



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



## The Link

[www.oneaircorpsbranch.com](http://www.oneaircorpsbranch.com)

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Members of the Branch with Maj-Gen Ralph James and Lt-Col John Maloney at the Veterans Day Ceremony in the Curragh.

Branch Chairman:

**Finnbar Lyons**

Hon. Secretary:

**Noel Murphy**

Hon. Treasurer:

**Eamonn Tierney**

PRO:

**Peter Mc Glynn**

Honorary Branch President:

**James Nolan**

### The Defence Forces celebrate Veterans Day

The Defence Forces held its Inaugural 'Defence Forces Veterans Day' at the Defence Forces Training Centre, Curragh Camp on Tuesday 02 September 2014.

The Minister for Defence Simon Coveney and Chief of Staff Lt-Gen Conor O Boyle were in attendance. Representatives from O.N.E.T, I.U.N.V.A from R.A.C.O. and from other veteran's organisations were also present.

All the branches of the Defence Forces were represented in the Guard of Honour and Wreath laying service.

A fly-past of Air Corps aircraft took place and the visitors were invited to an exhibition of past and present military equipment. Catering was provided for guests in the Pearse Barracks Dining Centre.

The event was very successful and was enjoyed by all the veterans present. It is hoped that the 'Defence Forces Veterans Day' will become an annual event.



Glasnevin Cemetery August 17th, 2014. Wreaths were laid at the Graves of Arthur Griffith, Gen. Michael Collins and Roger Casement. The attached photo was taken at the Grave of Roger Casement. L/R J. Nolan, M. Lally, G. McCann, M. Murphy, M. Delaney, N. Murphy, E. Tierney, E. Ryan, J. Brennan.

### Secretary's Report

The Branch has been very busy for the past number of months. Membership now stands at 173 paid up members. The average monthly meeting attendance is 22 members.

Members have been very active participating in Branch and Fuchsia collections and in representing the Branch at various functions as follows:

**Sunday 25th May:** I.U.N.V.A. Wreath Laying. 2 members attended.

**Fri and Sat, 6th and 7th June:** Branch collection at City West Shopping Mall.

**Fri 13th June:** Blessing of Fleet at Casement Aerodrome.

**Sat 28th June:** Invitation to Garden Party with R.A.F.A. 5 members attended.

**Sun 29th June:** 19 members and guests departed on annual trip to Ypres/Somme, returning on 3rd July.

**Sat 12th July:** 7 members attended the Annual British Legion Wreath laying Ceremony at the Islandbridge Memorial.

**Sun 13th July:** 3 members attended the National Commemoration Ceremony at the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham.

**Sun 20th July:** Defence Forces Race Day at the Curragh. 3 members attended.

**Tue 29th July:** Fuchsia Collection, Newcastle Co. Dublin.

**Thu 31st July:** Glasnevin Cemetery, Unveiling of Cross of Sacrifice. 6 Members attended.

**Sun 3rd August:** Pro-Cathedral. WW1, Memorial Mass. 3 members attended.

**Tue 5th August:** 3 members and 3 guests travelled to Edinburgh to attend the Military Tattoo.

**Sun 17th August:** Glasnevin Cemetery; Memorial Parade for Arthur Griffith, Gen. Michael Collins and Roger Casement. 9 members in attendance.

**Sat 23rd August:** Unveiling of memorial stone in honour of the first V.C. awarded in WW1 to Lt. Maurice Dease.

**Sun 24th August:** Athy; 3 members attended the St. Michaels Branch O.N.E. first Annual Mass.

**Tue 2ND August:** Defence Forces Veterans Day, Curragh Camp. 7 members attended

**Sat 13th September:** Great War Memorial Service, Kilgobbin, Co. Dublin, 2 members attended.

Looking forward to more participation of Branch Members in Parades and other events in the future.

**Noel Murphy**

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





# Annual Trip to Ypres and the Somme

A group from the Roger Casement Branch completed its sixth successive annual visit to the Battlefields and Memorials in Flanders and The Somme to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the commencement of WW1.

The trip was the most comprehensive and extensive visit to date with 19 members and guests in the party. The group left Dublin Airport on Sunday June 29th for Brussels where the rented vehicles, two minibuses and one car were picked up. Two drivers were assigned to each vehicle. The group then completed the two hour drive to the Hotel Ariane in Ypres, arriving around midnight.

**Monday June 30:** Following an early orientation meeting the group visited the Cathedral and the famous Cloth Hall Museum in Ypres before setting off for a visit to the town of Popperinge and the site of the 'Shot at Dawn' executions. We then visited the very impressive tower and museum in Diksmuide. This was a first visit to this remarkable site. We then proceeded to Poulkapelle to visit the grave of Pte John Condon from Waterford aged 14 who is reputed to be the youngest soldier killed in the Great War.

Next on the list was the sombre German Cemetery in Langemark, then on to the large Tyne Cot Cemetery in Passendale which contains 11,000 graves and where the names of 34,000 missing personnel are engraved on the walls surrounding the memorial.

