



Roger Casement Branch of Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann Teoranta (ONET)



The Link

www.oneaircorpsbranch.com

**Issue 01/14
February
2014**

www.oneaircorpsbranch.com

E:onerogercasementbranch@gmail.com

Find us on
Facebook



Annual Christmas Lunch 2013: L/R : Jim Nolan, Finnbar Lyons, Paddy O'Meara, Jim Fay President Leinster Branch ONET, Brig-Gen Paul Fry, GOC Air Corps, Peter Mc Glynn.

From the Chairman...

Our branch has been very active over the last 6 months participating in various events and ceremonies throughout the city and country. From Tipperary town in the south, to Slane and Skerries in the north, members represented our branch at numerous events. We also had a good representative group of members at the annual WW1 commemoration ceremonies at the Somme during first week in July. Our annual commemoration mass and wreath laying ceremony took place in Baldonnel on the 13th of October. We had a large attendance including Brigadier General Paul Fry, GOC Air Corps, Mr Jim Fay, Chairman of the LAC, Mr Michael Carroll and Mr Jim Nolan ONET Directors, and members of St Conleths, St Barbara's, and Fr. James Gilmore Branches of ONET. We also had members of the Irish Naval Association and the RAF Association in attendance.

I would like to thank Brig. Gen. Paul Fry for making the Propeller Club available for refreshments after the ceremony and opening the Air Corps museum to visitors on the day. We received many favourable comments about the suitability and convenience of the Propeller Club.

Our Fuchsia fund raising campaign during the month of July was a great success and I would like to thank all members for turning up at the various centres for the flag days. This is a very important revenue source for the company every year and requires a lot of commitment and planning to make it a success.

November 2013 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Irish Volunteers – the original Óglaigh na hÉireann. When the Irish national army was formed in 1922 –following the Treaty –they adopted Óglaigh na hÉireann as its Irish language name.

To commemorate the anniversary, ONET have commissioned a special commemorative medal and members can order it from Brú na bhFiann, North King St, Smithfield Market, Dublin 7. (Tel 01 4850666). There is a nominal charge for the medal plus postage and packaging. All funds raised will go towards the ONET Fuchsia appeal.

Finnbar Lyons

Branch Chairman: Finnbar Lyons
Phone: 01 4426102
Email: Finnbar.lyons@santosdumont.com

Hon. Secretary: Noel Murphy
Phone: 01 8212709
Email: noelbrid@iol.ie

Hon. Treasurer: Eamonn Tierney
Phone: 01 847 5206
Email: eamonn.tierney@gmail.com

PRO: Peter Mc Glynn
Phone: 086 401 1154
Email: petermcglynn24@hotmail.co.uk

Honorary Branch President: James Nolan

Secretary's Report for 2013

The Roger Casement Branch had a very busy year in 2013.

The Branch AGM was held on Thursday 17th January and the serving Committee were returned again for 2013. Branch Meetings were held every month, and were very well attended. The Branch now has over 160 members.

In 2013, the Roger Casement Branch was delighted to be awarded the ONE Branch of the Year, and members were notified at Branch meetings and through The Link (RCB Newsletter) and through the website.

The Link is produced 4 times per year and sent to all members, and the website www.oneaircorpsbranch.com features news and updates for members and persons interested in the Branch.

Throughout the year, Branch members attended Annual Masses, Commemoration Ceremonies, and a wide variety of social events across Ireland and abroad. These are outlined in the list below:

