



# Ancient Order of Hibernians

JOHN CARDINAL D'ALTON DIVISION 3

Pearl River, NY

November, 2018



**Brother Hibernians,** \_\_\_\_\_



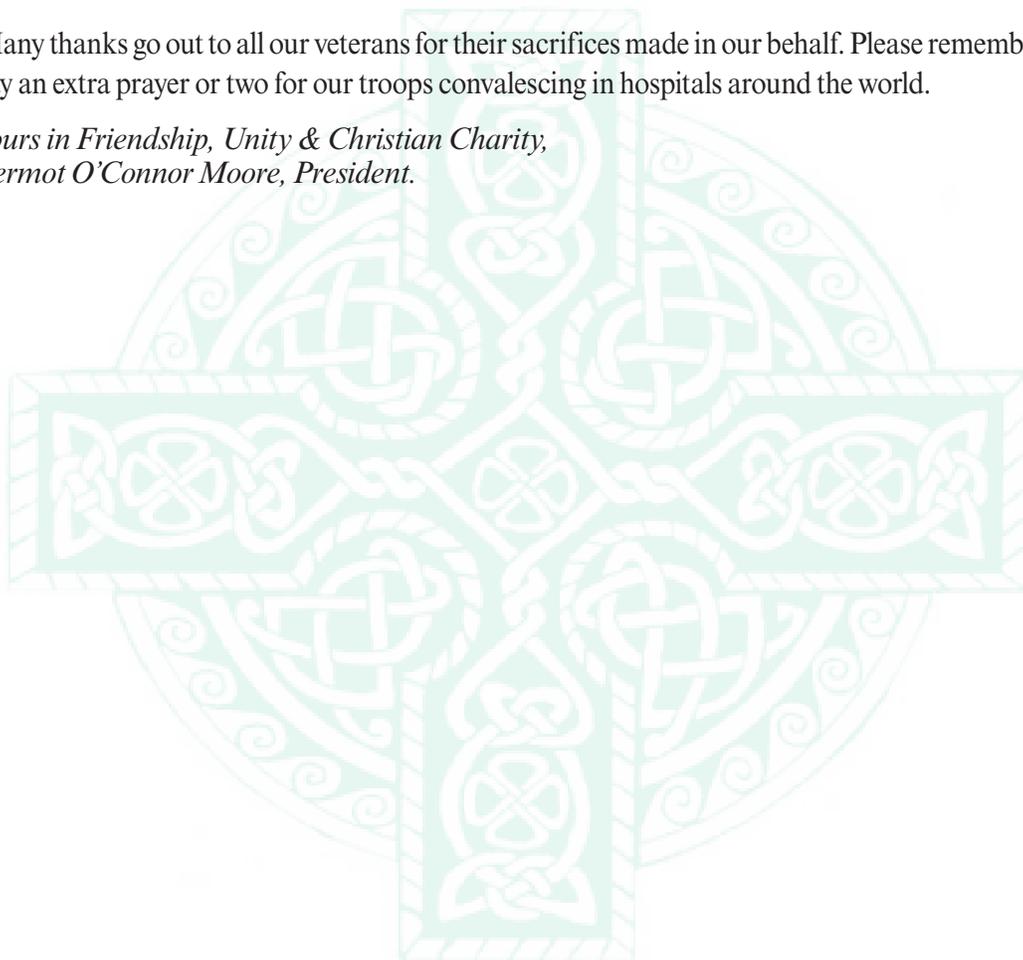
We wish you and your families a very happy and Blessed Thanksgiving.

Our next meeting will be held on Friday, November 16th at 8pm. Elections will be held for Division Officers as well as 2019 Parade Aide and Battalion Commander. Welcome aboard to new members Patrick Gallagher, Tom Traynor, and Tom Hughes. Many thanks go out to all who attended the American Legion and Division 1 dinner dances. Congrats to Sean Walsh for running a great Halloween Howl Party. Many thanks to Bill and Trish Lee for chairing our 1st Pot O'Gold drawing party and to all the volunteers, especially Sean Walsh, Brian and Pat Booth, Joan Moore and all our chefs and bartenders. There are a few tickets left so don't miss out on a chance of winning 10 grand cash at our final drawing party on December 23rd.

Phil Sheridan reports the following Good and Welfare news...Please say a few prayers for Jim Harding who is undergoing stem cell treatment to battle multiple myeloma, for Fred Thomkins who had stents inserted in his other leg, and for Pat Moroney who is recovering from a bad fall. Please continue to pray for the Cronin family, John Hennessey, John Kennedy, Pete Engle, and Frank Farrelly.

Many thanks go out to all our veterans for their sacrifices made in our behalf. Please remember to say an extra prayer or two for our troops convalescing in hospitals around the world.

