



Roger Casement Branch

of Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann Teoranta (ONET)



The Link

www.oneaircorpsbranch.com

Issue 02/11
March
2011

www.oneaircorpsbranch.com

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Chairman Paddy O'Meara making a presentation to Maj Gen Ralph James on behalf of the Roger Casement Branch, in recognition of his appointment as Deputy Chief of Staff (Operations) of the Defence Forces

SECRETARY'S REPORT

2010 was a successful year for the branch. The paid up membership was 158 with 31 new members. There was very good attendance at the regular monthly meetings.

As usual a large congregation attended the Annual Memorial Mass in October. In spite of the very inclement weather on the day, the Annual Christmas Lunch was well supported. The social committee was very busy organising visits to the Ulster Transport Museum and to the Limerick/Shannon region. In Limerick a wreath was laid at the memorial on the Dublin road where four air corps personnel died in a road accident in 1940. A wreath was laid at the crash site where Air Corps Pilots and two ATC Shannon Personnel died in a crash of a DH Dove Aircraft near Newmarket on Fergus.

On the same trip a visit was made to the Flying-Boat Museum in Foynes and to the Atlantic Airventure Centre in Shannon which is owned and operated by branch member Eddie Ryan.

For the first time the Branch took part in outdoor collections as part of the ONET Fuchsia campaign. There is a significant improvement in the Memorial Garden in Baldonnel which enhances the monument.

With the help of individuals and class groups the link and the website continue to keep members informed of the activities of the branch. We hope to have another successful year in 2011.

Brendan Downey

FROM THE CHAIRMAN.....

2010 was another successful year for the Branch. Targets set for the introduction of Fund raising activities in support of the activities of Bru na BFiann were achieved. The Social committee arranged enjoyable trips for the Branch members to Belfast and to the Limerick area where wreaths were laid in memory of former Air Corps members. Branch members also took part in the Somme commemorations for the second successive year. Plans are in hand to take part in the Guillemont ceremonies again in 2011. The annual Mass for deceased members and the Annual Christmas Lunch were well attended and were well appreciated by all participants.

Plans for 2011 will include further involvement in fund raising activities during the ONET Fuchsia campaign. The Branch will also carry out a flag day in support of the Branch funds for the first time. I greatly appreciate the enthusiastic support given by the members to these events. The Social Committee will again arrange a programme of visits to interesting venues.

All present and former members of the Air Corps were honoured by the promotion of Maj Gen Ralph James to the position of Deputy Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces, the first occasion on which an Air Corps Officer has reached such a senior position.

Col Paul Fry has been appointed General Officer Commanding Air Corps and promoted to Brig General.

Both Generals have displayed great interest in the Branch and in its members and have given every support when requested.

I am sure that all the members will wish them every success in their new positions.

Paddy O'Meara

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



Christmas Lunch 2010



John and Margaret Martin



John
Clarke Snr

Jean Berns and
Tom Colgan



Mick Reddy, Christy Dunne.



Kevin Maye, Joe Mc Cormack



Lady guests enjoying the festivities, Bridie Goodman,
Myra Lyons, Adeline Patterson



Lt Col Gerry O'Sullivan, Station Commander
Casement Aerodrome with Tony Roe



Syl Donnelly, Tony Phelan, John Berns.



Piper
John
Brennan
pipes
in the
pudding.



The Golf Captains: Paddy Donnelly former
Capt, Forest Little G.C. and J.J. Murphy
Current Capt. Royal Dublin G.C.

Profile of John Patterson

John W. Patterson is a very dedicated and committed member of the Branch.

He has led an exciting life of which over 40 years were served in the Aviation Industry.

John hails from Carrowlustia, Calry in County Sligo.

He received his early schooling in Bulinorley National School and in the Sligo

Technical Institute. Before he embarked on his Aviation career, John was a jockey for a while training show jumpers in Sligo.

In 1950 he enlisted as an Apprentice in the Air Corps.

Having completed his Air Corps service in 1959, John joined Morton Air Services in Croyden and was assigned to the Far East

and Middle East where he spent five varied and exciting years as Chief Engineer with Burma Shell.

During this period he survived a devastating cyclone in Pakistan and a military take-over in Burma. John was selected to play for the Pakistan rugby team in a match against India in Calcutta but because of the deteriorating relationship between the two countries, Burma Shell would not allow John to travel to the match.

During his period as Chief Engineer with Shell the Chief Pilot at the time was Douglas Bader the renowned legless pilot of WW2 fame. In Saudia Arabia he had the distinction of being invited to a private dinner with the King.

Romance was in the air too as John at one time did "a line" with U Thants's (Gen Sec U.N.) daughter for a while. In 1964 John returned to Ireland to take up employment with Aer Lingus. .

Tom Colgan and John Patterson at the DH Vampire Reunion in June 2010



He retired in 1993. He had the distinction of holding an AME Licence on the Trident autoland system and also held a licence on the Concorde. He was awarded a special overall licence on all aircraft by the Royal Aeronautical Society.

John is married to Adeline (Addie) a highly respected Lay Minister in the Church of Ireland community in the Swords/ Donabate area. They have three in family, two daughters and a son.

In retirement John enjoys his nine motorcycles, four of which are taxed and operational.



NEWS ITEMS

DH DOVE ACCIDENT SITE

Some members of the Branch visited the site of the DH Dove accident on the 50th anniversary of the tragic occasion on 23 January 2011. It was noted that the land owner Michael Hannon has planted an Oak tree on the site as a permanent memorial to the victims.