DATE	EVENT
15th & 16th Mar	St. Finian's Centre Newcastle (in conjunction with South Dublin County Council and The Gathering Ireland) held a display which included photos, flags, model aircraft and other items on loan from the Air Corps Museum. Branch members attended on both days.
17th Mar	8 Branch Members provided Flag Party to lead the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Lucan Co. Dublin. Members also attended with the Cobh Branch at the parade in Cobh Co. Cork.
14th Apr	Titanic Anniversary Annual Commemoration at Cobh, one member paraded with Cobh Branch.
20th Apr	ONE Mass at Cathal Brugha Barracks. Members attended.
21st Apr	St. Conleth's Branch Mass. Members attended.
25th Apr	ANZAC Day Memorial Service. Members attended the Dawn Memorial Service at Grangegorman Cemetery at 06.00hrs and also the Evening Church Service at St. Ann's Church Dawson St. at 19.00hrs.
5th May	Anniversary of the Sinking of the Lusitania at Cork. One member attended with Cobh Branch.
11th May	Bratacha Festival of Flags and Emblems in Dun Laoghaire. Three members attended.
16th May	Branch Flag Day – Superquinn Lucan. Four members attended.
17th May	GOC Air Corps invited Branch to attend Blessing of the Fleet at Casement Aerodrome. Ten members attended.
19th May	IUNVA No. 1 Post at Arbour Hill Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony. Members attended and laid wreath from RCB
21st May	Peadar Clancy Branch invitation to event at Grand Canal Dock Dublin. Members attended
24th May	Branch Flag Day – Mill Centre Clondalkin. Four members attended
31st May - 01st Jun	Branch Flag Days - Citywest Shopping Centre Co. Dublin. Four members attended each day.

Continued on next page . . .

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



Continued from page 1 . . .

- 7th-9th Jun** Annual Convention in Wexford. Three members attended. RCB awarded ONE Branch of the Year, and Trophy accepted by the Branch PRO on behalf of the Branch.
- 16th Jun** 200th Anniversary of St. Finian's Church Newcastle. Branch invited by local community to provide Guard of Honour. Service conducted by Archbishop Diarmuid Martin.
- 27th Jun** Fuschia Flag Day – Superquinn Lucan. Five members attended
- 30th Jun – 02 Jul** Annual Visit to The Somme, France/Belguim. Eight members and three assoc. members travelled to Guillemont, Albert, Lochnagar Crater and attended 2 memorial services and visited graveyards.
- 6th Jul** Fuschia Flag Day – Omni Centre Santry. Five members attended.
- 9th Jul** Fuschia Flag Day – Texaco Station Newcastle. Two members attended.
- 12th – 13th Jul** Fuschia Flag Days – Churchtown Shopping Centre. Two members attended
- 13th Jul** Islandbridge Memorial Garden Ceremony. Twelve members and one assoc. member attended.
- 14th Jul** Kilmainham Annual Remembrance Service at RHK. Two members attended.
- 19th Jul** Fuschia Flag Day – Pavilions Shopping Centre Swords. Seven members attended.
- 24th Jul** Air Corps Museum – Official visit by Ministers Frances Fitzgerald and Jimmy Deenihan and members of the Museum Feasibility Study Group. Four members attended to provide escort around museum and information for guests.
- 26th Jul** Fuschia Flag Day – Newcastle Co. Dublin. Four members attended
- 27th Jul** Royal Hospital Kilmainham – Ennio Morricone & Orchestra Concert. Two members attended
- 02nd Aug** Fuschia Flag Day – Mill Shopping Centre Clondalkin. Five members attended.
- 03rd Aug** Defence Forces Guard of Honour at Merrion Square provided by Air Corps. Four members attended
- 14th – 18th Aug** Edinburgh Military Tattoo Scotland. Three members attended.
- 30th Aug** GOC Air Corps invited Branch to attend the Casement Aerodrome Annual Barbeque and Family Day. Members attended
- 06th Sep** Air Corps Museum at Casement Aerodrome. Official visit by Museum Feasibility Study Group. Branch members asked to attend to provide information for Study Group
- 13th-14th Sep** FlightFest on 15th Sept in Dublin. Overseas Aircraft based at Casement Aerodrome and Museum opened to visitors. Branch members attended to escort visitors.
- 15th Sep** St. Patrick's Cathedral Dublin. Battle of Britain Commemoration. Branch laid wreath at Bomber Command Memorial in the Cathedral.
- 29th Sep** Tipperary Remembrance Arch. Member attended and laid wreath
- 29th Sep** IUNVA Annual Mass at Arbour Hill Church. Members attended
- 29th Sept** Official Unveiling of Skerries Seapole Memorial by President Higgins. Six members attended.
- 12th Oct** National Concert Hall – Defence Forces Annual Gala Concert. Sixteen members/families attended.
- 13th Oct** Annual Branch Mass at Garrison Church Casement Aerodrome. Excellent attendance by members and families. RAFA and Naval Association members invited and attended. Wreaths laid at Air Corps Memorial following mass. Refreshments afterwards in Propeller Cub and Museum opened and manned for visitors.
- 17th Oct** Red Line Book Festival South County Dublin. Poetry Reading by Michael J. Whelan (RCB Assoc. member) at Rua Red Centre Tallaght. Eight members attended.
- 02nd Nov** St. Barbara's Branch Annual Mass. Two members attended.
- 03rd Nov** Slane Branch Annual Mass. Three members attended.
- 09th Nov** Niemba and Bru na bFhiann Annual Mass. Members attended
- 10th Nov** Remembrance Sunday – Ennis Cathedral Co. Clare. Wreath laid by member.
- 22nd Nov** 50th Anniversary / Helicopter Reunion – Casement Aerodrome. Museum opened and manned for visitors. Members attended
- 23rd Nov** Arrival of Santa to Mill Shopping Centre Clondalkin. Branch provided Piper and seven member escort on request from the Centre Management.
- 24th Nov** Peadar Clancy Branch Annual Mass – Arbour Hill Church. Six members attended.
- 28th Nov** 50th Anniversary of West County Hotel. Branch invited as guests of Hotel Management. Six members attended.
- 5th Dec** Annual Christmas Lunch – West County Hotel. Excellent attendance, special guests included Brig. Gen Fry (GOC Air Corps), Fr. Carroll, Rev Patterson and members of RAFA. Representatives from LAC attended. Photos featured in Lucan Gazette.
- 8th Dec** Commemoration Ceremony at Memorial to Air Corps Personnel killed in 1940 at Dublin Road (outside Limerick). Four members attended.

