



Roger Casement Branch

of Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hEireann Teoranta (ONET)



The Link

www.oneaircorpsbranch.com

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www.oneaircorpsbranch.com



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Group from Roger Casement Branch attending the ONET Annual Convention in Dundalk.

L/R. Ben Downey, Jim Canavan, Paddy O'Meara, Peter Mc Glynn, Jim Nolan.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN.....

Many of our members will have joined the RCB for the social contacts which are maintained and nurtured with their former Air Corps colleagues. This element is a major part of the Branch's activities but members should never lose sight of the primary objectives of the parent organisation ONET.

"The main objective of ONE is to ensure the welfare of ex-servicemen and women by way of providing accommodation to homeless, elderly or disabled members in need of such domestic accommodation and shelter and other assistance that may be required. We also promote social

cultural and sporting activities in order to develop a spirit of comradeship between serving and retired members of the services, as well as provision of information in the area of pensions, social welfare benefits and other entitlements"

ONET provides and supports a number of hostels throughout the country in support of this objective. It will be interesting for members to note that in excess of 20 former members of the Air Corps have been accommodated in the hostels. It is therefore in our interests to provide financial support to ONET for the welfare of former colleagues. ONET has introduced the Fuchsia as an emblem to promote its fund raising activities. July has been nominated

"FUCHSIA MONTH" and each Branch has been asked to promote the sale of Fuchsias during the month. Members will embark on a programme of activities to sell the Fuchsia to the general public in order to raise the essential funds necessary to maintain the hostels.

I mentioned at the Branch AGM that the Branch will improve its fundraising efforts this year and the purchase of the RCB roller banner is part of the overall plan to achieve this aim. The full support of members will be greatly appreciated.

*Paddy O'Meara,
Branch Chairman*

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



Christmas Lunch 2009



John Patterson



Joe and Theresa M Cormack



Gerry Tolan, Matt Kennedy, Mick Reddy



Paddy Goodman, Mick Prince



John Martin, Mick Curtis



Tony Roe, Fr, Gerry Carroll

SECRETARY'S REPORT

There has been plenty of activity in the Branch since the April issue of The Link.

Through the strenuous efforts of Branch PRO Peter Mc Glynn, the Memorial Monument, its plinth and the surrounding pavement area has been cleaned. Work has also been carried out to tidy up the adjacent landscaping and trees. This work was completed with the full cooperation of the GOC Air Corps and the contract landscape company.

It is good to see the Monument looking so well as it is a focal point for visiting groups to Baldonnell and especially for family members of deceased former Air Corps personnel.

The members of the RCB group who regularly attend the Air Corps Museum were recently introduced to the U.S.

Ambassador to Ireland Mr. Dan Rooney during his visit to the museum. A number of RCB Branch members attended various functions abroad during the past months. John Condon and John Clarke attended the St Patricks day parade in Boston. Tony Roe attended the ceremonies in Gallipoli and members attended the La na BhFiann ceremonies in Arbour Hill on Easter Sunday. Myles Mooney proudly wore the RCB uniform at the Anzac parade in Turrella, New South Wales, Australia.

Membership of the Branch continues to increase. At the recent DH Vampire reunion, a number of new members were enrolled.

I note that a number of members have overlooked payment of their annual subscription. Early payment would be appreciated.

Brendan Downey, Hon-Sec.



ANNIVERSARIES AND REUNIONS

- The 1955 class of D/E's recently held their 55th anniversary reunion in the Ashling Hotel, Dublin, The attendance included, Andy Coleman, Dan Doolin, Charlie Wren, Pat O'Connell, Paul O'Donoghue, Finnbar O'Toole, Mick Egan, Don Reinhardt, John A O'Brien. (photo next edition).
- The 1949 D/E class held a reunion in Baldonnell on Friday June 11th. Fr Denis Lynch a former member of the class celebrated the Anniversary Mass.
- The 1960 Apprentice class will celebrate their 50th anniversary this year. Contact Paddy King Tel 087 2182312

DH VAMPIRE REUNION IN CASEMENT AERODROME

A very enjoyable reunion of former DH Vampire air and ground support personnel was held in Baldonnell on June 3rd, 2010. The event was organised by the DH Vampire Reunion Committee with the kind approval of the GOC Air Corps. Approximately 200 former Air Corps members attended. Notable attendees included Capt Declan Whelan who landed the very first Vampire in Baldonnell on July 21st, 1956. Also in attendance were BG Jerry O'Connor and Capt Ronnie Mc Partland who was the only pilot to eject from a Vampire on May 5, 1961. Capt PG McCabe and RCB member Paddy Goodman who attended the DeHavilland Aircraft Company for training in advance of the aircraft deliveries also attended. The event was made more special with the arrival of a Vampire T11 aircraft which has been restored by

the UK based Vampire Preservation Group. The aircraft flown by Capt Mark Hooton gave a stunning flying display which revived old memories for the former Vampire personnel. Principal sponsors of the event were Cityjet with additional sponsorship from, TAT Leasing Ltd, Parc Aviation and Roger Casement Branch, ONE. The weather was very kind and a great day was had by all.



