



Roger Casement Branch

of Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hEireann Teoranta (ONET)



The Link

www.oneaircorpsbranch.com

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View of the ONE Monument following the recent refurbishment programme.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The members of the Branch were very active since the previous issue of The Link. The Highlight event was the Annual Mass in October which had the usual large attendance. The Memorial Garden which has been re-landscaped is very impressive.

Great credit is due to Peter Mc Glynn, Robbie Walsh (Church Sacristan, Acting OC Air Corps, Col Fry and the Board of Works staff in Baldonnel for their hard work in having the garden ready in time for the Annual Mass. In October a group of Branch Members travelled to the Limerick/Shannon area. Members also attended the Air Corps Ceremony of Remembrance on November

2nd in Casement Aerodrome.

The Branch was represented at the ceremonies to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Niamba Ambush in which nine Army

personnel died.

The ONET Fuchsia Collection was very successful. Through the efforts of the collectors the Roger Casement Branch had one of the highest collections of all the Branches. It's time again to remind all members that the Annual Subscription is due in January.

The membership of the Branch continues to increase so please assist the Hon Treasurer by paying the Sub in good time.

The members helping in the Air Corps Museum continue to make a significant contribution to the popularity of the Museum which is now a focal point for all visitors to Casement.



TIPPERARY FRIENDS MEET UP AFTER 51 YEARS.

Eamonn Murphy and Eddie Ryan, met up again for the first time in 51 years at the Annual Mass. Both of them were childhood friends from Templemore, Co Tipperary.

This edition is kindly sponsored by a member of the 1959 Apprentice Class



Visit to Limerick Shannon Area



Wreath Laying at the monument outside Limerick for the Air Corps personnel killed in road accident in 1940. Branch Chairman with members of the Patrick Sarsfield Branch.



Guard of Honour prepares to line up



Frank Donnelly and Eamonn Tierney



Group visiting Eddie Ryan at the Atlantic Air Venture Centre



Eamonn Tierney at the controls of the B314 Flying Boat Replica.



Secretary Ben Downey at the Foynes Flying Boat Museum.

REPORT ON VISIT TO THE LIMERICK/ SHANNON AREA

A group of 12 Branch members had an early start to a busy day on 20th October when they boarded the train in Dublin for Limerick. In Limerick, the first event was at the memorial on the Dublin Road where 3 former members of the Air Corps died in a road accident in 1940. At the memorial the group formed a Guard of Honour and were joined by members of the Patrick Sarsfield Branch who formed the colour party. The Chairmen of both Branches laid wreaths at the monument while piper P.J. Brennan played a lament. The group then travelled to the Foynes Flying Boat Museum. This excellent facility has an extensive display of memorabilia including a full size partial model of the cockpit

and forward cabin of a Boeing B314 Flying Boat. It was a most interesting and informative visit. After an excellent lunch in Newmarket on Fergus, the group visited the crash site where two Air Corps pilots and two members of the Air Traffic Control Service lost their lives in January 1961. The site has been unmarked in the past but is now marked by a small wooden cross. (A separate report is included in this edition.) The next stop on the trip was to the Atlantic Air Venture Centre which is owned and operated by former Air Corps and Branch Member Eddie Ryan. Eddie gave the group a warm welcome and conducted a tour of the centre which has many interesting exhibits including a fully operational B737-800NG simulator. This centre is well worth a visit. All former Air Corps personnel will be very welcome to pay Eddie a visit. All agreed that this was an excellent trip.

NOTICES

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Roger Casement Branch will take place on Thursday January 20th, 2011 in the N.C.O's Mess, Casement Aerodrome. A large attendance is expected.

Annual Subscription: The Annual Subscription for 2011 will fall due on January 1st. Special thanks to the members who have already paid.

Payment can be made by bankers standing order by contacting the Hon Treasurer for details.

Link circulation:

Members are reminded that copies of The Link may be circulated by email. This arrangement will result in considerable savings in posting and printing costs to the Branch. Members wishing to avail of this arrangement should contact any member of the committee.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DH DOVE ACCIDENT.



