



Roger Casement Branch

of Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann Teoranta (ONET)



The Link

www.oneaircorpsbranch.com

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*2013 Branch Christmas Lunch: l to r:
Brig-Gen Paul Fry, GOC: Finbar Lyons,
Branch Chairman Isidore Fleming, ONE:
Tony Roe, RCB Branch*

From the Chairman....

Our AGM was held on the 17th of January and the outgoing committee were all re-elected. I would like to thank the members for a great turn out and for their confidence in returning all of us to office for another year.

2012 was a reasonably successful year for the branch. Our membership grew by approximately 7% (12 members) during the year, and 2013 looks good also, as we have already added a few new members.

Currently the committee are working on the planning, and preparation for our annual Branch flag day and the ONET Fuchsia appeal fund raising campaign during the month of July. This year we are planning to extend our Fuchsia appeal campaign and we have applied to three new locations. The Fuchsia appeal fund is a major source of revenue for ONET and needs the support of all branches. During discussions with Oireachtas members on the 14th of November 2012 on the activities of ONET, our CEO Mr Ollie O Connor proposed the Fuchsia be worn as the National symbol of remembrance during the month of July similar to the Poppy in the UK.

On other Branch matters – we still have some vacancies to fill on the tour to France for the commemoration ceremonies at the Somme in late June/early July. This year we are using a tour bus from Brussels airport instead of cars. The tour is extended to visit the WW2 D-Day landing beaches in Normandy and will also visit the historic cities of Caen and Bayeux to view the famous tapestry.

Any member interested in travelling on this tour should contact any member of the committee, or the tour leader Tony Roe Tel. 012955489.

Finnbar Lyons

Secretary's Report

The Branch held a very successful Christmas Lunch in the West County Hotel on Thursday 13th December, and this was very well attended, with over 100 members and invited guests attending. Not all attendees had confirmed in advance and this resulted in some issues over seating, which was resolved by the hotel on the day.

Membership fees were collected and the December Branch meeting was held that evening.

The Annual General Meeting of the Branch took place at the NCO's Mess, Casement Aerodrome on Thursday 17th January 2013, and elections to the Board were held, with the 2012 Board Members re-elected uncontested.

We intend to continue the very active Branch events (fundraising, social and membership etc.) throughout the year, and hope that additional members will become more active with regard to monthly meetings, parades, trips, flag-days and events in general. Any members wishing to purchase uniform items (branch ties, crests, and forage caps) should contact the Hon. Branch Treasurer Eamonn Tierney.

Best wishes to all members and their families throughout 2013.

Hon. Secretary
Noel Murphy

*Edition sponsored by the 1957 Apprentice Class
And Paddy McLoughlin*



2013 BRANCH CHRISTMAS LUNCH WEST COUNTY HOTEL, DUBLIN



Jim and Bernadette Nolan.



Christy Dunne, Mick Curtis, Ed Browne



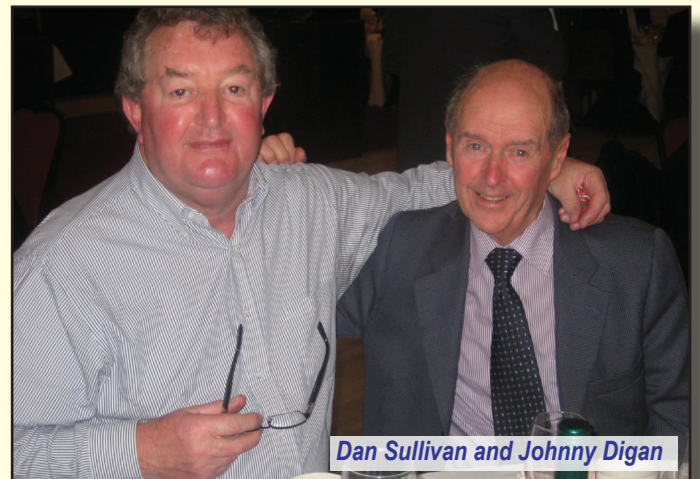
Noel Madigan and Paddy Donnelly



John and Jean Berns



Brian Rabbitte, P. J. McCaffrey, Pat Spillane



Dan Sullivan and Johnny Digan



Isidore Fleming, President Leinster Branch ONET



Jim and Cally Canavan

BLAST FROM THE PAST



The 1945 Apprentice Class: included are current RCB Branch members Mick Forde (Back Row, extreme left): Ben Downey (Back row, 4th from right) and Jim Killian (Centre Row: 4th from left) also included, Fr. Bill O'Riordan. Comdt. K.T. Curran (Later O.C. Air Corps) and Mr. Andy Smith, Civilian science Instructor.

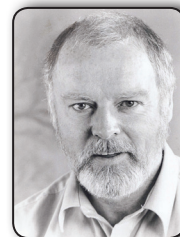


Electrical Shop Personnel c1960. l/r: Charlie Morgan, Phil Carolan, John Berns, Jack Dignan, Tom Murphy, Brendan Barden, John Reddington, Mick O'Donnell. Front: Brendan Putil, Pat McDonald, Dan Hurley, PJ McGolderick.