Visiting DH Vampire T11

L/R. Fr Colm Mathews, Kevin Humphries IAA, Ronnie Mc Partland, BG Jerry O'Connor, Geoff White CEO CityJet, BG Ralph James, Paddy O'Meara, Chairman organising committee.



NEWS ITEMS

Annual Subscription

The annual sub has been increased from €20.00 to €25.00 by direction of the Board of ONET. Payment is now overdue.

Cheques should be made payable to the Roger Casement Branch and sent to the Hon. Treasurer.

Dates for your Diary

July 12, 2010 ONE National Day of Commemoration

July 25, 2010 50th Anniversary of troops leaving Baldonnell for The Congo. Full details of commemoration service later.

Oct 10, 2010 Branch Annual Mass, Casement Aerodrome.

Dec 08, 2010 Annual Christmas Lunch.

Members Honoured

Ted Jones and Geoffrey Metcalf of the RAF Association who are members of the Roger Casement Branch were recently honoured by the Russian Government for their part in the hazardous task of protecting the Russian Arctic Fleet during World War 2. They received the Russian Anniversary of Victory Medal from the Russian Ambassador.

Website

Members are recommended to frequently refer to the Branch Website which is updated on a regular basis. Members should also inform their friends and former colleagues of the existence of the new Website at: www.oneaircorpsbranch.com

The Memorial Book

The Memorial Book which is held in a special cabinet in the Church in Baldonnell is currently being updated. It is important that the details of the deceased whose names are inscribed in the book are accurate.

Where possible, the details of Rank, Service No, Name, Years of Service, Last Posting should be provided.

It is most important that the demise of the individual is confirmed. If there is any doubt about the death of the person, the name will not be entered until confirmation is received.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

June 30 Somme Commemoration

July 03 A group of members from the Roger Casement Branch will attend the Annual Commemoration Ceremonies at The Somme on July 1. The group will also visit the Ypres area in Belgium
Details: Paddy O'Meara 086 8500316

July 21 Visit to the Ulster Transport and Folk Museum Belfast. The Centre is located 7 miles East of Belfast. It is proposed that a bus tour be arranged from Dublin and will also visit other nearby Tourist centres.

Pick up point #1: The West County Hotel car park at 0900 hrs.

Pick up point #2: The ALSAA car park, Dublin Airport at 0930 hrs.

Estimated travel time two and a half hours.

Lunch will be served in the Old Inn, Crawfordsburn which is close to the museum.

The cost of the 22 seat bus is

€ 375.00 Euros for the day.

Contact Paddy Mc Loughlin 01-6265156 or Finnbar Lyons 087 6860021 to book your place.

Sept. Visit to Waterford and Kilkenny

Date TBA Visit to Kilkenny Castle and a visit to the memorial to the Air Corps Helicopter Crew at Tramore, Co Waterford.

Interested members contact Paddy Mc Loughlin, Finnbar Lyons or John Clarke.

CUIMHNIMIS

*Let us remember those
who have died.*

Mick Bourke
Billy Creedon
James(Stan) Hogan
Courtney Murphy
Dan Spillane
Patrick Harte

WHERE HAS THE FIGHTER SQUADRON PENNANT GONE?

The attached newspaper clipping which was given to Air Corps historian. A.P.Kearns by the late Col. Paddy Swan gives details of a special Pennant which was blessed by the Bishop of Meath and presented to No 1 Fighter Squadron at an impressive ceremony in Gormanston Camp on 20 July, 1949.

Fighter Squadron was based in Gormanston from 1945 and moved to Baldonnell in 1956 when the first three DH Vampire aircraft were delivered.

The Pennant has been missing for several years and it would have been a valuable addition to the Reunion of DH Vampire personnel which was held recently in Baldonnell.

Details of the whereabouts of the pennant would be appreciated especially by the former Fighter Squadron members of the Roger Casement Branch and by the Air Corps Museum.

Contact any member of the committee if you can assist.

Bishop Blesses Army Air Corps 'Planes



The Bishop of Meath, Most Rev. Dr. Kyne, blessing aircraft of the No. 1 Fighter Squadron at Gormanston. He was assisted by Rev. J. Clarke, C.F.

THE Bishop of Meath, Most Rev. Dr. Kyne, blessed and dedicated to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal 'planes of the No. 1 Fighter Squadron, Army

The General Salute was sounded by trumpeters, after which his Lordship inspected the Guard of Honour drawn from the Squadron under Capt. J. B. O'Connor.

After the blessing ceremony the pilots and members of the crews of

