



The Link



Issue 2/07
Summer 2007

OGLAIGH NAISIUNTA na hEIREANN
ORGANISATION of NATIONAL EX-SERVICEMEN and WOMEN

ROGER CASEMENT BRANCH

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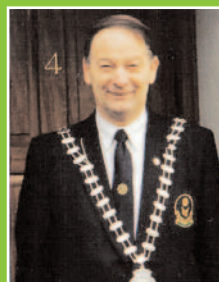
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The Pipe Band in all their splendour, making a presentation to the Roger Casement Branch at Arbour Hill on Easter Sunday. Included are Branch Chairman Paddy O Meara, Former Chairman Wally Walsh & P.R.O. John Condon



Jim Nolan, a founder member Of the Roger Casement Branch has recently been appointed the National President of O.N.E.

We extend our congratulation to

Jim on being elected to this prestigious position and wish him every success in his future role.

SECRETARY'S NOTES BRANCH ACTIVITIES

The membership of the Roger Casement Branch for 2007 is 98. This is a big increase which brings the number to the highest ever for the Branch. It is achieved as a result of contacts made during the Annual Mass, at the Annual Lunch and by members who were interested in getting their colleagues to join. Membership of the Branch provides an opportunity for former colleagues who have served in Baldonnel to make contact with each other particularly those who may not have been in touch for many years. Contact any member of the committee or the Honorary Secretary (01-8420958) if you wish to join the Roger Casement Branch.

Members are free to attend the monthly meeting of the Branch which is held on the third Thursday of each month at 20.00hrs in the NCO's Mess Casement Aerodrome. The members can take part, as they wish, in the discussion on the items on the agenda for the meeting. The Social Committee arranges events and trips during the year. All members are welcome to attend the events and join the trips.

The Branch has an office in the Museum complex in Baldonnel which was assigned to us by Brig. Gen. Ralph James GOC Air Corps. The office was formally handed over on the occasion of the opening of the Brig-Gen J.B. O'Connor simulator facility. Members can use the office by prior arrangement with the Branch Honorary Secretary.

EVENTS 2007 *The following events should be noted:*
O.N.E. CONVENTION
June 22/24 in Athlone

BRANCH ANNUAL MASS
Sunday October 14th in Baldonnel

BRANCH ANNUAL LUNCH
December - Date T.B.A.
West County Hotel, Chapelizod

From the Chairman...

I wish to record the thanks of all the Branch members for the trojan work carried out by my predecessor Jim Conway in performing the duties of Branch Chairman for the past four years. Jim was an example to all with the dedication and dignity he showed to the office. It's hard to believe that Jim became an octogenarian in April and we wish him many more years of good health and happiness. I am pleased to say that Jim continues as a member of the committee.

In addition to supporting the objectives of our parent organization ONET, in providing ongoing support for needy retired members of the Defence Forces, the Roger Casement Branch provides a forum for all former Baldonnel members to keep in touch with old comrades and to keep abreast of developments within the present Air Corps.

A meeting of the branch is held on the third Thursday of each month at 2015 in the NCO's Mess at Casement Air Base. All are welcome to attend.

The success of the Branch is dependent on the membership and all people who have served in Baldonnel are earnestly encouraged to join.

I hope that you are enjoying this new upgraded version of 'The Link' which the committee has decided to launch with a view to attracting new members to the Branch. Existing members eagerly look forward to each edition to hear the latest news and gossip and I am sure that many more former members would like to receive a copy which is circulated quarterly to all members.

Details for joining the Branch are contained elsewhere in this newsletter and I look forward to welcoming many new comrades to the Roger Casement Branch.

Paddy O'Meara
Branch Chairman



FROM CORK EXAMINER 28 JANUARY 1936

Profile: Clive Geraghty



Clive was born in Dublin in 1940. He attended Scoil Mhuire, Marino, spent one year in Joeys in Fairview, before starting at North Strand Technical School. Accepted into the Air Corps as an apprentice in 1957, he was appointed Senior Apprentice in '58/59, then, moving up camp, transferred to A.F.T.S where he worked under the quiet man of Flying Wing, Pat Costello, and the not-so-quiet Shay Byrne. In 6I he transferred to Tech.Wing, and spent the next four years working with Johnny Mangan, Louis Treacy, Mick O'Reilly, Eddie O'Reilly (EPS), Ru Murray, Jack Doody, Noel Lucey, and many more who became great friends as well as workmates. As he says himself, he knew early on that he did not want to spend the rest of his life working on aircraft, then in '6I fate intervened. Clive joined an amateur drama group, The Young Dublin Players, to help pass the long winter nights, the producer of the group was Ivan

