

The Military History Society of Ireland.

by kind permission of the

GOC Irish Air Corps

will host a seminar:

Military Aviation in Ireland: The Formative Years 1912 – 1922

on Saturday, 15 September 2018

in Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnell, County Dublin.

In September 1912, No 2 squadron of the Royal Flying Corps took part in the manoeuvres of Irish Command. Based at Rathbane in Limerick the aircraft flew numerous sorties to the astonishment and applause of the large crowds that gathered to watch them. This was the beginning of military aviation in Ireland.

The outbreak of war two years later led to massive developments in aircraft, their roles and numbers. In 1914, the Royal Flying Corps had less than 200 aircraft; four years later, at the Armistice, the newly formed Royal Air Force had over 27,000 aircraft. Aircraft were deployed in fighter, bomber, army co-operation and coastal patrol units, all supported by training units. Many Irishmen served with the RFC and RAF with distinction. This expansion had an impact in Ireland with the building of aerodromes at many sites including Baldonnell and Collinstown.

The end of World War I brought new challenges to the RAF in Ireland and squadrons were deployed to assist the British Army in the War of Independence. The Anglo-Irish Treaty did not bring peace. As the civil war erupted, the new Free State had the challenge of establishing an air force amid the chaos and turmoil of that conflict. These are the subjects that will be explored in this seminar.

Programme.

Time	Speaker	Presentation
10:00am	Mr Lar Joye.	Housekeeping
10:10am	Brig Gen Sean Clancy, GOC Air Corps.	Welcome and opening remarks.
10:30am	Mr Guy Warner	Defending Dublin's Trade, the role of air power 1915 – 1918.
11:05	Tea/Coffee break	
11:20	Brig Gen Paul Fry (Retd)	A flying visit - No.2 Squadron in Ireland 1913.
11:55	Dr Pat McCarthy	Flying Training in Ireland

12:25	Lunch break.	Tour of museum in groups.
14:00	Mr Joe Gleeson	Irish Aces of World War I.
14:35	Mr Lar Joye	The RAF in the War of Independence.
15:10	Dr Pat McCarthy	Irish Air Corps operations during the Civil War.
15:45	Concluding Remarks.	

Booking: There is no charge for attending this seminar but spaces are limited and early booking is advised. Booking can only be made online through Eventbrite¹. Ticket sales go live at 9.00am on Thursday 23rd August 2018. You must have a ticket to gain entrance.

Car Parking is available in Casement Aerodrome. Please show your event ticket at the entrance gate and have photographic identification with you.

Public Transport: There are very limited bus options to Casement Aerodrome, especially on Saturdays – see Dublin Bus route 68. The best option is to take the Luas Red Line to **Saggart** and take a taxi from there. A local taxi service is provided by Mr Seán McDonnell at 087 832 8969. Book the taxi in advance.

The organisers are deeply grateful to the Dublin Port Company for their sponsorship which has made this event possible.

¹ Booking Information: Log onto www.eventbrite.ie. In “Search events or categories”, type “Military aviation in Ireland” and the relevant page will pop up. Click on Register and then click on Checkout. Enter your name and email address, and click Complete Registration. Confirmation and your ticket will be sent to your email address. Download and print your ticket.