The Branch were also very active in promoting and supporting the overall objectives of the O.N.E., particularly with selling items such as Commemorative Irish Volunteers 1913-2013 Medals (25 medals sold) and the O.N.E. Christmas Cards (38 packets sold) in December.

We look forward to another active and successful year in the branch for 2014.

Noel Murphy, Honorary Branch Secretary

Jim Nolan Elected Honorary Life President

Jim Nolan was elected Honorary Life President of the Roger Casement Branch at the Annual General Meeting which was held in Casement Aerodrome on January 16th, 2014. Jim is the first Member to be honoured in this prestigious position.

He was one of a small group of former Air Corps members who founded the Branch in 1979.

Jim joined the Air Corps in 1961 and after his initial training was posted to the Machine Shop which was attached to Technical Wing based in Baldonnel. He was a dedicated and hard worker and was promoted to Corporal in 1965 followed by promotion to Sergeant in 1967.

Jim was, and still remains a very keen sportsman participating in GAA (both football and hurling) rugby, soccer, gymnastics, handball, volleyball and athletics.

During his early years in the Air Corps, he received one minor and four All Army medals, three Medical Services medals and six Air Corps League medals. Jim also won two All Army medals for Rugby.

In spite of his sporting accomplishments, Jim also found time to socialise and he attended many dress dances in Baldonnel and in Dublin at various dance halls such as the Ierne Ballroom and The Irish Club in Parnell Square. It was at such a social night that he met Bernadette his future wife. They were married in 1969 and have two daughters Loretta and Amelia.

In 1971 Jim retired from the Air Corps to take up employment in the school of Engineering in University College Dublin as a laboratory technician in the Chemical Engineering Workshop. He spent many happy years in this position before retiring from UCD in 1979.

Jim joined the Aer Lingus O.N.E. Branch in 1971 and later became a founder member of the Roger Casement Branch in 1979. During the following years, Jim at various times served as Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary of the Branch.

He also had the honour of being elected for a term as President of the Leinster Area Council.