**Tuesday July 1:** 98th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, the group left Ypres at 0800 hrs driving south into France. The first destination was the town of Arras where the Flyers Monument is located in the local war cemetery. This was a first visit to this very impressive memorial which contains the names of deceased VC holders, including top scoring Flying Ace, Mick Mannock from Ballincollig with 73 victories. A wreath was laid at the Flyers Memorial by Branch President Jim Nolan and military honours were rendered and a lament was played by piper John Brennan.

The group then continued to Albert in the Somme where the underground museum and Cathedral were visited. After Lunch we proceeded to the village of Guillemont to take part in the annual commemoration ceremony. This event is arranged by the Somme Association of Northern Ireland and we are honoured to be invited to take part in the ceremony which takes place at the Memorial cross to the 16th Irish Division. The ceremony was attended by the Mayors of Guillemont and Ginchy, Other dignitaries included the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Theresa Villiers. Minister of State, Dinny Mc Ginley represented the Irish Government and the Irish Defence Forces was represented by Brig Gen Murray Piggott. Members of the Royal Irish Regiment including a bugler participated in the ceremony. The Prayer of Exhortation was delivered jointly by Major R.G.Semple, The Royal Irish Regiment and by Paddy O'Meara Deputy Chairman RCB.



*RCB members and guests with Brig-Gen Murray Piggott following the Memorial Service in Guillemont, Somme*



*Piper John Brennan at the Cemetery in Guillemont.*

*Gerry Mc Cann at Willy Mc Bride's Grave in Authuille Military Cemetery, Somme*

Before leaving the Somme region the group visited the Lochnagar Crater, The Thiepval Memorial, The Ulster Tower and the Trenches at the Newfoundland Memorial in Beaumont Hemel. The final visit of the day was to the grave of Willy Mc Bride



at the picturesque Military Cemetery located on a hillside in the village of Authuille near Albert.

**Wednesday July 2:** The group visited a number of sites in the Ypres area including, Essex Farm Cemetery, Bard Cottage Cemetery, Wijtschaete Military Cemetery where a wreath was laid at the 16th Irish Division Cross, Messines Church and the impressive Island of Ireland Peace Park. Nearby is the site of the Khaki Chums football match which occurred during Christmas 1914.

The group then travelled to Lokar to visit the grave of Willy Redmond, before visiting Sanctuary Wood and the trenches.

At 2000 hrs the group participated in the daily commemoration service at the Menin Gate in Ypres. A wreath was laid on behalf of the Branch and great interest in the Branch Flag was shown by many of the international visitors who attended the very moving ceremony. The flag was carried by John Clarke.

**Thursday July 3:** The morning was free for shopping and for catching up. A number of members visited the grave of Alan Seegar the father of American Singer Pete Seegar. The group reassembled back at the hotel at 1400 for the trip back to Brussels and the return flight to Dublin.





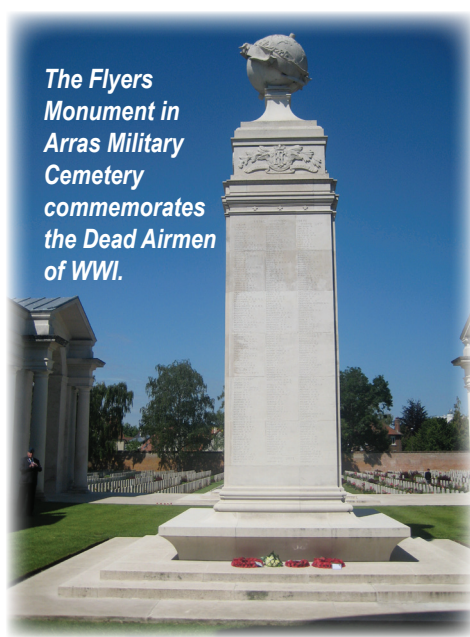
Branch Chairman Finnbar Lyons lays a wreath at the 16th Irish Division Cross at Wijtschaete Military Cemetery, Flanders.



Paddy O'Meara RCB Deputy Chairman and Major R.G Semple of the Royal Irish Regiment recite The Exhortation at the Guillemont Ceremony.



Tony Roe and Paddy O'Meara at the Guillemont Memorial.



The Flyers Monument in Arras Military Cemetery commemorates the Dead Airmen of WWI.