SOMME VISIT 2011

All places on the planned visit to the Somme Commemoration Ceremonies have now been fully taken up. 14 Branch members will travel to the Somme on June 30th returning on 3rd July. The group will participate at the Memorial Ceremonies in Guillemont for the third successive year on July 1.

ANNIVERSARIES AND REUNIONS

The 1961 Apprentice Class and the 1961 Direct Entrant Class will celebrate their respective 50th Anniversaries this year. Congratulations to all concerned.

Details of celebratory reunions will be notified later. Congratulations also to the 9th Short Service Officers "Wings" course who will celebrate their 50th in October 2011. (J.O'Brien, T.Murphy, E.Whelan, M.O'Malley, J.P.Kelly, C.Carey. W. Margey (RIP).

NOTICES

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION:

The Annual Subscription (€25) is due on the 1st January each year. Most members have made the payment for 2011 but there are some payments outstanding. Early payment would be appreciated.

THE ONET LOTTO

The Lotto is one of the main sources of financial support for both ONET and the individual branches. It is also a marker on which the success of each Branch is judged. The Roger Casement Branch is the largest Branch within the company but it falls very short on the number of Lotto tickets sold by the Branch each month. The committee has decided to enclose one book (20) of tickets for each member and hopes that every effort will be made to sell them as soon as possible.

Each ticket costs €2 which is divided 50/50 between the Branch and the Company. The entries on each ticket are checked each Wednesday in Bru na bhFiann

The tickets should be returned to the Branch Hon Treasurer Eamonn Tierney. Please give the Lotto your support.

CUIMHNIMIS

*Let us remember those
who have died.*

Thomas Doyle
John Fagan
Thomas McKeown
Ken Lougheed

Late Ken Lougheed

All Branch Members were saddened by the recent passing of our colleague Ken Lougheed on 15th February, 2011.

Ken was born in Kent and moved to Kells Co. Meath when his father was appointed Sexton in the local Church of Ireland. He attended the Carrick Primary school and the Kells Technical Institute.

Ken joined the Air Corps as an Apprentice in 1946.

He was prominent as a Gaelic Footballer in his late teens and one of his claims to fame was that he was the first Englishman to win a championship medal playing with Dublin Minors in 1948.

Most of his time in the Air Corps was served in Gormanston. He retired as a Flight Sgt after 26 service. He later was employed as Security Manager in the Butlins Holiday Camp in Mosney.

Ken was a PC in the East Meath region and was fully committed to serving the local community. This was reflected by the overflow congregation at his funeral service. Members of the Roger Casement Branch joined with members of the Slane Branch ONET in providing a Guard of Honour. Serving Air Corps members acted as pallbearers. A piper from the Roger Casement Branch rendered appropriate honours.

Ken was an active and dedicated member of ONET.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

THE WARRIOR PROGRAMME

The Warrior Programme is designed to teach people to manage their negative emotions of anger, sadness, guilt, fear and hurt.

The Programme was introduced in Ireland in October 2010. Two members of the Roger Casement Branch participated in the launch and speak very favorably about the benefits of the Programme. The Warrior Programme is designed for Ex-Service personnel in Ireland and the UK. Details are available on www.warriorprogramme.org.uk or mobile 087 1711826. All contacts and involvement are strictly confidential.



Air Corps News

BRIGIDIR GENERAL PAUL FRY GENERAL OFFICER COMMANDING IRISH AIR CORPS.

On Jan 13th 2011, Brig Gen Paul Fry was appointed General Officer Commanding the Irish Air Corps. He takes up the appointment vacated by Major General Ralph James on his promotion to the Deputy Chief of Staff (Operations) of the Irish Defence Forces.

Born in Dublin in 1956 Brig Gen. Fry was educated in Sutton Park School, Howth, Co. Dublin and was awarded an Air Corps Cadetship in 1974. He commenced Officer Cadet training with the 51st Army Cadet Class that year and was awarded his "Wings" and commissioned as a Pilot Officer in 1976; his Air Corps Cadet Class – the 9th Regular Air Corps Cadet Class - being the first to graduate on the then new twin-jet trainer, the CM 170 Super Magister.

Brig Gen Fry has over 5000 flying hour's flight experience, this experience being split equally between helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft. He has displayed the Gazelle, Alouette 3 and Marchetti SF260WE aircraft at many national and international air shows and is currently rated on the PC9M turbo-prop training aircraft. He qualified for the award of his parachutists "Wings" having completed the Military Parachute Training Course in September 2001 and has completed over 20 jumps.

Overseas service brought Brig Gen Fry to the Western Sahara, seeing service as a Military Observer with the United Nations Observer Mission "MINURSO" from Oct 1995 to April 1996.

Brig Gen Fry is married to Gillian, a pharmacist, and has three children, Andrew (a qualified Air Corps pilot flying AW139's and EC135's in No.3 Operations Wing in the Air Corps) David (a computer consultant) and Claire (a nurse). He lives in Firhouse, Co. Dublin. His interests include volleyball, running, golf, target shooting, scuba diving, cricket and fishing.



10,000Hrs of PC9M flight.

27 January, 2011 marked a milestone for the staff and students of the Flight Training School as the PC9M fleet reached the 10,000Hr mark. The primary training aircraft in the Air Corps, the PC9 is also used to train pilots in air-to-ground gunnery.



NEWS ITEMS COLLECTION DAYS Arrangements have made for collections to be held in the Clondalkin Shopping Centre on the following days: April 20, 2011: Flag Day in aid of the Roger Casement Branch. July 6th, 2011: Fuchsia Collection. Volunteer collectors required in uniform. Contact Peter Mc Glynn. Additional venues will be arranged in July for the Fuchsia collection. Details later.