Hanly, an actor in Radio Eireann. After the second play he appeared in, Ivan advised him to join a professional school to acquire further training. This he did, the teacher in the school was Ray McAnally, and after a few lessons Ray asked Clive to come down to the Abbey as a "Spearcarriger". So started his long association with the Abbey. The Abbey School of Acting was re-activated in '63, and Clive was invited to join and provided with a scholarship by Earnán de Blaghd to cover his tuition fees, because he was a serving member of the Defence Forces. The demands on his time became so great that Clive bought himself out of the Corps in '65, and joined the Abbey Company as a very junior member. He left in '66 and enjoyed considerable success as a freelance actor in TV, stage, film and radio. At the invitation of the Abbey he re-joined the company in '72. Over the next thirty three years he appeared in hundreds of plays

ranging from Shakespeare to Bernard Farrell, he toured with the Abbey to the U.K, U.S.A, Australia, and across most of Europe and did many nationwide tours of Ireland. He retired from the National Theatre in 2005. Clive has been writing for Radio Eireann for some years, he has had plays produced and frequently can be heard on Sunday Miscellany and The Living Word. He has reviewed books for the Irish Times, and is currently trying to learn to paint. At the time of writing he is appearing in Fair City and The Clinic, and trying to find time to get his golf handicap down to respectable figures.

We are pleased to announce that following the untimely demise of Tom Piggott in "Fair City" that Clive is alive and well and continues as an active member of the Roger Casement Branch. He is presently assisting in organising the reunion of the 1957 Apprentice Class for its 50th anniversary which will be celebrated this year.

REUNIONS and ANNIVERSARIES

*2007 is a great year for reunions:
1949 Apprentice Class has a reunion in
Waterford on June 16/17.*

*1950 Apprentice Class met in Limerick on June
8th.*

*The 1957 Apprentice Class will celebrate their
50th Anniversary in 2007. Plans are in hand
for a class reunion on the weekend of 6th 7th
and 8th of October.*

*Contact Clive Geraghty at 29 Orchard Court,
Coolmine, Clonsilla, Dublin for more
information. Phone 01 8212886,
Mobile 086 8190899.
email:clivegeraghty@gmail.com*

ROLL CALL APPRENTICE CLASS OF 1957

BOHANE MICK	MICK CLANCY
COVENEY TOM	BILL DOWLING
FAHY JIM	CLIVE GERAGHTY
GLEESON PADDY	HARRY GOFF
GRAHAM JACK	MICK HORAN
HOWARD BOB	MATT KENNEDY
KILCLINE TONY (DECEASED)	
LARKIN JOHN (DECEASED)	
LONERGAN PJ	
MCFADDEN GERRY (DECEASED)	
MCCAFFREY PAT	MYLES MOONEY
MULCAHY TERRY	ALAN MC ILRAITH
OAKES SEAN	TOM OATES
O'CONNELL BILL	POWER JOE
REDDY MICK	DENIS THOMAS
WALSH WALTER (REV)	BRIAN WEBBERLEY
WHOOLEY MICK.	

MID 1960 MEMORIES

By Tony Roe

When Hollywood came to Baldonnell



Darling Lily 1968: Landing incident in Weston



*Darling Lily 1968 Weston Aerodrome.
Lt. P. McMabon*



Darling Lily 1968 : Fireworks in Weston

Do the names 20th Century Fox, Location Caterers mean anything to you? What about George Peppard, Ursula Andress, Rock Hudson, Julie Andrews, James Mason, Burt Williams.

These were the film companies, the director, the stars and special effects section which brought the films-The Blue Max, Darling Lily, Aces High, Zeppelin, Von Richtoven and Brown to the big screen.

Most of these films were made on location at Baldonnell using Air Corps pilots, technicians, refuellers, transport drivers, admin and ancillary personnel, all of whom were seconded to the film companies by the Dept.of Defence. The weekly pay and conditions for those involved were boosted somewhat during the period of filming.

The writer can speak only on the technician element which on The Blue Max was £1-10-0 per day (pre decimal money). We were expected to work most days from 0700 hrs until filming finished for the day which could be up to 1900hrs or later. Bearing in mind,

in those days the weekly pay for a married Sergeant Technician was £10-10-0 per week. A seven day week working on the film was the equivalent to another weeks pay. Those who held Dept of Transport and Power basic "A" and "C" licenses were the lucky ones as they were selected to do overtime after filming finished in order to carry out the Daily Inspections to have the aircraft ready for the next day's filming. Those on O/T for the D.I's were paid a special rate of £1-2-6 per hour in addition to the daily rate. On certain occasions the military personnel were dressed in period uniforms as "extras" at a rate of £3-10-0s per day.