Gormanston Childrens Christmas Party: Members of the Air Corps Potential NCO'S Course who dressed up for the Gormanston Childrens Christmas Party 1961. L to r: Paddy O'Meara, Jim McCabhe (RIP) Myles McHugh (RIP), Ed Byrne, Mick Coughlan, Gerry Tully (RIP). FRONT: Mick Healy, Archie Raeside.

1957 Class of Apprentices 55th Reunion. 13th October 2012 By Clive Geraghty



In early spring the first letter went out, twenty three in all. The numbers of our class had not decreased since our last reunion in 2007. However, this was our 55th anniversary, and I was aware that that number does not have the same resonance as, say, a 50th or 60th. So I was prepared for a smaller number this time. As it happened the numbers were down, but it didn't matter, we still had a great night. Some of the lads were unable to attend due to factors outside their control; one was unable to get a flight from Lisbon, another had just moved to Spain to live. Others just made no contact, so who knows what the story is.

On the 13th October fourteen of the 1957 class met in the Castleknock Hotel and Golf Club, with family members the group numbered nearly thirty in total. Myles Mooney travelled from Sydney Australia, Mick Whooley came from London, Seán Oakes came up from Cork, we had two who made the journey from Waterford, Alan McIlraith and Joe Power. Mick Clancy travelled from Sligo, Denis Thomas managed to get a flight home from London, his daughter had been performing in the Royal Albert Hall the previous night. The rest of us came mostly from the Leinster area.

The staff at the hotel had put a small private bar at our disposal; this gave us a chance to renew old friendships, to catch up on family news, and just to have a chat with old pals before eating. The food was excellent, although adverse comments were made about the quality of the fillet beef (these complaints were later passed on to the hotel management). Overall though, the standard was good and very well presented. However, what is important on these occasions is the camaraderie and the craic. Remembering how we were is an essential part of any reunion, old stories about old comrades are told and sometimes re-told. Many of us now are folclicly challenged, most of our waists are considerably larger than they were 55 years ago, most have glasses, some are a little hard of hearing, and indeed a few of us have had serious illnesses, but even those who had severe medical setbacks had made the effort to come and enjoy the company of their pals of long ago.

A section of the main bar had been set aside for us after we left the private dining area. The wine flowed, as did the stories and the fun, until the small hours. Most of us re-convened in Baldonnell the next morning for the annual commemoration of deceased members of the Corps. The biggest turnout ever attended the mass, which severely tested the caterers in the N.C.O's Mess. The occasion provided another great opportunity to meet and greet ex-members of the Corps, some younger, some older, but all bound together in affection by having served in tough times, long ago, in a remarkable period in the history of the Irish Army Air Corps.

The '57 class was lucky, we had lost no members in the interval between our 50th and our 55th reunions. Will we be as lucky again, between this and our 60th? Who knows, these things are outside our control. Will I be sending out the letters calling us to meet again in the spring of 2017. You bet I will. Present were: Mick Clancy, Clive Geraghty, Mick Horan, Bob Howard, Matt Kennedy, Pat McCaffrey, Myles Mooney, Alan McIlraith, Seán Oakes, Joe Power, Mick Reddy, Denis Thomas, Brian Webberley, Mick Whooley.

CUIMHNIMIS ~ *Let us remember those who have died.* ~
JOHN NIXI PALMER, GARY REDMOND, FRANK THOMPSON, CON MARTIN RAYMOND KELLIHER

Notices

Visit to WW1 Battlefields and WW2 D-Day Beaches:
June 28 to July 4: €789.00 per person sharing
Flights from Dublin to Brussels and returning Paris to Dublin
Visits to Flanders Battlefields, Ypres and the Somme.
Attend the 16th Irish Division Memorial Service in Guillemont.
Visit to Normandy Beaches and Bayeux.
Contact Group Travel International, 01 8434734
or Tony Roe, 01 29554809

If any members are interested in attending a shorter visit to the Somme Region including participation in the Guillemont Ceremony, travelling Dublin to Paris on Saturday June 30 and returning on Tuesday July 2. Two nights accommodation in the Albert area.

Contact Paddy O'Meara, 086 8500316

Air Corps News

Sea Rescue off Mizen Head on Feb.21.

An Air Corps Casa, C252, took part in the rescue of an injured crew member of a pipe-laying vessel, the M/V Seven Eagle, 200 miles southwest of Mizen Head this morning. The Air Corps was tasked with providing top cover to the IRCG rescue Helicopter, Rescue 115, arriving on scene at 0620 hrs with Rescue 115 arriving at 0830 hrs to winch the casualty to safety. The casualty was airlifted to the Shannon search and rescue base and was transferred to hospital by road at 1040 hrs.

The photograph shows Cpl. Mark Keogh and A/M Aidan Murphy monitoring the rescue from the radar observer's station on board C252.



AW 139 Helicopter at dusk.



PC9'S on a scenic formation training Exercise