



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



## The Link

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Honorary Branch President: James Nolan



*RCB members with ONE senior officers attended the function held in the British Ambassador's residence to celebrate the centenary of the founding of the Royal Air Force.*



### Annual Fuchsia Collection

The annual ONE Fuchsia collection in aid of needy former members of the Defence Forces is currently in progress and branch members have set up their stall in a number of leading shops and supermarkets including City West, Pavilion Swords, Omni Santry, Churchtown and Newcastle Co Dublin. Good support is always received for this very worthy cause.

*Branch members, Frank Donnelly and Denis Barry at the Fuchsia collection in Swords.*

### UP-COMING EVENTS

1. **The Branch Annual Mass** for deceased members is scheduled to be held in Casement Aerodrome on Sunday October 14th, 2018 at 1000hrs. **All members are invited to attend.**



2. **The Annual Christmas Lunch** will be held in the West County Hotel, Chapelizod on Thursday December 6th, 2018 at 1300 hrs. **As usual, early booking is advised. Please contact the Hon. Secretary or any member of the committee.**



Edition sponsored by a member of  
the 1959 Apprentice Class



## WW1 Fighter Pilot Remembered . . .

A First World War pilot Major Edward Corringham 'Mick' Mannock has been honoured with a memorial in Dublin's Glasnevin Cemetery. He was a member of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Air Force during the First World War. Born in Cork on May 24, 1887 he was a pioneer of fighter aircraft tactics in aerial warfare. Mick was the most decorated fighter pilot of WW1 and was credited with 61 combat victories and was awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry. He died on July 26, 1918, when his aircraft was shot down over France.

The memorial in Glasnevin was unveiled on July 27<sup>th</sup> 2018 by Paul Kehoe TD, Minister with responsibility for Defence. Also in attendance were Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Hillier - Chief of the Air Staff RAF, Brig Gen Kieran Brennan (DCOS) Brig Gen Sean Clancy GOC Air Corps, Mr John Green Director of Glasnevin Trust.



*Major Edward (Mick) Mannock*

***A special poem was written and recited by Corporal Michael J. Whelan at the ceremony in Glasnevin.***



*Cpl Mike Whelan reads his poem 'When we Flew' at the ceremony in Glasnevin*

### WHEN WE FLEW

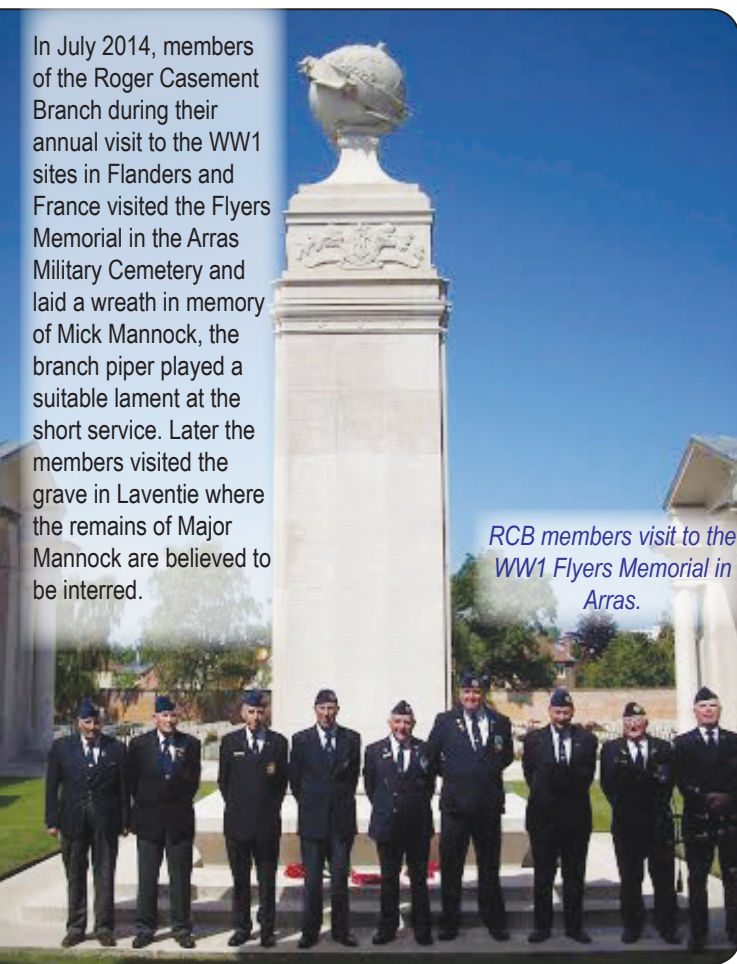
*Death of an Irish Airman during the Great War*