Jim continues

"In 2007 the greatest honour was bestowed on me when I was elected to the position of National President of O.N.E.T. It was such a surprise to me and certainly was the pinnacle of my association with O.N.E.T."

Jim enjoyed his two year tenure as National President and was warmly welcomed by O.N.E. members during his many visits throughout the length and breadth of the country. He was frequently accompanied to the various functions by his wife Bernadette and was treated like royalty on such occasions.

Jim handed over the Presidency in 2009 but continues to be involved with O.N.E.T following his election to the Board of Directors.

Jim brought great honour to the Roger Casement Branch following his election to the Presidency and in the manner in which he discharged his duties and responsibilities during his term in office.

Jim has been a stalwart member of ONET at Branch, Area and National levels and we look forward him many further years of successful involvement.



Jim Nolan National President ONET and Paddy O'Meara, Branch Chairman at the Alouette 111 stand down ceremony in Baldonnel in September 2007. (Note: Paddy was one of Jim's instructors when he joined the Air Corps in 1961)

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2013

The annual Branch Christmas Lunch was held in the West County Hotel On December 5th. Over 100 members and guests attended. Guest of Honour was Brig-Gen Paul Fry GOC Air Corps. Mr Jim Fay President of the Leinster Branch ONET was also in attendance. The Branch Chairman Finnbar Lyons welcomed all the members and guests and gave a special welcome to the members of the RAF Association. The Christmas pudding was piped in, in the traditional way by piper P.J. Brennan. The lunch was a great opportunity for old comrades to meet up and share old stories.



Members of the 1956 Apprentice class meet up. L/R : John Martin, Pat Donnelly, Noel Madigan. Paddy O'Meara at rear.



Brig-Gen Fry presents the ONE medal to Mick Prince also included are Branch Chairman Finnbar Lyons and Mrs Marie Prince.



A group from the 1954 Apprentice Class. L/R: Richard Murphy, Johnny Digan, Paddy Kennedy who travelled from New York for the event, Christy Mc Carthy, Joe Mc Cormack, Mick O'Brien, Harry Donnelly.



The ONET Perpetual Branch of the Year Trophy which was won by the Roger Casement Branch in 2013 was on display.

New Committee elected for 2014

The following committee was elected at the recent AGM for 2014:

BRANCH PRESIDENT: JIM NOLAN

Chairman	Finnbar Lyons	Onerogercasementbranch@gmail.com
Vice Chairman	Paddy O'Meara	As above
Secretary	Noel Murphy	As above
Asst. Secretary	Mick Lally	As above
Treasurer	Eamonn Tierney	As above
Asst. Treasurer	Martin Murphy	As above
PRO	Peter Mc Glynn	As above
Health& Safety	John Clarke	As above
Parade Commander	Tony Roe	As above
General Committee	Richard Murphy Gerry Mc Cann Michael Delaney Michael Reddy Frank Donnelly Paddy McLoughlin Pat Lynch Brendan Downey	As above

Visit to Ypres and the Somme 2014

There has been a huge response from members and guests to take part in the annual visit to Ypres and the Somme in 2014. 19 Members and guests will travel from Dublin to Brussels on June 29th returning on July 4th. The group will be based in Ypres but will travel to the Somme region in France to take part in the Guillemont Memorial services as usual on July 1st.

There is increased pressure for Hotel accommodation and transport this year as 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the start of the Great War in 1914

Hotel and flight arrangements have been confirmed for the group.



Air Corps Museum working party with Avro Anson 141.

L/R, Branch members, Noel Murphy, Peter Mc Glynn, Eamonn Tierney, Frank Donnelly, with Lt-Col Maloney OC No 4 Support Wing Tony Kearns and A/M Michael Whelan, Museum Curator.

