



Roger Casement Branch

Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hEireann



The Link

Issue 04/15
December
2015

www.oneaircorpsbranch.com

www.oneaircorpsbranch.com

Honorary Branch President: James Nolan
E: onerogercasementbranch@gmail.com
Phone: 353 1 8212709

Find us on
Facebook

Branch Chairman:

Finnbar Lyons

Hon. Secretary:

Noel Murphy

Hon. Treasurer:

Patrick Lynch

PRO:

Peter Mc Glynn

Link Editor:

Paddy O'Meara



RCB Group visiting the Haulbowline Naval Base. l/r: D. Barry, N. Murphy, T. Roe, L/S. A. McCarthy, G. McCann, F. Walsh.



Secretary's Report

In September, a group from RCB travelled with members of the RAFA to visit RAF Brize Norton, which included a guided tour of all their facilities, and also a visit to the Imperial War Museum Duxford. This 4-day trip was organised by RAFA, and an invitation was extended to RCB members to participate.

Members attended the Defence Forces Annual Gala Concert at the National Concert Hall on Saturday 10th October.

On 13th October a group visited the Irish Naval Base at Haulbowline in Co. Cork where we toured the base and were welcomed and treated exceptionally well at the NCOs Mess.

Upcoming events:

Thursday December 10th, 2015: Annual Christmas Lunch, West County Hotel, Chapelizod.

Sunday December 13th, 2015: Memorial Service at the Roadside monument in Limerick for the four Air Corps personnel killed in a road accident on the 10th Dec 1940 on the Dublin Rd. Wreath Laying service will commence at 1400hrs.

Thursday January 21st 2016: AGM will take place in NCO's Mess, Casement Aerodrome at 2000 hrs.

Noel Murphy

EASTER PARADE 2016



The Chief Executive of ONE has advised that a Military Parade will take place on Easter Sunday 2016 (27th March) in Dublin.

ONE and IUNVA will join the parade South of O'Connell Bridge (Forming Up Point: Fleet St.) and will march from this point up O'Connell St. and turning off (left) at the Parnell Monument onto Parnell St.

Each Branch is requested to submit names of those who wish to take part in this parade by the 16th January 2016.

The following should be borne in mind:

- This is a marching parade and those taking part will be expected to do so at a constant pace.
- All those taking part will be expected to dress to a high and uniform standard.
- Be prepared to take part in a rehearsal/selection parade in Dublin in early March 2016.

Any member wishing to participate should contact the Branch PRO Peter Mc Glynn, 086 4011154.

Email: onerogercasementbranch@gmail.com.

Edition sponsored by "A member of the 1959
Apprentice Class"



Visit to the Naval Service in Haulbowline:

Gerry McCann

On the 13th of October a group of RCB members made a long anticipated arranged visit to the Naval Service base at Haulbowline, which necessitated a relatively early start from Dublin with the group boarding a train to Cork linking with the commuter service to Cobh.

As our trip progressed south, the weather developed into a beautiful sunny day and the comfortable journey passed quickly amid the hum of conversation, laughter and anecdotes. Our timely arrival in Cork ensured that we caught the planned link to Cobh where we located the Department of Defence pier and the naval ferry which arrived to pick up the group.

On boarding, we were given a sample of Naval Service when we were taken on a short tour of Cork harbour past the colourful vista of Cobh and St Colman's cathedral and down towards Roches point and Crosshaven marking the harbour entrance. Heading back to Haulbowline we arrived at the naval berth where the LE Niamh and Roisin were on a maintenance visit with the Niamh having recently returned from refugee patrol duties in the Mediterranean.

To the relief of some of the landlubbers in the group, we disembarked onto the base and visited the Diving Theatre where we viewed the

naval diving equipment that is kept on standby should any emergency situation develop. Then onto the Operational Training Centre including the Gunnery Training and the Armed Boarding Training Centres all explained in detail by our informative guide for the day – Leading Seaman Arron Mc Cathy.

A very welcome lunch was taken in the well-appointed seamen's mess that set everyone up for the afternoon where the highlight of the visit was the climb to the Visual Signalling Tower which is manned when naval service ships leave and enter Cork Harbour, with its remarkable panoramic view of the harbour, enhanced by the bright sunny weather. After all the days exertions it was a pleasure to retire to the NCO's mess for very welcome refreshments, then all too soon it was time to depart via the ferry back to Cobh. Prior to departure, a presentation of an Air Corps medallion was made by Tony Roe to Arron with all our thanks for the hospitality shown and gave a special mention for the splendid Naval Service operations currently taking place in the Mediterranean. Everyone came away with a heightened appreciation of the professionalism of the Naval Service and their unique base at Haulbowline.



RCB Member P.J. Brennan met up with his cousin W/O Tom Kelly in Haulbowline.

LE Niamh in Haulbowline having returned from refugee service in the Mediterranean.



