



Roger Casement Branch

of Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hEireann Teoranta (ONET)



The Link

www.oneaircorpsbranch.com

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*O.N.E. Monument, Casement Aerodrome,
following the recent landscaping
improvements*



BRANCH REPORT 2011

2011 was a very successful year for the Branch in many respects. The membership was 146 with 12 new members. We also welcomed 3 members transferring from other ONET Branches. Throughout the year, by the commitment of the committee and the membership, the Branch went from strength to strength. The Branch monthly meetings were very well attended.

The Branch Social Committee organised a number of events which were very well supported. These included the trip to the Somme where the group had a prominent position at the Guillemont ceremonies, the attendance at the Military Tattoo in Edinburgh where the group were included in the introduction at the start of the show, the visit to Croke Park Museum, attendance at the Defence Forces Gala Concert and a tour of Arbour Hill Church and UNVETS No.1 Post. There was also a large turnout of members at the La na bhFiann ceremonies.

ONET benefitted from the publicity generated by the involvement of the members of the Branch at those events and at special events in Leixlip, Tallaght, Clondalkin and Malahide. The Fuchsia collections in the shopping centres gave prominence and publicity to ONET.

The Branch Chairman participated with the Patrick Sarsfield Branch in a joint wreath laying ceremony at the Memorial to the deceased Air Corps personnel who lost their lives in a tragic road accident outside Limerick in 1942.

The main event in the Branch's calendar is the Annual Mass and wreath laying at the ONET Memorial in Casement Aerodrome. This year it was particularly special as COI Lay Minister Addie Patterson widow of the late John, participated with Fr. Jerry Carroll in the ceremonies. The large attendance included families of deceased members and members from other ONE branches. Maj-Gen Ralph James DCoS (Ops), Brig-Gen Paul Fry GOC Air Corps and retired Brig-Gen J.B.O'Connor attended as guests.

The Branch continues to be very much part of the Air Corps family and is supported by all ranks. This situation is assisted by the involvement of Branch Members in the Air Corps Museum. Members were introduced to Mr Alan Shatter, Minister for Defence during his trip to the Museum. The Branch was also represented at the Annual Blessing of the Fleet at the invitation of the GOC. With kind support from individual members, and from former classes it was possible to regularly publish the newsletter 'The Link'. The Newsletter, the Branch Website and our facebook pages are vital links with the general membership and especially with our overseas members.

Through the generosity of individual members and fund raising activities the Branch was pleased to make a significant contribution to ONET for the upkeep of the hostels for needy former Defence Force members. Looking forward to another active and successful year in 2012.

Brendan Downey Hon-Sec



AGM 2012

The AGM was held in the NCO'S's Mess Casement Aerodrome on January 19, 2012.

The Branch Chairman, Paddy O'Meara stood down after completing 5 years in office. The Hon- Secretary Ben Downey also stood down after completing 10 years.

A new committee was elected as follows:

Branch Chairman: Finnbar Lyons
Deputy Chairman: Paddy O'Meara
Hon-Secretary: Noel Murphy
Assist Secretary: Ben Downey
Hon-Treasurer: Eamonn Tierney
PRO: Peter McGlynn
Health & Safety: John Clarke.

Committee Members: Tony Roe,
Paddy McLoughlin, Gerry McCann, Frank Donnelly,
Mick Reddy, Mick Delaney, Frank Walsh, Richard Murphy, Archie Raeside.

New Branch Chairman. **Finnbar Lyons.**

Finnbar was a member of the 1953 D/E Class and left the Air Corps in 1958 to Join Aer Lingus where he served as Maintenance Manager until his retirement in 1995. He has been Deputy Branch Chairman for the past five years.

New Branch Secretary: **Noel Murphy**

Noel was a member of the 1961 D/E Class where one of his instructors was the retiring Chairman Paddy O'Meara. He Left the Air Corps in 1969 to pursue his Aviation career with British Eagle and BOAC. He returned to Ireland to join Aer Lingus in 1972 where he remained until his retirement in 2005. He has been an active Branch member for many years.

Blast From the Past

A Flight 1955: Back Row L/R: John Fallon, Mick O'Regan, Syl Donnelly, Paddy Brady, Con Callan, Tom Mc Guinn, Sean Costelloe, Mick Looney, Jim Humphreys, Bill Sullivan, Jack Lynch(former ONE Chairman), Niall Roche.