The technical work was carried out under the supervision of the film company's Chief Engineer the legendary Johnny Maher, who had just recently retired from Aer Lingus. The work was also under the watchful eye of Paddy Geoghegan an Aeronautical Inspector from the Dept. of Transport and Power. Both had previously served with the Air Corps.

Catering by Location Caterers was from the side of a large truck/mobile kitchen staffed by three chefs. The grub had three choices for lunch which was a big improvement on army dining hall fare at the time.

Another interesting aside was that the AEETU which represented the Aer Lingus trade unions insisted that serving military personnel join the union even though the union did not have any unemployed aircraft technicians on their books.

Tony Roe was a member of the 1958 Apprentice Class and is presently an active member of the Roger Casement Branch and UNVETS.



*Darling Lily 1968 : Back :J.Brennan, P.O'Meara, P.Swan
Front: T.Roe, P.Noonan, J. Lambe. M. Healy.*

Air Corps News



AIR CORPS GUARD OF HONOUR TO PRESIDENT MC ALEESE AT ARAS AN UACHTARAIN

On Sunday 20th May 2007, personnel of the Air Corps provided a guard of honour to President Mc Aleese at Aras an Uachtarain before she departed on a four day official state visit to Latvia and Lithuania.

This was the first time in the history of the Defence Forces that personnel of the Air Corps provided a presidential guard of honour outside Casement Aerodrome. The guard of honour consisted of 107 service personnel drawn from all units of the Air Corps.

(Photos show President Mc Aleese inspecting the guard of honour with Captain Mark Prendergast, OIC GOH)



AIR CORPS TAKES DELIVERY OF 4TH AW139 HELICOPTER

The fourth Agusta Westland 139 helicopter arrived at Casement Aerodrome late on Tuesday, 29th May. IRL 277 (call-sign 'Irish 277') touched down in Baldonnel at 2145 after a long day.

The aircraft are primarily deployed in support to Defence Forces operations and exercises, but can also be utilised in aid to the civil power, air ambulance missions, inland search and rescue and disaster relief situations. The aircraft will provide the state with a 24 hour civil / military capability.

(Photos shows AW139 on a recent army exercise in the Curragh Camp with an underslung 105mm artillery gun).



THE FINAL CONTINGENT OF IRISH TROOPS SERVING IN LIBERIA RETURN TO IRELAND

The final 83 Irish troops of the 96th Infantry Battalion, the last Irish unit to serve in Liberia under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Michael Kennedy returned to Ireland landing at Casement Aerodrome at 2010 hrs on Thursday 31st May. During the three and a half year deployment, over 3000 individual tours of duty, 40 Special Forces troops, 7 Battalions contributed to the UNMIL mission continuing our proud record of UN service. (Photos shows the Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Jim Sreenan accompanied by GOC Air Corps, Brigadier General Ralph James welcoming Lieutenant Colonel Michael Kennedy and his troops from the aircraft shortly after landing at Casement Aerodrome).



Outgoing Branch Chairman Jim Conway handing over the Chain of Office to the incoming Chairman Paddy O'Meara in Baldonnel.



Members of the Branch with Col. Paul Fry on the occasion of the brief return visit of Spitfire 161 to Baldonnel in 2006

CUIMHNIMIS

Let us remember those who have passed away:

PAT CULLOTY	CONOR WALSH
WILLIAM LANIGAN	LIAM HAYDEN
NORBERT O'REILLY	CHARLIE CULLEN
GEORGE LAWLOR	TIM HEALY
MICK MEAGHER	MICHAEL KEVILLE
SHAY McCOY	J.J. O'CONNELL
DICK KAVANAGH	

GO NDEANNA DIA TROCAIRE ORTHA

ONET Dress Code

Suspension Bars for Service Medals (2 to 6 capacity)	€5.50
Service Bars	€4.20
Slide-on Ribbon Bars (1 to 3 capacity)	€2.00
(4 to 6 capacity)	€4.00
Replacement Ribbons Slide-on	€2.00
Service Ribbons (Replacement IIcm.)	€1.00
Miniature Ribbons	€0.65
Miniature Medals (U.N.Type)	€8.65
(O.N.E. Type)	€15.25
(O.N.E.)	€21.60
Service Medal	€34.28
Jubilee Medals	€10.00
Lapel Pin	€11.00
Ties	€7.50
Name I.Ds	€17.00
Rainwear	€20.00
Hand embroidered Wire and Silk Blazer Crest (O.N.E.Type)	

All above kit available from Jim Canavan, 66 St. Anthony's Crescent, Greenhills, Dublin 12
Phone 01 4551393