



Roger Casement Branch

of Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann Teoranta (ONET)



The Link

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Lt-Gen Sean Clancy.

The members of the Roger Casement Branch who have all served in the Air Corps would like to congratulate and to extend their best wishes to Lt-Gen Sean Clancy following his appointment as Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces.



Gen Clancy joined the Air Corps in 1984 as a cadet and held a number of senior roles before being appointed G.O.C. in 2017.

During his flying career he spent a considerable period as a search-and-rescue pilot and accumulated nearly 5000 flight hours as a pilot and Flight Instructor on fixed wing aircraft and helicopters. He was commander of the crew that received the Marine Medal for Meritorious Service in 2002.

Lt-Gen Clancy is the first member of the Air Corps to occupy this important and prestigious position. We wish him well.



On the 27th August 2021, GOC Air Corps, Brigadier General Rory O'Connor, welcomed back to Casement Aerodrome, some members of the 55th Air Corps Apprentice Class.

These five ladies were the first female Apprentices recruited in 1991 in the Apprentice Programme which originally commenced in 1936. Some have now completed 30 years of service in the Defence Forces.

Pictured from the left: Elizabeth O'Neill, and in uniform Sgt Fiona Doyle and Flt Sgt Anne Kelly, Leonie Byrne and Sonya O'Mahony.



Branch Members attended the Annual Air Corps Mass for Deceased members in Casement Aerodrome on 2/11/2021.

L/R; P.Mullen, P.O'Neill, F.Walsh, P/McGlynn, P.Mc Caffrey, F.Donnelly, T.Murphy.



RCB members attended the Annual Mass for Deceased Members at Gormanston Military Camp Oct. 29, 2021.

Left to right: Finbar Lyons, Frank Donnelly, Chairman Denis Barry and Frank Walsh.

COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF THE ONE FUCHSIA FUND

The following letter was received from Wayne Fitzgerald (Retd Sgt) who has taken up a position with ONE as Fundraising and Marketing Manager. Wayne was previously a member of the Air Corps Press Office and worked for a number of years in PDF Headquarters as Editor of *An Cosantóir*.

Thank you to the GOC Air Corps, Station Commander and Stn RSM, NCOS Mess Staff from No 5 Sp Wing for the excellent Coffee Morning that was arranged in Baldonnell in aid of the Fuchsia Appeal.

It was a very successful event, where many veterans got to meet fellow veterans and serving personnel for the first time in 18 months. We expect very generous contributions from our brothers and sisters of all ranks who are still serving.

Paul Stafford, one of ONE's Veteran Support Officers who was visiting his old place of employment in Baldonnell said, "*Today's serving member is tomorrow's veteran.*" He thanked all those for the kindness shown to veterans and explained how their donations would be put to use around the country.

Wayne Fitzgerald Fundraising & Marketing Officer
Óglaigh Náisiúnta na hÉireann (ONE)



Group includes:

Frank Donnelly, Peter McGlynn, Noel Murphy, Frank Walsh



Old comrades meet up



Serving Members also support the event.

CUIMHNIMIS Let us remember those who have died.

**Eddie Ryan Christy Dunne PJ McCaffrey James Galway John Smyth Paddy O'Donovan
Tony Corrigan Pat Behan David Aher Noel Lucey John Harrison Bob Gallagher Sean King
Sean Dinan Ted Kiely John Henry Shay Noonan John Coleman Dunne Paddy Kennedy
Denis Conroy Edward Molloy Des Higgins Tom Colgan**



Martinsyde Type A, MK11 Aircraft
THE BIG FELLA

Centenary of The Irish Free State's First Aircraft.

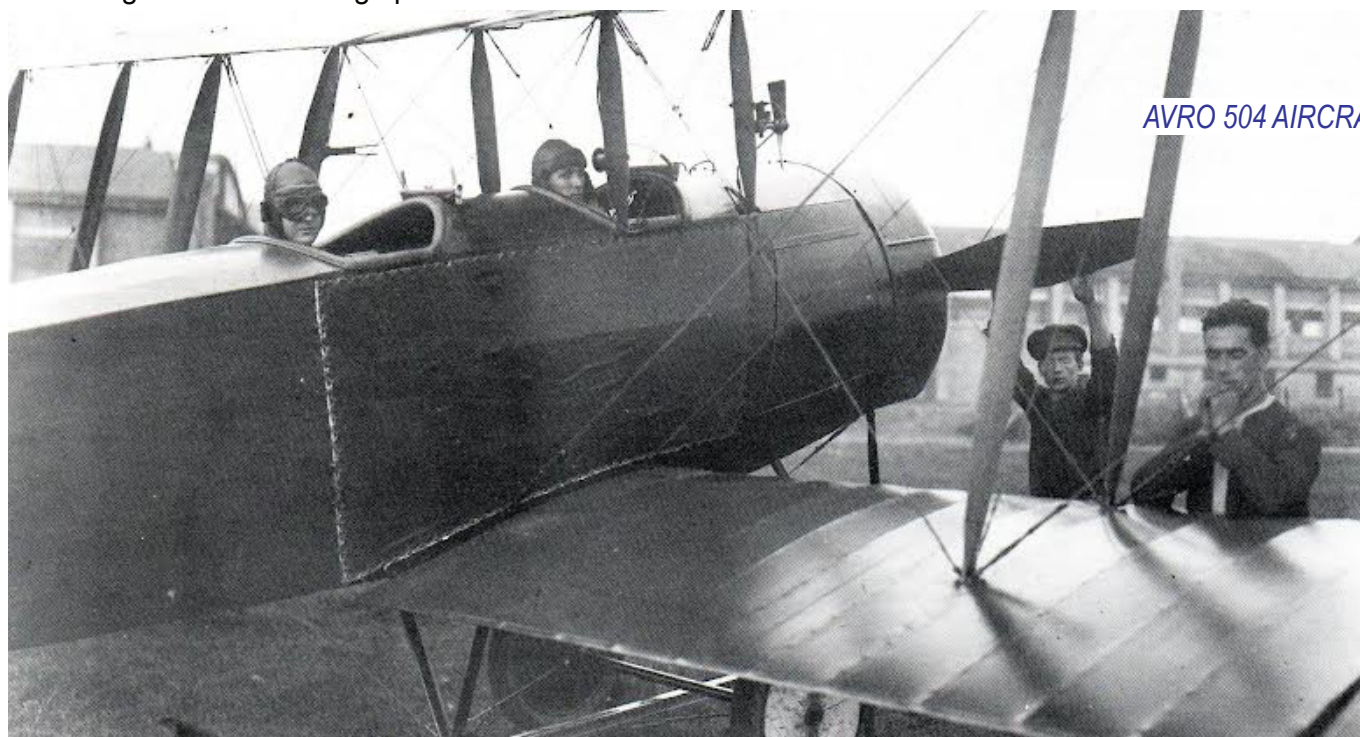
Richard Cummins, Lt-Colonel (Retd)