Centre Row L/R: Paddy Byrne, Eddie Mullins, Liam Donoghue, Paddy Slattery, Vinny Mc Mahon, Billy Kelly, John O'Keefe, Brendan Sheerin, Jack Breen, Larry Price, Paddy Barry,

Front Row: Mick Browne, Eddie Ryan

It is estimated that 15 of the group subsequently joined Aer Lingus.



Commemoration Ceremony For Air Corps Personnel

The Annual Wreath laying Ceremony to commemorate the three Air Corps personnel who lost their lives in a tragic road accident on 10th December 1940 was recently held at the Memorial Monument on the Dublin Rd, Limerick. The ceremony was organised by the Limerick based Patrick Sarsfield Branch of ONE. A wreath was laid on behalf of the Branch by Councillor Damian Riedy, Leas Ceann-Comhairle of Limerick Co. Council. A wreath was also laid on behalf of the Roger Casement Branch by Chairman Paddy O'Meara.



Memorial on Dublin Rd. Limerick.



L/R, Joe O'Mahoney, Chairman, Patrick Sarsfield Branch, Collr.Damian Riedy, Paddy O'Meara Chairman Roger Casement Branch.

U.N Memorial Service in Sydney:

Myles Mooney laying a wreath in Sydney, Australia on U.N. day in honour of the Irish who died in the Service of Peace.

Myles was a member of 1957 Apprentice class and served in the Congo with the Air Corps Pipe Band.



Notices:

REMINDER: Members are reminded that the Annual Membership Subscription of €25.00 is now overdue. Payment to the Hon Treasurer ASAP.
VISIT TO FLANDERS AND THE SOMME 2012: Excellent response only two places remaining. Contact Paddy O'Meara or Tony Roe.

*The Annual Christmas Lunch was held in the West County Hotel, Dublin
on December 14th.*

Guests of Honour included Brig-Gen Paul Fry and Fr, Jerry Carroll, CF.

Pic. 1:



Pic.2:



Pic.3:



Pic. 4:



Pic.5:



Pic.6:



Pic.7



Pic 8:



Pic 9:



- Pic. 1: Bill Crowley and Addie Patterson
- Pic.2: Chairman, Paddy O'Meara, Brig Gen Paul Fry, Fr. Jerry Carroll
- Pic.3: John and Elizabeth Collins
- Pic.4: Mick and Ann O'Brien
- Pic.5: Margaret Tierney
- Pic.6: P.J. McCaffrey, Noel Murphy
- Pic 7: Bill and Anna Murphy
- Pic 8: Jim and Cally Canavan
- Pic 9: Ben Downey, Jim Killian

CUIMHNIMIS

Let us remember those who have died. ~

CHRISTOPHER COSTELLO, JOSEPH DOWNES, ALAN GORE, MICK KEARNS, FRANK MARRON, SEAN SWORDS

Air Corps News *A Day to Remember*

On the 15th January 'Chipmunk 169' flew out of the history books in Ballyboy Airfield, Athboy. The newly refurbished De Havilland Chipmunk, painted in the original Air Corps colours, once again graced the Irish skies to celebrate its 60th anniversary with the Air Corps. The historic event was preceded on the 14th Jan with a symposium in Collins Barracks, National Museum of Ireland, where speakers Brig Gen Paul Fry, Capt. Russ Kane (Rtd) and Clive Denny brought to life the history of the Chipmunks' service with Ireland.

The Chipmunks first entered service with the Air Corps after OC Air Corps Colonel Paddy Quinn proposed the purchase of the elementary trainers in 1951.



Branch Member Capt. Russell Kane a former DH Chipmunk flying instructor shared some of his experiences on the aircraft.

The DH Chipmunk will be fondly remembered by many of the Roger Casement Branch members.

The proposal was granted by the Department of Finance within three months of Col Quinn's case leaving the Air Corps with a footnote to 'proceed urgently'. On 16 January 1952 Lieut. Soffe, a junior aeronautical engineer, accepted the first batch of aircraft from De Havilland.

The aircraft 164, 165 and 166 were then flown by Capt. Tim Healy, Lieut. Jim Sherry and Lieut. Hennessy, landing in Baldonnell for the first time at 1700hrs and so starting their renowned service with the Irish Air Corps.



Brig-Gen Paul Fry recalls the History of the DH Chipmunk in the Air Corps at the symposium in Collins Bks. Museum.

