

Police Celebration Day Poland - 20th July 2007



Police Training Centre (CSP)
Centrum Szkolenia Policji
Legionowie, Warsaw

Conor O'Higgins

Invitation from TPA Poland

On the invitation of TPA, Poland Vice President Major Arkadiusz Skrzypczak a delegation headed by President Billy Saunderson attended the Police Celebration Day. The delegation also included Secretary General Conor O'Higgins and Regional representatives Dino Wilkinson, Region 10, Bray Station. Paul O'Neill, Region 5, Loughrea Station, Declan Healy, Region 1, Fitzgibbon St, Station and Joe McGlynn, Region 4, Killaloe Station. Mrs Pauline Saunderson and Aidan O'Higgins attended at their own expense.



Police Celebration Day Poland - Local and International Delegations



Section Ireland Colour Party: Mr. Aidan O'Higgins, Paul O'Neill (Loughrea), Joe McGlynn (Killaloe), Secretary General Conor O'Higgins, President Billy Saunderson, IPA Poland Vice President Major Arkadiusz Skrzypczak, Warrant Officer Bogdan Koldys, Dino Wilkinson (Bray), Declan Healy (Fitzgibbon Street)

How the delegation was chosen

Each Region nominated one member to be included in a draw to choose four representatives. At the Regional Secretaries meeting held at Tullamore, chaired by the Secretary General, the above members were drawn from a lottery.

Other delegations

The delegation was one of twelve which represented Sections from Poland, Scotland, Britain, Germany, Hungary, Belgium, Denmark, Russia, Latvia, Austria and Finland.

Police celebration day

The ceremonies on the 20th began with a welcoming address from the Director of Training Colonel Jacenty Bakiewicz. There followed a short video on the training programme and then questions and answers. Each delegation was given a guided tour of the training centre to view the armoury and shoot off some selected guns in a shooting gallery. Delegates were given a display of police self defence and finally an opportunity to test their driving skill in the skid-pan adopted car.

Official ceremony

The highlight of the day was the ceremony on the parade grounds. Some four hundred Police Officers paraded which began with each delegation marching onto the parade ground behind their national flag. The Director of Training and guests took their position on the review stand. Then the Polish

flag was ceremoniously paraded and raised to the Polish National Anthem. The presentation of medals and certificates preceded official speeches. The ceremonies concluded with a march past of the band and police on parade. Each delegation marched off the parade ground led by a lone piper from Essex Delegation. After the ceremony all guests were hosted to a barbecue where delegates mixed in the company of fine food and Polish beer.

Other events

On the 21st the delegations were brought to the Dog Training Unit where up to one hundred and twenty dogs are in training at a given time. The training includes searching for drugs, missing persons, restraint and arrest and crowd control.

On the final day the delegation visited the Warsaw Uprising Museum in



Social evening with hosts: Robert Zolkiewski, Aidan O'Higgins, Joe McGlynn, Bogdan Koldys, Pauline Saunderson, Conor O'Higgins, Billy Saunderson, Arkadiusz (Arek) Skrzypczak, Declan Healy, Dino Wilkinson and Paul O'Neill



Our competition strong man: Joe McGlynn doing us proud in Poland



Our competition singers: Wowing the local and International audience Aidan, Dino and Paul

which 45,000 people were killed and Warsaw was razed by the Nazi Armies. The day also included a tour of the reconstructed Palace and the Old Town.

The celebrations concluded with presentations and speeches at a restaurant close to the training centre. After the official closing ceremony each delegation was invited to participate in fun competitions. I am pleased to let you know that our Joe McGlynn was crowned champion Arm Wrestler and Dino Wilkinson, Paul O'Neill and Adrian O'Higgins gave a fine rendition of *Ireland's Call* in the song competition which in my humble opinion they won hands down.

Conclusion

The organising committee was headed by our friend Arek who was assisted by Major Robert Zolkiewski, Warrant Officer Bogdan Koldys and Lieutenant Marcin Kozlowski amongst many others. The organisers can be satisfied and proud of achieving the true meaning of IPA and each Delegation declared the weekend activities as being excellent.