*Yours in Friendship, Unity & Christian Charity,  
Dermot O'Connor Moore, President.*



## ELECTED OFFICERS DIVISION \_\_\_\_\_

*President*  
**DERMOT O'CONNOR MOORE**

*Vice President*  
**CHARLES PARNOW**

*Financial Secretary*  
**WILLIAM YOUNG**

*Treasurer*  
**JOHN KELLY, JR.**

*Recording Secretary*  
**NEIL COSGROVE**

*Marshal*  
**KEVIN DONOHUE**

*Sentinel*  
**WILLIAM LEE**

*Chairman Grievance*  
**JACK O'CONNOR**

*Chaplain*  
**FR. ERIC RAASER**

## HIBERNIAN HOUSE

*President*  
**FRANK McDONAGH**

*Vice President*  
**PETER DUNNE**

*Treasurer*  
**PHIL SHERIDAN**

*Recording Secretary*  
**JOHN GANNON**

## CALENDAR \_\_\_\_\_

- 11-16 Division meeting
- 11-17 Senior Citizen Luncheon
- 11-20 Joint County Meeting
- 12-16 Special Needs party
- 12-21 Division Meeting
- 12-23 Final POG Party
- 12-26 Wren Night



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## LAOH

At our November meeting Joan Moore's daughter in law Donna was initiated. Eileen Elmsworth was nominated to be the LAOH Division 3 Aide to the Grand Marshal for the Rockland County St. Patrick's Day parade. The Juke Box fundraiser report was read and it was a huge success, thanks to all the committee members, GAA Clubhouse for providing the venue and all of the donors, including AOH Division 3. Nadine Green and I attended the NYS LAOH fall board meeting in Schenectady on 11/10/18 and reported on it at the meeting. Plans are underway for our joint fundraiser with the Pearl River Women's Club, which is a play "She Loves Me" at the Elmwood Playhouse on 11/29/18. Mary O'Sullivan and Lisa Dowling will be co-chairing our annual Christmas party which will be held at Mickey's Tavern on 12/11/18. I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving.

*Yours in friendship, unity and Christian charity,  
Terry McGeever, President*

## JOINT COUNTY MEETING/2019 PARADE ELECTIONS

Tuesday, November 20th 8pm  
at the Hibernian House

We are the largest Division and therefore have the most votes.

Let's march in there with a large contingent.

Chuck and Dermot will be in the pub by 7:30pm. Please meet us there so we can complete the delegate list.

## SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCHEON NOVEMBER 17

We need volunteers at 10 am for set up, during the luncheon which starts at noon, and after for clean-up. Especially needed are HS students to serve the food as well as two men to work in the kitchen. Please contact Jack O'Connor at 845-731-9697 for more info.

## POT O'GOLD FINAL DRAWING PARTY DECEMBER 23RD

Congrats to all the winners of our first drawing. Our final drawing will be drawn on Sunday, December 23rd. The purchase of 1 ticket gets you and a guest admission to both parties and qualifies you for both drawings. A few tickets are still available so don't miss out on a great chance to win \$10,000 cash two days before Christmas, get your ticket now at the Hibernian House Bar or from Bill Lee at mr.williamlee@gmail.com or 845-558-4148. Thank you in advance for your continued support of our Division, it is your support that allows us to help those within the community who are in need.

## WREN NIGHT

Wednesday December  
26, 2018 6:30 to 9:30 pm.  
Hibernian House

Music by Mike O'Sullivan  
and Fergal Hayes

A traditional Irish  
celebration of St. Steven's  
Day including music, dance  
and skits by various groups

Skits should include Irish  
music, song, Gaelic, dance  
and the poem "The Wren,  
the Wren"

Admission: \$5.00 per  
person \$10.00 per family.  
Complimentary Tea, Coffee  
and Soda bread, Cash Bar

## SPECIAL NEEDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday December 16th

10am to Noon

Volunteers needed at 9am

Contact Frank McDonagh @914-953-2609 or Dermot Moore@845-735-8793

# History

## Dr. Aídan MacCarthy, from Dunkirk to Nagasaki



There are times when you read history that you come across a story that literally defies belief. Yet, fate can bring together events beyond the imaginations of any writer and the most unlikely of people show us the strength and nobility of the human character. Such is the story of Dr. Aidan MacCarthy.

MacCarthy was born in Castletownbere on Beara Peninsula in County Cork in 1914. His family's story was already remarkable; having saved to buy a small store and with a keen eye for opportunity and investment, they were prominent members of the community and Ireland's new Catholic middle class. Yet, despite their prosperity, the family's remote location and lack of access to traditional medical care meant that his mother often improvised medicines and treatments for her families. The interest in medicine and inventiveness of his parents would be passed on to Aidan and serve him well.

MacCarthy studied medicine at University College Cork (UCC) and graduated a doctor in 1938. However, medicine was a jealously guarded profession and MacCarthy found that his lack of family connections prevented him from establishing a practice (He was not alone; it was estimated that 50 to 60 percent of Ireland's newly graduated doctors had to leave the country in search of employment and experience). MacCarthy travelled to England in search of opportunity, but again found the doors of the medical profession closed to him.