*O how I witnessed worlds amongst the clouds,  
that peace, the freedom, those futures and the past,  
to patrol a morning's sun to its final spark,  
spilling out a day's horizons.*

*Remember, I alone, chose this path,  
to roam the skies above the autumnal Earth,  
short lived but truly spent.*

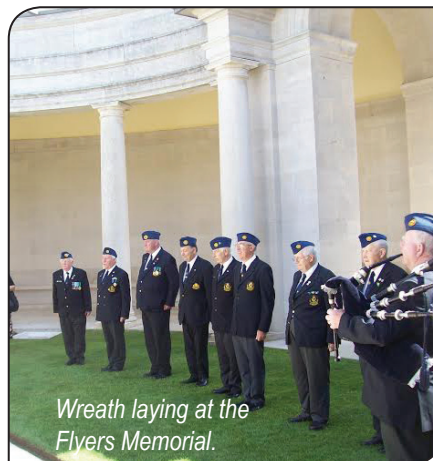
*And, when that moment came  
to fall from heaven's breaths,  
only the fields of France embraced me.  
Yes, I am of Ireland, do not blame the enemy,  
for as brothers, in that same ground, we rest.*

*But think of us,  
in all the years to come,  
when you contemplate our war,  
that when we flew  
we were part of the few  
who gave for you our all.*

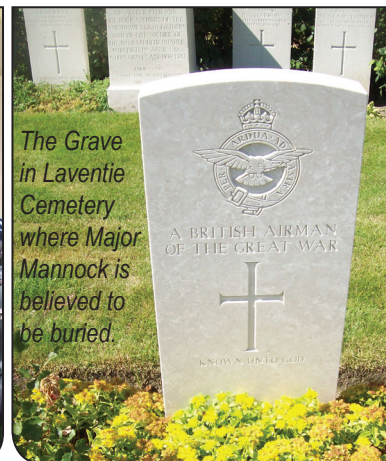


*RCB members visit to the WW1 Flyers Memorial in Arras.*

In July 2014, members of the Roger Casement Branch during their annual visit to the WW1 sites in Flanders and France visited the Flyers Memorial in the Arras Military Cemetery and laid a wreath in memory of Mick Mannock, the branch piper played a suitable lament at the short service. Later the members visited the grave in Laventie where the remains of Major Mannock are believed to be interred.



*Wreath laying at the Flyers Memorial.*



*The Grave in Laventie Cemetery where Major Mannock is believed to be buried.*



*Laventie Military Cemetery, France where the remains of Major Mick Mannock are believed to be interred. Another RFC Irish pilot Capt. G. Mc Elroy who was a friend of Mannock is also buried there.*

## Members of the Roger Casement Branch made their 10th visit to WW1 Battle Sites in Flanders & The Somme during June/July 2018



*Menin Gate wreath laying ceremony, June 30th, 2018*

**Day 1:** The group departed from Dublin Airport for Brussels where two pre booked vehicles were collected for the drive to Ypres. Due to the late arrival of the aircraft the group were caught in the evening traffic out of Brussels which considerably delayed our arrival in Ypres. As usual the group stayed in the Hotel Ariane where a good relationship has been developed with the hotel staff and management.