Memorial Service for Col James Fitzmaurice in Portlaoise

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of Col. James Fitzmaurice a memorial service was held at Fitzmaurice Place in Portlaoise on 27 September 2015. This followed the annual Post 27 IUNVA commemoration for deceased members in Saint Peter and Paul's Church. Floral wreaths were laid at a ceremony for those who lost their lives while on UN service at home and abroad at the UN memorial at the Peace Park in Millview.

The attendance at the combined ceremonies included an impressive delegation and guard of honor from the Air Corps and IUNVA members. The latter came from Laois, Dublin, Cork, Newbridge, Athlone and Limerick.

The monument to Colonel James Fitzmaurice – former Officer Commanding the Air Corps is in honor of his role as co-pilot of the first successful east to west flight across the Atlantic in 1928. Located in the centre of an outdoor amphitheatre built in 1997 and known as Fitzmaurice Place it consists of a sculpture of an aircraft wing and was unveiled in 2001.

The Air Corps guard of honor took up position under the direction of Lieutenant Garry Gartland.

Brigadier General Paul Fry, GOC of the Air Corps addressed the attendance and laid a wreath with Archie Raeside, president of Post 27 IUNVA.

Archie is a former member of the Air Corps and is also a member of the Roger Casement Branch.



Wreath laying at the Fitzmaurice Memorial. I/R Archie Raeside RCB/IUNVA, Brig-Gen. Paul Fry, Collr. Jerry Lodge.



RSM John Mc Cormack, Archie Raeside. A/W Laura McHale. at the Fitzmaurice ceremony.

Annual Mass 2015.

The Annual Mass and commemoration service took place on Sunday 11th October at the Garrison Church in Casement Aerodrome. It was very well attended by Branch members and families. Brig-Gen Paul Fry, GOC Air Corps, RSM John McCormack, Mr. Mick Carroll National President of the ONE, members of the Irish Naval Association and RAFA, and members from other ONE branches were also in attendance. Retired GOC Gerry O'Connor was also present. The Mass was followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at the Air Corps Memorial, where wreaths were laid by RCB and RAFA, and Piper PJ Brennan played a lament. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Jerry Carroll CF who was assisted by Rev. Adeline Patterson. Music was provided by Eadestown Choir, Co. Kildare.

Thanks to everyone who attended and to those who assisted in organising this special event in the Branch's annual programme.



Branch Chairman
Finnbar Lyons.



Rev. Addie Patterson and Fr. Jerry Carroll



Members assembling for the Wreath laying ceremonies.



Brig-Gen Fry, GOC and Jim Nolan,
Branch President laying the wreath.



Section of the attendance at the wreath laying ceremony.



Air Corps News ~ Air Corps Review November 2015

The Air Corps has continued its busy operational tempo in 2015 carrying out over 6000 missions, totalling over 9000 flying hours so far. This operational output is testament to the dedication of the men and women working in the operational and support roles in Casement Aerodrome.

1. No. 1 Operations Wing's fleet of fixed wing aircraft continue to provide a flexible platform for various military and State directed tasks. One of the more interesting missions for 102 squadron's Learjet crew came at short notice in early November to transport members of the Irish Aviation Authority and the Air Accident Investigation Unit to Egypt to take part in the investigation into the crash of Metrojet's A321 in Sinai.



Learjet 45

2. The recently published White Paper on Defence signalled positive news for the Wing with the provision for the CASA 235s to be replaced, with consideration of their replacement, with larger more capable aircraft. This would enhance maritime surveillance and provide a greater degree of utility for transport and cargo carrying tasks. It also referenced that the existing five Cessnas will be replaced with three larger aircraft suitably equipped for ISTAR tasks.



Casa CN.235

3. Operations Wing has had a very busy year so far. The Emergency Aeromedical Service (EAS) is now a permanent fixture. The service, operated jointly by the Air Corps and the National Ambulance Service, provides advanced life support and rapid transport for seriously ill patients in remote parts of the country. EAS was launched as a pilot programme in June 2012 to investigate the need for such a service in Ireland. It has now treated over 1,230 patients across the country, justifying its permanent status. Minister for Health, Mr. Leo Varadkar T.D. has visited the service in Custume Barracks to meet and fly with the EAS crews.

Minister for Health Mr. Leo Varadkar T.D. pays a visit to the EAS crew in Athlone.



4. The Air Corps College has had a busy year. The Military Training School completed the training of the 17th Air Corps Potential NCO's Course and has recently inducted the members of the 73rd Apprentice Class. The 72nd Apprentice Class is undergoing instruction in the Technical Training School and the Flying Training School has seen an increase in the number of Cadets in the various modules of their training.



Pictures of the 73rd Apprentice Class undergoing induction training will bring back old memories to many of our members.

5. To commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Rising and to celebrate 100 years since the Proclamation of the Irish Republic, the Government has tasked Óglaigh na hÉireann with delivering a National Flag to every Primary School in the country.

This is a key part of the Ireland 2016 commemorative programme and the Air Corps is tasked with delivering flags to schools in the Dublin area and some of the islands off the West and North coasts.

Air Corps personnel visiting local schools as part the 2016 commemoration.