Wreath laying Ceremony at the Flyers Monument,



John Clarke on parade at the Menin Gate Ceremony

## A NIGHTINGALE FALLING

DARK SECRETS OF LOVE AND WAR IN POST'S IRELAND



STARRING  
TARA BREATHNACH  
MUIREANN BIRD  
GERARD MCCARTHY

IN CINEMAS SEPTEMBER 12TH

## A NIGHTINGALE FALLING

The Dramatic movie which was set in the War of Independence period has drawn warm acclaim from the critics. The film was made entirely in Ireland using Irish Film Crews and has an all Irish cast. One of the Co-producers of the film is Gerry Burke who was previously a member of the 1979 Apprentice Class. Gerry worked for many years in the aircraft spare parts business and was M.D of Magellan Aviation Services, Shannon. This Company was the sponsor of the First edition of the magazine style Link Newsletter in 2007. The members of the 1979 Apprentice Class will be celebrating their 35th reunion commencing with a Mass in Casement Aerodrome on 26 September. 2014.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Annual Christmas Lunch

The Annual Christmas Lunch will take place on Thursday December 11th, 2014 in the West County Hotel, Chapelizod at 1300 hrs, Price €30.00 per person.

PLEASE BOOK EARLY AS PLACES ARE LIMITED;  
Contact Noel Murphy 087 6342941 or  
Eamonn Tierney 086 1671634.

Email: [onerogercasementbranch@gmail.com](mailto:onerogercasementbranch@gmail.com)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Branch Annual Mass

The Branch Annual Mass for deceased members will be held in the Garrison Church, Casement Aerodrome on Sunday October 12th, 2014 at 1000 Hrs.



# CUIMHNIMIS ~ Let us remember those who have died. ~

ED COTTER

TOM LONG  
DES McCONVILLE

P.J. BARRY  
LEO MAHON

STEPHEN McGRATH  
DAITHI MURPHY

DAN MURPHY

## Service in Glasnevin Cemetery

On Thursday 31st July, 2014, several members of the branch attended the unveiling and dedication of the Cross of Sacrifice at the War Memorial in Glasnevin Cemetery. This was a long awaited addition to the Memorial Walls, remembering the Irish men and women who lost their lives in the two world wars of the 20th century. Glasnevin Trust and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission were the joint hosts.

The main guest was Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, who represented the UK. The Duke was escorted to his place by Brig Gen Paul Fry, G.O.C. Irish Air Corps. Several other bodies and associations were present including the Royal British Legion, IUNVA, ONET, and our friends from the Royal Air Force Assn. The religious service was conducted jointly by Monsignor Eoin Thynne, Head Chaplain Defence Forces and the Deputy Head Chaplain to HM Forces.



*Group attentively listening to President Higgins address at the Service in Glasnevin Cemetery for the unveiling of the Sacrificial Cross. Included are former Air Corps members, Richard Cummins, Noel Murphy, Gerry McCann, Tony Roe, Frank Walsh. Members of RAFA are also included.*

## Air Corps News

### 1. GOC Air Corps visits troops in Lebanon.

This month saw another first for the Air Corps with the General Officer Commanding the Air Corps, Brig Gen Paul Fry, visiting his troops on overseas service with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

The Air Corps currently has 29 personnel proudly flying the flag on this overseas mission which is the biggest deployment of Air Corps personnel in one tranche.

Over the course of the official visit Brig Gen Fry met with all the troops, paid his respects to those who lost their lives in service with UNIFIL and got to experience what a patrol along the Blue Line involved.

### 2. Ceremonial Guard of Honour

On the 9th of July the Air Corps joined with the 7th Infantry Battalion at the first of six Ceremonial Military Guards at the 'National Memorial to Members of the Defence Forces who died in the Service of the State,' at Merrion Square Park, Dublin.

It was an honour to be the first to provide the first Guard of Honour of the year and those involved set a very high bench mark to the other Units from the Army and Naval Service for the Military Guard Ceremony in solemn remembrance of their fallen comrades.

### 3. Special Visitor to Casement Aerodrome.

At the beginning of August the Air Corps had a special visit from a VIP, 5 year old Hannah from Donegal who came to say thank you to some of her heroes.

On the 26th November 2009 she first met with Capt Finbar McArdle, Capt Michael Noonan and Airman Dave Tieran when they were tasked with bringing her on a neonatal air ambulance from Letterkenny to Dublin. Hannah needed to urgently get to Crumlin hospital and, thanks to the speedy transfer from her helicopter crew and the support from Air Corps ground staff, she got the treatment she required and has made a full recovery.

The Air Corps completes over 100 air ambulances every year and the crews rarely hear how our special passengers get on. Meeting Hannah in August and seeing her full of life is a great reminder to our crews of the difference they can make and why we do our best to provide this service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all year round.

### 4. Aviation Photographers visit Casement Aerodrome After dark:

On the 14th September the Air Corps welcomed some of Ireland's finest Aviation Photographers to Casement Aerodrome.

Over the course of the evening they got a chance to get up close to all of our current fleet and one or two of our veteran members.

The results from these aviation enthusiasts were absolutely amazing and really show the Air Corps in a different light. Check out the Official Air Corps face Book page to see the photographs from the night.



*GOC visits  
Air Corps  
troops in  
Lebanon*

*Hannah from Donegal meets  
Capt Finnbar Mc Ardle,  
Capt Michael Noonan  
and Airman Dave Tieran.*



*Chipmunk 169 replica taken at the night photo shoot.  
This aircraft will revive old memories for many of our members.*