Sam Dooley was present on the fatal occasion



Branch Chairman lays a wreath at the crash site with members of the Branch forming a Guard of Honour.



A cross has been erected on the accident site

Air Corps DH DOVE Aircraft 188 flew to Shannon on the afternoon of 23 Jan 1961 and the next day commenced training with two flights each morning for the next four days. The aircraft was engaged in flying duties in support of the Department of Transport & Power Air Traffic Control Service.

The flying commenced each day at 0015 hrs and flying for the day ceased at 0715 hrs and in some cases at 0730 hrs. It was the last flight of the morning of 27th that disaster struck. The first flight that morning was at the usual 0015 hrs and landed at 0315 hrs. The aircraft was again airborne at 0430 hrs and the tragic accident occurred at 0605 hrs.

Those on board were; Capt. J. Liddy, Air Corps Pilot, Lt. D. J. Brady (P2) Air Corps Pilot, Lt. P. B. Corr. Air Corps Pilot

Mr. P. B. Wall & Mr. J. C. Donoghue, Dept of Transport & Power ATC Assistants.

Capt Liddy was the sole survivor. The aircraft was destroyed.

The maintenance crew on duty in Shannon was Cpl. Sam

Dooley and A/M John Mahon. Members of the Roger Casement Branch visited the site of the accident which is located on land owned by Michael and Marie Hannon near Newmarket on Fergus Co. Clare to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the accident.

A Guard of Honour formed up and a wreath was laid at the site by the Branch Chairman. A moment of silence was observed while the piper played a lament and Canon Reuben Butler from Newmarket on Fergus recited the prayers. Sam Dooley spoke of his involvement along with the late Johnny Mahon who formed the maintenance crew on duty on the tragic night. Some former Air Corps colleagues from the Shannon region and some serving and former members of the ATC Service in Shannon attended the ceremony. The assistance provided by the Hannon family was very much appreciated. They allowed cars to be parked on their property and provided transport to the site which is located at the top of a steep incline. Their kindness was invaluable and greatly contributed to this special event which was conducted in a dignified and impressive manner.



General view of the accident site.

Annual Mass Pictures



Fr. Carrol delivers his homily to a packed attendance.



Guard of Honour prepares for Wreath Laying Ceremony



Wreath Laying carried out by Chairman Paddy O'Meara and Station Commander Lt-Col Gerry O'Sullivan



Maj-Gen Ralph James with PJ Brennan and Frank Donnelly



John Condon welcomes Maj-Gen James.

Brigadier General James has served overseas with the United Nations Troop Supervisory Organisation (UNTSO) from 1986 until 1988. He worked as an observer in the Golan and South Lebanon before serving as Chief Air Staff Officer in Jerusalem..

As Deputy Chief of Staff (Operations) Brigadier General James will be responsible for all operational activities within the Defence Forces, both at home and overseas. He will also be promoted to Major General on assumption of his new role. Maj-Gen James has

been very supportive of the Roger Casement Branch of ONET during his period as GOC and has always recognised the contribution made by former Air Corps members to the development of the Air Corps and has taken every opportunity to welcome retired members back to Baldonnell. The members wish him every success in his new position.



Brig Gen Ralph James

Air Corps News

Brig Gen Ralph James promoted
The Government has announced the appointment of Brigadier General Ralph James, General Officer Commanding the Air Corps, as the new Deputy Chief of Staff (Operations) for the Defence Forces.

Born in Dublin 1956, Brigadier General James was educated in Templeogue College, Dublin before commencing military service as a Cadet in Nov 1973. He was awarded his 'wings' and commissioned as an Air Corps Pilot Officer in September 1975. Brigadier General James has served in various command and staff appointments during his career and has served as General Officer Commanding the Air Corps and Director of Military Aviation since 2002.

An operational pilot, Brigadier General James is a qualified flight instructor and an approved rating examiner with over 4,500 flying hours experience. He has flown many aircraft types in various mission profiles including maritime patrolling and Ministerial air transport. He was, until 2008, rated on the Bombardier Learjet 45.



Let us remember those who have died.

John Gilmartin
Noel Hyland
Barney Mc Mahon
Sean Molloy