One hundred years ago, in 1921, the Provisional Irish Government, authorised the purchase of two aircraft. The aircraft, a Martinsyde Type A, Mk II passenger aircraft and an Avro 504K basic trainer aircraft, were purchased in October 1921 during the Treaty negotiations.

The idea for the purchase of the aircraft was based on a proposal to Michael Collins by Emmet Dalton following discussions with Charles Russell who was a former RAF pilot and a member of the IRA. Charles Russell accompanied Emmet Dalton to London during the Treaty negotiations. Another former RAF pilot and IRA member WJ Sweeney also travelled to assist Russell. Russell was seeking one aircraft capable of direct flight to Ireland carrying passengers in the event of a breakdown in Treaty negotiations. The other aircraft had to be capable of being used for bombing operations in Ireland.

It was decided to purchase a Martinsyde Type A Mark II, a four-seat biplane for the passenger role. It was priced at £2,600 and could be ready in twenty-eight days. Russell selected the Avro 504K for the bombing role, which was a compromise as it was a basic training aircraft, and could only be used in a bombing role by one of the crew members manually dropping the bombs over the side.

However, funds were limited and the price for this aircraft was £175. Payment for the aircraft was made with funds provided by the Irish Self-Determination League of Great Britain, the funds having been channelled to that organisation by the Dail Defence Department to hide the transaction from the British authorities in Dublin as the Dail's bank accounts were under British surveillance. The Treaty was signed on the 6th December 1921 and with no immediate need for the aircraft they were placed in storage. They were eventually delivered to Ireland as freight in June 1922. The total amount of £3,767-10-0 was spent on the aircraft and associated costs. They became the first aircraft owned by the Irish Free State.



AVRO 504 AIRCRAFT

Air Corps Crew Planning Atlantic Rowing Challenge.

In 2022, four of our Mess Members will row across the Atlantic Ocean in the Tallisker Whiskey Atlantic Challenge (TWAC) ocean race. Comdt Oisin McGrath, Capt Gearoid O'Briain, Capt Eugene Mohan and Capt Frankie Mohan are part of the "Row Hard or Go Home" team. The team of nine, will race two rowing boats 3000nm from East to West from the Canaries to the Caribbean. One of the teams rowing boats has been named "The Bremen" to link with the historical first East-West flight across the Atlantic by Air Corps pilot Lt Col James Fitzmaurice...and of course aptly named after an area in the mess where they have spent many sleepless nights and experience "self-induced sea-legs". The team is well underway with their campaign and aim to continue building their corporate sponsors, together with charity fundraising for a mental health charity. The TWAC is the premier event in ocean rowing – A challenge that will take us more than 3000 Miles from San Sebastian in La Gomera, Canary Islands, Spain (28oN 18oW) to Nelson's Dockyard, English Harbour, Antigua & Barbuda (17oN 61oW). Our race begins in December 2022 with up to 30 teams participating from around the world. We will battle with sleep deprivation, salt sores, and physical extremes inflicted by the race. Rowers are left with their own thoughts, an expanse of the ocean and the job of getting the boat safely to the other side.



Rowing Practice



Boat arriving in Baldonnel

26th & 27th Young Officers Wings Course Update

Young officers from the 26th and 27th young officer's wings course are approaching the end of the external phase of their training. In March 2021, they commenced training in Pensacola Florida before transitioning to Dothan Alabama to train on the Grab G 12TP aircraft.

As of September, students have completed the instrument flying phase of training lasting 3 weeks, and covering items such as airway/point-to-point navigation and precision/non-precision instrument approach practice. In late September, the class will progress onto low-level VFR navigation, followed by night flying and finishing up with the formation-flying phase. Upon returning to Ireland in October, students from both classes will transition to the PC-9M to continue their training.



L/R. 2/Lts. D.Sutton,C.Roe,S.Shannon,EL-Masry,J.O'Connell,C.Mullen.G.Delaney,R.Connaughton.

44th Flight Instructor's Course

Congratulations to Capt Damien Kelly and Capt Anthony Buckley, who last week marked the completion of the 44th Flight Instructors Course after completing their respective instructor rating test flights.



L/R
Capt.
Paul McDermot,
Capt. Anthony
Buckley,
Comdt. Ed
Snowdon.



L/R
Capt.
Paul McDermot,
Capt. Damian
Kelly
Comdt. Ed
Snowdon.