

Watergate flats: electronic cards but no bells. (LL)

# Millions hear of Jewish 'pogrom'

By EUGENE  
PHELAN

MILLIONS of television viewers in Britain and Ireland were told this Wednesday how the people of Limerick rebelled in 1904 against the Jewish community after a sermon in the Redemptorist Church.

The now "infamous pogrom" in Limerick featured prominently in the

programme Witness: A Great Hatred which opened with a Sinn Fein commemoration service at Bodenstown, and shown on Channel 4.

Journalist Simon Sebag Montefiore, whose family left Limerick after incidents against the Jews in 1904, came back to his family roots in the city where the

first part of the programme was centred.

In the programme, the journalist claimed that his family, who lived in Limerick city and came here in the 1860s with other Jewish families, were cast out.

"I am," he said, "an Englishman, a stranger here, but Ireland could have been my country and these could have been my people. My mother's father was born here an Irish Jew, but my family was not Irish enough for the founder of Sinn Fein, so they were cast out."

He claimed that outsiders in Ireland—Jewish or Protestant—did not belong to the Sinn Fein vision of the Irish race.

Mr Montefiore's family were Jaffe and came here from Lithuania on a ship bound for the United States. They thought they were in the US when they got off a Cobh.

"They were told by the

ships crew they were in New York but instead they had to settle for Limerick and a street they called Little Jerusalem," he explained.

The reporter showed the house where his grandfather lived and grew up in Limerick city and included interviews with Limerick-born Jews Joe Morrison and Stuart Clein, who still lives here and is Limerick's last remaining member of the Jewish community.

Mr Clein explained how the Jewish families sold blankets and other items door to door. The people were happy because they could buy clothing on a weekly or monthly basis, which they could not do by going into a shop.

The journalist showed shots of going into the Limerick Archivist office and finding his family history of the Jaffe's which he found fascinating. He spoke about his grandmother who loved Limerick and the

Limerick Races.

"We were all taught that the last pogrom in the British Isles was in York in the Middle Ages. In fact, the last pogrom was in Limerick and my family were amongst its victims," the journalist stated.

The majority of Jewish families left Limerick for England to better themselves when they were boycotted by the people of Limerick after a sermon by a Fr Creagh in the Redemptorist Church. It was claimed.

The Jewish traders, Mr Clein explained, were bringing in cargoes of goods, and selling them much cheaper than the "Christian shops" who were losing business.

"They brought their case to Fr Creagh and of course this was an opportunity for him to jump on the bandwagon and say things against the Jewish people. That is what I honestly believe started the whole thing."

The programme then switched to the Redemptorist Church with Mr Montefiore reading some of the famous sermon.

"The Jews came to Limerick apparently the most miserable tribe imaginable but they enriched themselves, their rags were switched for silk; they have wormed their way into every form of business; They are in the horse trade, mineral water trade and milk trade, the drapery trade and in fact in business of every description," Fr Creagh said in his sermon.

"You are allowing yourselves to become the slaves of Jew users," he claimed.

Mr Montefiore said that

Fr Creagh told the congregation that 20 years previously the Jew were only known by name and evil reputation in Limerick.

"They were sucking the blood of other nations but these nations rose up and have thrown them out," he said.

Fr Creagh had said that the Jews had come to Limerick like leeches to draw blood.

The night of the sermon, the programme told us, hundreds marched through the streets and some battered down the doors of these Jews living in Limerick. They were in fear of their lives.

The situation deteriorated in the following days as the Jewish traders could not leave their homes to make collections. Letters were sent out to prominent political figures to help the Jews in Limerick, but nothing happened.

The programme went on to focus on Arthur Griffith, founder of Sinn Fein, and his objections to the Jews.

Later, Stuart Clein recalled his first trip to Limerick in 1957, when he was warned by his friends in Dublin not to go to there.

He decided to come out straight and tell people he was a Jew. "People looked at me and said: 'I am Tom English, I am a Catholic, big deal.'"

Mr Clein explained how the people just accepted him for what he was. He has been here since and has found no anti-Semitic feelings here.

The programme also claimed that the IRA provided the Nazis with the military intelligence to carry out bombing raids on Belfast.

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## Man is jailed after high-speed car chase

A HIGH-speed car chase around the city last month resulted in £4,000 damage to unmarked and marked garda cars, Limerick city court has heard.

James Harty, 1, Lila Court, Kesh Park, admitted charges of dangerous driving, criminal damage and larceny on September 24.

Judge Peter Smithwick was told that Mr Harty was being chased by gardai following the larceny of a television, video recorder, a generator and a decoder

Inspector Pat Sullivan said. Solicitor, Pat Barrascale, said his client had taken the goods from a caravan parked off the Condell Road because he was owed money by the occupant.

"He accepts that he should not have done that," said Mr Barrascale.

The solicitor said that Mr Harty panicked when gardai gave chase around the city before colliding with the cars at Marlevize Drive.

"This was very poor behaviour and Mr Harty accepts this," said Mr Barrascale. "It just got out of control."

term for criminal damage to the cars and one month for dangerous driving.

All jail terms are to be served concurrent from the date of sentencing.

Mr Harty's car was ordered to be forfeited on the application of Inspector Sullivan.

Judge Smithwick asked: "Is there much left of it?"

He heard that the car was worth about £300.

