



A group of Canadian army officers one of whom has a Jack Russell dog on his lap. The photograph is one of the 219 images from the photo album retrieved by Martin Carberry about 20 years ago - 090310

Canadian military links found in old photo album

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A clean up operation at a public dump in Kilmacrennan 20 years ago helped unearth a photo album that may soon end up in a military museum in Canada.

The album, retrieved by Ballyare man, Martin Carberry, contains over 200 pictures, most of them related to the 46th Canadian Infantry Battalion which fought in the First World War.

There are no battlefield images in the remarkable collection but many of the photographs, taken in and around 1915, feature groups of army personnel at their camp at Moose Jaw, Canada, while there is also a selection of family pictures.

The well preserved album was found in a brown case along with a pair of handcuffs when Martin and a colleague were working on a digger at the dump around 1990. At that time he was living in Letterkenny and was driving a digger before subsequently taking up employment at the General Hospital. "We would be hired by the Council to dig at the dump in

Kilmacrennan twice a week."

Martin, married to Brid (nee McIntyre), took the photo album home and it has lain in his house ever since. "It was taken from one room to another and for a year or two ended up in the garden shed," he admits.

But recently he has been delving through the photographs - they number 219 in total - for clues as to how they might have ended up in the dump which is now closed.

"I didn't want to throw them away - it seemed a shame. Most of them are in good condition and very good quality but there is no written record with them to say where they might have come from," says Martin, a native of Longford, but a long time resident of Donegal.

Martin has uncovered a link between many of the photographs - the name and face of one Lt. C.W. Smith, Machine Gun Officer with the 46th Battalion, featuring in quite a few of the group shots and a number of individuals ones.

Another name which surfaces among the collection is that of Col. Sgt. McGee, who served with the 60th



Martin Carberry of Ballyare pointing out one of the images in the photo album that was discovered around 20 years ago in a dump in Kilmacrennan - 090310

Rifles of Canada. "There might be a Donegal connection there with the name. His picture appears on a post card and I think he might have been killed in the war."

Martin has surfed the internet for further information on the Canadian involvement in the First World War and three years ago made contact with an individual attached to a museum in Canada who told him there was little visual history of the 46th Battalion. "Unfortunately I lost the contact details with her and wasn't able to follow it up.

"But I did learn that around 95% of the battalion were killed or injured in the First World War which certainly makes these pictures significant."

Some personal family shots also make up the album collection including shots of a young girl, aged around two or three years.

Martin is continuing his efforts to make contact with historical sources in Canada and he and Brid are now planning to travel there at some stage to personally hand over the unique album.

"I want to make sure this gets into the right hands and the military museum in Moose Jaw is the ideal place for it. I don't want to make any money from this but I do want to ensure it ends up where it belongs."