**Day 2:** The group visited the sites south of Ypres including the Island of Ireland Peace Park in Messines and also the site of the 1914 Christmas Truce football match. The adjacent cemetery in Prowse Point contains the grave of Private J.J. Moore who was killed in action with the Dublin Fusiliers. This grave was adopted by the late Tony Roe many years ago and we always paid it a visit at Tony's request on our previous visits. Regretfully, Tony who sadly passed away some months ago, was unable to lay his customary wreath on the grave so the group was honoured to carry out the duty on his behalf and to pay due respect to Private Moore. Sean Ryan who is a member of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association laid a written remembrance on the grave. Prayers were also recited.

The group later visited the Grave of Major Willy Redmond in Loker and after Lunch in Popperinge travelled to visit the Field Ambulance Station where John McCrea wrote his most famous poem 'In Flanders Fields'. The group then visited the German War Cemetery in Langemark and then on to the large Tyne Cot Cemetery in Paeschendale. The group attended and participated in the impressive commemoration and wreath laying Service at 8pm at the Menin Gate.

**Day 3.** The group travelled to the Somme via St.Laurent-Blagny Cemetery in the Pas de Calais region to visit the grave of the war poet Isaac Rosenberg. Michael Whelan recited one of Rosenberg's poems, "Louse Hunting" at his graveside. Following our arrival in Albert the group visited a number of local places of interest. After lunch in La Boisselle the group proceeded to Guillemont and participated in the annual Memorial service for the 16<sup>th</sup> Irish Division which is organised by the Somme Association of Northern Ireland. This service is attended by members of the Northern Ireland and Irish Governments. The Irish Defence Forces were represented by Brig-Gen Philip Brennan who has recently taken up duty in Brussels.

Following the ceremony, the group visited the Lochnagar Crater, the Thiepval Memorial and the Ulster Tower before returning to the hotel in Ypres.



*RCB group with friends from Northern Ireland at the Menin Gate, Ypres.*



*Grave of Private J.J. Moore which was 'adopted' by the late Tony Roe.*



*RCB members with Brig Gen Philip Brennan at Guillemont Church, Somme*

## Air Corps News

08<sup>th</sup> Aug 2018

The Incredible Burren landscape!

This is the view from the office chair of an Irish Air Corps photographer. Taken from the CASA in the cruise back from a maritime patrol.



04<sup>th</sup> Aug 2018

Today the Air Corps honoured all members of the Defence Forces who gave their life in the service of the state with a ceremony at the national memorial, Merrion Square



27<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Today tribute was paid to Edward Corringham "Mick" Mannock VC & DSO. Mannock was a British flying ace in the Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force during the First World War who has amassed 61 aerial victories, the fifth highest scoring pilot of the war. Mannock and strong Irish roots, his mother was Irish and he was a strong Irish nationalist. The ceremony took place at Glasnevin cemetery and was attended by the Minister with responsibility for Defence Paul Kehoe, and RAF Air Chief Marshal, Sir Stephen Hillier.



04<sup>th</sup> Aug 2018

Fires on Bray Head expose amazing World War 2 landmark EIRE 8! This landmark had been completely covered by the gorse on Bray Head and amazingly it is still in reasonable condition.

"The signs were built by the Coast Watching Service by the summer of 1944 to warn "belligerent" aircraft that they were flying over a neutral country. Up to 150 tons of stone were used in some of the 83 signs dotted around the coast of Ireland. At the request of the United States air force the number of the nearby lookout post was added, turning the signs into air navigation aids." This assisted American bomber pilots in navigating across the Atlantic." Ref Michael Kennedy - Guarding Neutral Ireland.

*These photographs are courtesy of the Garda Air Support Unit, a specialised joint unit operated by Air Corps Pilots and members of An Garda Síochána.*



30<sup>th</sup> July 2018

The weekend proved to be a great success at the Bray Air Display for all acts concerned. The Air Corps had display teams at the Airshow and hosted several visiting display acts including the Red Arrows. This year was the 13th year of the Bray Air Display and the Air Corps have been involved consistently since the beginning. Well done to all involved. Below is a selection of photographs from various sources including the 105 Sqn (Air Corps Photographic Section),

Formation Break by the Air Corps Casa Aircraft.



P C-9 Aircraft gave an impressive display.



AW 139 demonstrates a Bambi Water Drop.

