



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



The Link

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Honorary Branch President: James Nolan



Roger Casement Branch wins the Best Branch award

The President of the Roger Casement Branch Jim Nolan received the prestigious trophy on behalf of the Roger Casement Branch for winning the best O.N.E. Branch award at the recent A.G.M. which was held in the Radisson Blu hotel, Limerick Congratulations to all the Branch members on the deserved award. It is the second occasion that the Branch has won the trophy which is a source of pride to the members following the hard work performed during the year in support of the O.N.E objectives and the members.

The trophy is currently on display in the Air Corps Museum at Casement Aerodrome.



Branch President Jim Nolan with the Best Branch award



Brig-Gen Sean Clancy welcomes the UK Ambassador to Ireland Mr. Robin Barnett and Embassy staff to the Air Corps museum also Included are Cpl. Michael Whelan Museum Curator and RCB members Noel Murphy and Tony Roe.

UP-COMING EVENTS

The Branch Annual General Meeting will take place in Casement Aerodrome on Thursday January 18th at 2000 hrs. All members are invited to attend.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Annual Memorial Service to remember the 3 Air Corps personnel who lost their lives in a tragic Road Accident North of Limerick when en route from Rineanna Base to Baldonnel in December 1941, will be held at the roadside Memorial near Castleconnel on Sunday December 10th at 1400 Hrs. The Service is arranged by the Patrick Sarsfield Branch and members of the Roger Casement Branch will be in attendance.

From the Chairman.....

2017 was an active year in the Branch. The year saw the departure of the GOC Brig Gen Paul Fry who was very supportive of the Roger Casement Branch and its members, We wish him a long, active and happy retirement. The Branch Committee had a very positive and productive meeting with the new GOC Brig Gen Sean Clancy on October 2nd. We wish him every success in his new position and look forward to working close on matters of mutual interest during the months and years ahead.



The Branch was successful in being awarded the Best Branch Trophy for the second time It is a great honour to receive the award and I would like to pay tribute to the Branch members who worked hard on the various fund raising and ceremonial projects during the year.

30 deceased members were remembered at the very well attended Annual Memorial Mass and wreath laying ceremony which was held during October. I particularly remember the late Ben Downey who was a vibrant Hon-Secretary of the Branch for many years. My deepest sympathies to the families and friends of all the deceased.

Finally, I extend my best wishes to all the members and their families for a very Happy Christmas and a very prosperous and healthy New Year.

Merry
Christmas
... and Happy ...
New Year

Edition sponsored by a member of
the 1959 Apprentice Class



Picture Gallery ~ Annual Branch Mass October 2017



41st Apprentice Class Reunion



Members

Sean Collopy with a "Tommy" at the Armistice Day Ceremony in Ennis.



Comdt. Tony Roe (Retd) Roger Casement Branch, attended the military Archives event in Cathal Brugha Bks.





Fr Jerry Carroll CF

Fr Jerry has been the Air Corps Chaplain since September 2005 being stationed in Casement Aerodrome Baldonnel. He has been a dynamic Padre and provided great support not only to the serving members but also developed a strong relationship with the Air Corp's former members. The Roger Casement Branch annual Mass for deceased members of the Air Corps is held in October each year and Fr Jerry's participation in the ceremony has been greatly appreciated by all the members. During this period the Mass and memorial service has evolved to such a high level that a large attendance of former members is achieved.

Fr. Jerry will shortly leave the Air Corps to take up the position as Chaplain in Finner Camp, Co. Donegal.

Fr. Jerry is a native of Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan. After completing primary school he continued as a boarder in St Macartans College Monaghan. He studied philosophy, psychology and theology in St Patricks College Maynooth. Taking a two year break from his studies he worked in England on the building sites, in Israel on the Moshave farms in the Jordan Valley and in South Africa teaching in the townships during the height of the apartheid regime. He had to escape South Africa in 1985 under threat of arrest and imprisonment for breaking apartheid laws. He finally returned to Maynooth, completed his studies and was ordained a priest there in 1989. He was deployed to South Africa again as a missionary. His parish included the famous battle grounds of Islandawana and Rourke's Drift in Kwa Zulu, Natal. This time he remained there for seventeen years working among the Zulu people in the deep rural African bush. There he learned to speak Zulu, Siswati and Indabala. His main work there involved the building of pre-schools and construction of water schemes.

He returned to Ireland in 2005 and has been a member of the Defence Forces Chaplaincy service since then.

During his period in the Air Corps he availed of the opportunities to do the FF parachuting course in Seville, scale Kilimanjaro and participated in the gruelling Air Corps cycling tour from Mizen to Malin twice and the once off "Pillar to Post" when a group of Defence Forces cyclists took it upon themselves to visit every barracks in the country in the space of nine days. He recently completed his 3rd tour of duty with the United Nations forces overseas and looks set to continue his military career for the foreseeable future.

Fr Jerry will be missed by his former past and present Air Corps colleagues and we wish him every Blessing and success in his new appointment.