CUIMHNIMIS ~

Let us remember those who have died. ~

JOE KAVANAGH MARTIN CAHILL TONY PHELAN

LIMERICK COMMEMORATION CEREMONY

On December 10th, 1940 an army truck transporting aircraft spares to the Air Corps Base in Rineanna (Now Shannon Airport), overturned at Wilmot's Hollow, on the main Limerick-Dublin Road, approx. 400 yards beyond Herberts pub. As a result of the accident, the vehicle caught fire resulting in the tragic deaths of

Lt. Herbert Lee, Cpl. Harry Myles and Pte. Robert Lynch. Some years later Capt. Moloney, a survivor of the accident erected a memorial to his deceased colleagues and in 1973 the Patrick Sarsfield Branch of ONET added a further memorial.

On Sunday December 8th, 2013, Paddy O'Meara, Vice Chairman of the Roger Casement (Air Corps) Branch of ONET and Cllr. John Egan of Limerick Co, Council laid wreaths on behalf of the Organisation of National Ex Servicemen and Women and on behalf of Limerick city and county respectively.

The service was under the command of Mr. Joe O'Mahoney, ONE Director and President of the Patrick Sarsfield Branch ONE. The colour party was under the command of Mr. Gerard Enright, ONE Director and Branch Secretary.

Members of the Roger Casement Branch were in attendance.



Members of the colour party on parade at the ceremony. Mick Delaney is carrying the Roger Casement Branch Banner.

*Members of the Roger Casement Branch attended the 2013 Ceremony.
L/R. Tony Roe, Noel Murphy, Paddy O'Meara, Mick Delaney.*



RED LINE BOOK FESTIVAL 2013 A group of members attended the poetry reading given by A/M Michael Whelan M.A. on 17th October at the Red Line Book Festival which took place in the Rua Red Arts Centre in Tallaght. Michael is the curator of the Air Corps Museum and the event was sponsored by South Dublin Libraries.

60TH REUNION. Congratulations to the 1953 Apprentice Class who recently held their 60th Anniversary.

Air Corps News



Group photo of former Air Corps members and guests who attended the reunion ceremony in Casement Aerodrome.

50th Anniversary of Helicopter Aviation In the Irish Air Corps On Friday 22nd November 2013, the Air Corps celebrated the 50th anniversary of helicopter aviation in the Irish Air Corps. Young and old members of the Air Corps gathered together in Baldonnel to mark this momentous occasion and the anniversary was memorialised with the unveiling of a commemorative plaque outside No 3 Operations Wing. The plaque was presented to No 3 Operations Wing by the Irish Mine Rescue Committee and represents the diversity of the Air Corps interaction with outside agencies. These pioneering men and women of the Air Corps introduced rotary aviation to Ireland on the 26th November 1963 and committed the Air Corps to the development of a national daytime Search and Rescue (SAR) for the State.

Since these first life-saving missions the men and women of the Helicopter Wing have performed over 2,300 SAR missions and 4,000 air ambulances, saving countless lives. This has led to No 3 Operations Wing being the most decorated Unit in the Defence Forces, with 22 Distinguished Service Medals, 12 Department of Marine Meritorious Medals, as well as two coveted French Federation Aeronautique Internationales's 'Diplome D'Honneur' for humanitarian service and the Irish Air line Pilots Association 'Fitzmaurice' award for services to Irish aviation. Over the past 50 years the Air Corps has been an invaluable support to the wider Defence Forces and has made a significant contribution to the security of the State and the common good of Irish society. The men and women of No 3 Operations Wing are a testament to the Air Corps' motto, Foraire agus Tairiseact ("Watchful and Loyal").

Former Heli Pilots Fergus O'Connor and Chris Carey Inspecting the AW 139 current model.



Sam Maguire Cup Visits Baldonnel Before breaking up for Christmas Jim Gavin, Dublin football manager and retired Air Corps Officer/Pilot, brought the Sam Maguire Cup to meet with his old colleagues. The men and women of the Air Corps gathered together in the NCO's Mess to congratulate Jim and get their photograph taken with the Cup.

Former Air Corps pilot Jim Gavin shows the Sam Maguire Trophy to RSM John Mc Cormack in the NCO'S Mess during the historic visit of the cup to Casement.

