
Service (BFPS), stamping the
commemorative covers to celebrate
the 60th Anniversary of the formation
of the Queen's Own Highlanders**



We can now reveal that the Seaforth Highlander is none other than Dougie Shepherd and the Cameron Highlander is Charlie Millar. Both have been in and around the regiment for quite a few years since amalgamation and are well known by many generations of Queen's Own Highlanders.

Dougie Shepherd (82) joined the Seaforth Highlanders in 1956 when he was eighteen and was

called up for National Service. He joined 1 SEAFORTH in Gibraltar and then went to Munster where he was demobbed, before deciding to sign on again a few years later. Dougie was a full Corporal at the time of the amalgamation and went on to complete thirty three years in uniform, retiring in the rank of Major.

Dougie looks back on the amalgamation with fondness saying "both regiments gelled immediately under an outstanding Commanding Officer, Lt Col (Big Dan) McHardy. A three year posting to Singapore was a superb Amalgamation present and we proved ourselves worthy of it. Accolades were heaped upon us and we were well on our way! To my mind our amalgamation was the most successful of all!"



**One of the cover signatories –
Dougie Shepherd on boat patrol
in Brunei in 1962. The Bren
Gunner is George "Podge"
Fraser**

Charlie Millar (86) joined 1 CAMERONS in 1952 and was posted to Spittal An Der Drau in Austria as part of the British controlled Occupation Zone. By the time the amalgamation came around Charlie held the rank of Sergeant. Twenty eight years later he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel (QM), having spent 39 year in uniform!

Charlie recalls "given the need to cut down on infantry numbers at the time, the amalgamation somehow seemed sadly inevitable. I had nine good years in the Camerons, but then had 30 great years as a Queen's Own Highlander – the Finest Team in the world!"

Commemorative Covers can only be purchased from the British Forces Philatelic Service via their online shop at bfps.org.uk



Standard (unsigned) covers cost £7.50, Limited Editions signed by Charlie and Dougie are £15.00 each.

As an added bonus, there is also a limited edition of the covers signed by the original artist who produced the covers print – Douglas N Anderson. Douglas is an acclaimed artist who has produced prints for many regiments of the British Army and this month he very kindly agreed to sign 60 copies on his 94th birthday!

The commemorative covers being prepared for sale

These covers will make excellent mementoes of the 60th anniversary of the regiment and remember, any donations received from BFPS will be used to help towards the refurbishment of the Queen's Own Highlander Room of the Regimental Museum