On September 3, 1939 Britain, in response to the German invasion of Poland, declared war on Germany. That evening MacCarthy ran into two medical school classmates who were experiencing the same difficulties as he in trying to break into civilian practice. After an evening commiserating, they decided that the armed services offered them an opportunity to practice medicine and adventure. After much discussion, the choice came down to the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force (RAF). MacCarthy called a waitress over and asked her to flip a coin. The RAF won.

MacCarthy was assigned to an RAF squadron based in France, when Hitler unleashed his blitzkrieg in May 1940 and was caught up in the retreat and eventually evacuation at Dunkirk. While attending to wounded patients on a civilian ferry which had been pressed into service for the rescue, the ship was torpedoed by a U-Boat. MacCarthy continued to operate on wounded men while the ship's captain ordered the able-bodied men to stand on one side of the boat so that it would list sufficiently to keep the hole in the side of the hull above water as they made their way back to England.

Dr. MacCarthy was then assigned to a bomber base. One fateful night, a young pilot flying a damaged bomber misjudged the field, hitting a fence and skidding into the "bomb dump" where bombs and ammunition were kept and the plane burst into flames. The crash crews who were wearing protective asbestos suits fled the scene fearing imminent explosion. With nothing to shield them, MacCarthy and the driver of one of the fire engines entered the burning aircraft and rescued the surviving crew members. For his courage, MacCarthy was awarded the George Cross, the first citizen of the Irish Republic to receive the medal.

MacCarthy was then assigned to a fighter squadron in Indonesia and was captured as part of the Japanese conquest of Indonesia (it is interesting to note that of the Twenty-seven doctors captured when Java fell, 19 were Irish). MacCarthy would spend the next three years, five months and eight days in one of the most brutal and degrading forms of captivity in the history of man. Culturally, the Japanese viewed anyone who surrendered as being dishonorable. The commandants and guards viewed themselves as disgraced as being found unfit for military service; they turned and vented their frustrations on their hapless captives through unspeakable acts of torture and humiliation. The death toll for European prisoners of war was 4 percent, for the prisoners of the Japanese it was 27 percent. One of MacCarthy's prison camp commandants was found guilty and executed for war crimes. MacCarthy was singled

# History

## Dr. Aídan MacCarthy, from Dunkirk to Nagasaki

Cont'd

out for extra beatings as to Japanese ears “MacCarthy” sounded like “MacArthur”, the commander of Allied Forces in the Pacific.

Through it all MacCarthy continued to scrounge and innovate to keep as many as he could alive. Taking inspiration from his mother’s home remedies, he cultivated yeast as a source of vitamin B to help beriberi and he used shaving cream to dress wounds. Every day for 1,257 days MacCarthy fought to keep himself and his men alive.

Eventually, MacCarthy and some of his comrades were selected for transfer to Japan to be utilized as slave labor. While being transported to Japan, the ship they were on was attacked and sunk by an American submarine. The prisoner ship was supposed to have Red Cross markings, but the Japanese illegally put those on an ammunition ship. MacCarthy was one of the few in his compartment to survive the initial explosion. Covered in oil, MacCarthy and some other prisoners were rescued by a Japanese destroyer. When the crew discovered they were allied prisoners they began beating them and throwing them from the stern and into the ship’s propellers. MacCarthy and his comrades made a break and jumped over the side of the ship where they were rescued again by Japanese fishermen who delivered them to Japan and back into captivity.

MacCarthy and his fellow workers were used as slave laborers in the Mitsubishi Factory in Nagasaki. As US air raids on Japan increased, the prisoners used what little free time they had to dig an air raid shelter for themselves. In the summer of

1945, the prisoners were given a new task: to dig a large trench while the Japanese build a wooden platform. The platform was for machine guns and the prisoners were digging their own grave. The Japanese government was preparing to kill all prisoners on August 22, 1945. However, it was never carried out. On August 9th, MacCarthy saw two American B-29s make a slow turn toward the city. He immediately ordered the prisoners into their bomb shelter, though some fool hardy souls stayed outside as they wished to see the Japanese get what they believed they had coming to them. It was their last mistake, for at that time the doors on the B-29 “Bockscar” were swinging open to release the second atomic bomb in history.

MacCarthy and those who had taken shelter had survived but emerged to the apocalypse. Despite all he had suffered as a prisoner of Japan, MacCarthy began to treat the victims of the blast who were suffering with injuries and diseases no doctor had ever seen before. When Japan’s declaration of surrender came on August 15th, some of the prisoners attempted to lynch the camp commandant and guards. MacCarthy had them thrown into a jail cell and tossed away the key to save them for the authorities. Later, in an unprecedented act the camp commander gave MacCarthy his family’s sword in gratitude for his humanity.

The remarkable service of Dr. Aidan MacCarthy spanned the history of WW II, from the evacuation of Dunkirk to the dropping of the atomic bomb. When asked the secret to his remarkable survival he replied “Well, it is a combination of my Irish Catholic Heritage, my family background, and lots and lots of luck”.

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