AIR CORPS MEMORIAL BOOK

Most members will be aware that leather bound Memorial Book which contains the names of all known deceased members of the Air Corps since its foundation is retained at the rear of the garrison Church in Casement Aerodrome. The Book is secured in a glass cabinet and is only removed on two occasions each year. Firstly to add the names of recently deceased former members. The entries are made by hand by a calligrapher usually in the weeks before the annual memorial mass which takes place on the second Sunday in October. Thirty names were added to the book in advance of the 2017 Mass. The names of the deceased are entered in Chronological order according to notification of death.

The book is again removed during the annual Mass when it is carried to the altar with a Guard of Honour; it is replaced in the cabinet after the Mass.

Many former members and visitors have expressed a wish to view the book but in the best interests of security and the fact that specific names entered in the book are difficult to find because of the chronological entries, a Memorial Book index showing the names in alphabetical order has been produced. The layout on each page of the index displays the former members Army Number, Rank, Period of Service, Work location and also shows the page number that the name is entered in the Memorial Book. This alphabetical index was initially commenced by the late Ben Downey some years ago and was subsequently taken over by the current Link Editor and former Chairman Paddy O'Meara who completed the task over a two year period.



The Memorial book is retained at the rear of the Church

A system has been put in place to keep the Index updated on an on-going basis with the assistance of Frank Donnelly. The Memorial Book index is now installed in the lower drawer of the Glass cabinet and is available for viewing by former Air Corps and family members and interested visitors.

CUIMHNIMIS ~ Let us remember those who have died. ~

JOHN MULVEY
BRIAN TUMULTY

ROBERT HOWARD
PATRICK KIRWAN

TED O'MAHONY
JOHN CARTER

Air Corps News

Congratulations to Commandant Jim Gavin (retired) on a tremendous year leading Official Dublin GAA to more silverware. Jim proudly served for 20 years in the Irish Defence Forces at Home and Overseas. His legacy prevails in Casement AirBase as the generations of pilots he trained in the Flying Training School progress through the organisation and beyond. We are proud of our Air Corps Family



Comdt (Retd) Jim Gavin

Air Corps Family Day

It was a special day in Casement Airbase today as members of the Air Corps brought their families to work.

The Air Corps' mission often requires some sacrifice from our families and today was a chance to show our appreciation. Kids, young and old, were treated to a veritable wonderland including a fairy village, petting farm, Robot Wars, a virtual reality winching experience, a weapons display, our museum, vintage vehicles, the Garda Mounted Unit, Garda Dog Unit, the Army Number One Band, a helicopter flying display and much more.



Children enjoying the festivities on Family Day

Air Ambulance Missions

As thousands of competitors were making their way around the SSE Airtricity Dublin Marathon course, #Charlie252 of #1OperationsWing was passing overhead on the first of two Air Ambulance missions to London yesterday.

The second mission, a Priority1 infant transplant transport, took place in the early hours after the duty crew were scrambled to provide the vital Air Bridge to the UK.

Such missions require the seamless integration of multiple agencies working together to ensure patients are provided life-saving treatment.

When Minutes Matter Irish Defence Forces

National Ambulance Service (NAS) HSE Ireland

NHS

Great Ormond Street Hospital and Children's Charity

RAF Northolt Heathrow Airport

Casa CN.235 #252



Recruit/Apprentice Training

Twenty members of the 15th Recruit Platoon & 73rd Apprentice Class recently completed their basic military training with the Irish Air Corps in Casement Aerodrome.

This combined platoon completed an intense period of training which included fire arms training, tactics, navigation, patrolling, unarmed combat and other military skills. They also managed to have some fun along the way, developing life-long friendships.

This is the Next Generation and If you are interested in a career with us, more details can be found on www.military.ie/aircorps. Also, keep an eye on our social media channels for further information.



Apprentice Training 2017.

Cleaning up after the storms

#3OperationsWing was busy aiding in the clean up from the severe weather. #302Squadron flew engineers and inspectors from the Electricity Supply Board around the country to conduct aerial reconnaissance of the damage to power lines. The airborne platform allowed the inspectors to target the damaged areas clearly, and ensure customers could have their power restored with minimum delay.



EC-135 Helicopters assisted the ESB after the storms in October 2017.

The 10th SERE Instructors Course

The 10th #SERE Instructors Course concluded last week in the Military Training School (MTS) culminating in a Personnel Recovery (#PR) extraction with assistance from #3OperationsWing. The 9 students who competed this physically and mentally demanding 4 week course hailed from units across the Army, Air Corps and Naval Service and qualified as SERE 'Level C' Instructors, the highest NATO recognized standard. The Military Training School, Air Corps College is the designated Defence Forces SERE School tasked with developing SERE and PR for all three services of the Defence Forces.

The students of the course are trained initially in bush craft skills required for survival in the wild; from shelter-building, to catching and butchering prey. They will then advance to specific military skills of advanced navigation over huge distances and rough terrain, evasion of a hostile hunter force, escape techniques and resistance to interrogation techniques.

Various outside agencies are utilized during the course and excellent professional relationships have been forged with the Garda Dog Unit, National Botanic Gardens and the National Wildlife Service.