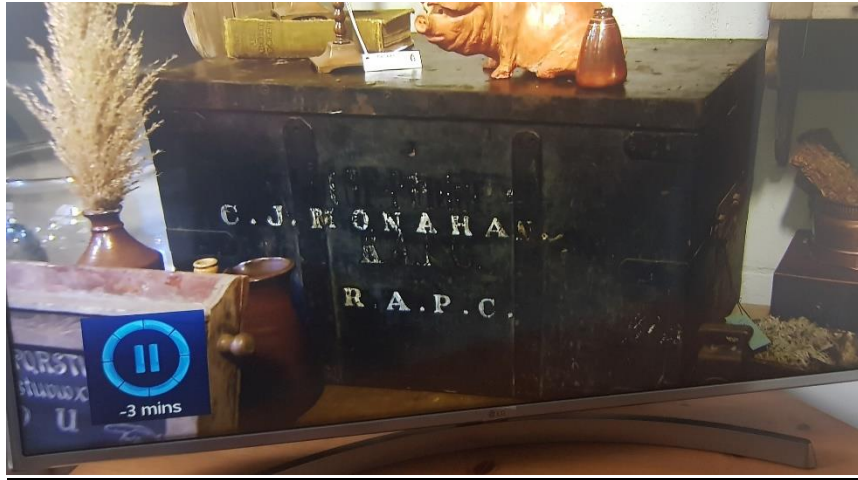


BBC's Bargain Hunt – “The Monahan Box”



Several eagle-eyed ex-members of the RAPC who were watching the Tuesday 14th February edition of Bargain Hunt on the BBC spotted the item shown above. The box was inscribed with the letters “C. J. Monahan R.A.P.C.”. Ed Boyle, who posted the photo in the RAPC Facebook group, did a search of Corps journals dating back to 1962 but there was no mention of a C J Monahan and the name did not show up in a search of the RAPC Association membership database. At that point, the trail went dead.

That evening Peter Bamforth, in his role as Webmaster, received an email from Kevin Monahan, son of Christopher Joseph Monahan. Kevin had also been watching Bargain Hunt and couldn't believe his eyes when he saw his dad's old box on the screen. He called the Bazaar Vintage and Antique Warehouse in Narberth to see if they still had the box, unfortunately, the box had been sold and the shop did not have the details of who had purchased it. Kevin then did an online search for “RAPC” and came across the RAPC Association website. He noted the Webmaster's address and sent an email along with some attachments to see if the Association might be able to assist in tracking down the box.

Peter followed up on Kevin's email with a call to get more information on his dad's life and service with the RAPC. It was to say the least a most interesting story. He was born in Dublin in 1894 and after training as an accountant starting work in the Army Pay Office Dublin in 1914. With the impending withdrawal of the British in 1922 he made the decision to join the British Army and enlisted in Dublin in 1921 and following his move to England he initially served in the Corps of Military Accountants and subsequently the Royal Army Pay Corps (RAPC) when it was formed in 1923. He saw service in China in 1927/28 as part of the Shanghai Defence Force in both Hong Kong and Shanghai followed by a period of home service between 1928/30 before an extended tour in Egypt

from 1930 to 1932 after which he returned to England for his final four months of service in Warwick. On leaving the Army in 1933 he joined the Civil Service and retained his connection with the RAPC by joining the Command Pay Office (CPO) in Chester, then moved to CPO Manchester and finally to the Army Pay Office Ashton-Under-Lyne from where he retired in 1958. In total a 44 year career as servicemen and civilian with Army Pay Services.

Kevin has a wealth of photos and correspondence covering his dad's career and would love to find out what has happened to "The Monahan Box". If anyone reading this knows of its whereabouts, can you please get in touch with the RAPC Association Webmaster at this email address: webmaster@rapc-association.org.uk.