

...ndai have told owners of  
nises to keep a vigilant  
out for anything suspi-  
is, as it is impossible for  
dai to keep an eye out  
ywhere.  
xtensive damage was cau-  
to the Salthill Hotel in  
hill this Friday when a  
b exploded on the pres-  
es at approximately 10.30  
A nine-minute warning  
given and the hotel guests  
e cleared.  
telephone call was made  
he Garda in Dublin advis-  
them that a bomb had  
n planted in the hotel. The  
er said he was a member  
he UVF. It is believed that  
nsive damage was caused  
he hotel.  
he ICTU conference is  
ng held in the area.  
**ROYAL GEORGE blast:**  
e 11.

## LATEST

The centre of Limerick was  
ared shortly before lunch-  
e this Friday after a sus-  
sious object was spotted in  
nocks store.  
n Army bomb disposal  
m detonated the suspi-  
s parcel, in the middle of  
store, with a controlled  
losion at 1.20 p.m. A  
rda spokesman told our  
orter on the scene that  
parcel was found to be  
pty.

## One dead, one critical

John McCarthy, aged be-  
en 35 and 40 years, Cara-  
n Site, Rhebogic, has died  
Barrington's Hospital as a  
ult of injuries he received  
en a car in which he was  
occupant, crashed into a  
ch at Ballycasey Cross, near  
entrance to Shannon Air-  
t, this Thursday night.  
travelling companion,  
in Carey, in his early 20s,  
o from the Caravan Site,  
obogue was stated to be  
tical in Barrington's Hospi-  
this Friday.

## Comfortable after crash

A motorcyclist and his pil-  
passenger were stated to  
fairly comfortable in Bar-  
gton's Hospital this Friday  
lowing a traffic accident on  
Limerick side of the  
annon Shamrock.  
They are John Hickey (19),  
lbriffain, Co. Cork, and Oli-  
Callan (17), Castleblaney,  
Monaghan.  
Their motorcycle was invol-  
l in a collision with a motor  
which failed to stop. The  
re cause of fire and was par-  
lly destroyed.

**CAPTAIN** Charlie  
Blair's sensational re-  
turn to Foynes this  
Thursday in his four-  
engined Shorts Sandring-  
ham flying boat may well  
mark the initiation of a  
new and interesting tour-  
ism development in the  
Shannonside region.

The 66-year-old captain, in  
an interview shortly after his  
arrival in Foynes Yacht Club,  
told the "Limerick Leader":  
"Foynes is a fine base, but  
flying boats are no longer long  
range aircraft." He pointed  
out however that they are "a  
short range medium."

## Potential

And it is in this medium  
that it is hoped to realise the  
flying boats potential in tour-  
ism.

The craft will now be leas-  
ed to Aer Arann, the airline  
which is well known for its  
flights to the Aran Islands.  
And, if present plans are im-  
plemented, the Sandringham  
will fly tourists on sight-see-

released, some of the stops  
mentioned are Foynes, Lough  
Derg, Ballinskelligs Bay and  
Lough Corrib. An added at-  
traction at the latter point  
will be a luncheon at the elite  
Ashford Castle in Cong —  
where Captain Blair's wife,  
Maureen O'Hara, filmed "The  
Quiet Man".

Captain Blair is president  
of Antilles Air Boats in the  
Virgin Islands, and is prob-  
ably the world's only commer-  
cial operator of four-engined  
flying boats.

The boat, which carried a  
crew of five, ten family mem-  
bers and eight guests, made a  
perfect landing off Foynes  
Island. As Captain Blair and  
his wife, the world-famous film  
actress, Maureen O'Hara, al-  
ighted they were piped aside  
by naval serviceman Charlie  
Coleman of Sarsfield Barracks

Captain Blair was one of the  
last flying boat commanders  
to fly out from Foynes when  
the port closed as an air ter-  
minal in October, 1945. And  
now, back again in the old  
place that he knew so well  
since early 1942, he remarked:  
"I am glad to get back after  
all these years, I am getting a  
rather sentimental kick out

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...ance scheme.

## In full

The debate at the Trades  
Council centred on the fact  
that not only was the working  
man being heavily imposed on,  
but those on State assistance  
— even those for whom pay-  
related benefit had run out —  
were being assessed in full.

Those who had only half  
their sick benefit assessed,  
said Cllr. Kemmy, now had it  
assessed in its entirety.

Several speakers maintained  
that the alleged abuses of the  
Social Welfare code had not  
been as widespread as had  
been assumed by many.

Indeed, there had been a  
sneaking sympathy among  
many people for the Govern-  
ment increasing the rents,  
taking into account full State  
assistance payments.

**£83,000**

The former Rental premises  
in O'Connell Street, Limerick,  
was this week sold by Rooney  
Auctioneers for £83,000, be-  
lieved to be a record for a  
property of its size in the city  
centre. It was bought by a  
Limerick business concern.

# Remembered: the 'forgotten' Limerick man who signed the U.S. Declaration

BY LEADER REPORTER

A "FORGOTTEN" Lime-  
rickman — one of the 57  
signatories of the American  
Declaration of Independence  
200 years ago — is this week  
spotlighted in a colour maga-  
zine, Ireland To-Day, which  
is being circulated throughout  
the world by the Department  
of Foreign Affairs.

Matthew Thornton was born  
in Limerick city.

Unfortunately, little is now  
known about him other than  
that he was a physician in  
New Hampshire, where he  
settled after emigrating from  
Ireland.

The Limerick Leader this  
week contacted historians in  
Limerick city and county, but  
they were unable to fill in  
his background.

Said one of them: "Sorry, I  
can't help you. I have not  
come across Matthew Thorn-  
ton's name in reference books  
and have never heard his  
name mentioned".

A spokesman for the Nation-  
al Library in Dublin stated  
they had very little knowledge  
of him.

A noted historian in County  
Limerick said he was aware  
that Thornton had signed the  
Declaration of Independence

"but I believe he was a  
Limerick city man and I found



Matthew Thornton: city-  
born.

it difficult to get information  
on him".

But now, thanks to an  
article by Dr. Cyril M. White  
of U.C.D., in Ireland To-Day,  
Thornton is likely to become  
better known and already his-  
torians are seeking further

information on him.

The Declaration of Indepen-  
dence, signed on July 4, 1774,  
carried the signatures of three  
other Irishmen: James Smith,  
George Taylor, and the Con-  
gressional Secretary, Charles  
Thomson.

Smith, a lawyer, represen-  
ted Pennsylvania, and was  
born in Dublin in 1719, while  
Thomson was a native of  
Derry and emigrated in 1739  
when aged 10. Dr. White  
writes.

The Irish contingent did not  
all sign the Declaration of  
Independence on July 4, 1776  
(to be technically correct, the  
resolution of independence  
was adopted on July 2; the  
Declaration which explains  
it, was adopted on July 4).

Thornton, for example,  
joined the Congress on Nov-  
ember 4, 1776, and signed the  
engrossed Declaration shortly  
afterwards.

Of the fifty-seven who  
signed the Declaration, nine  
were born outside North  
America.

There were two from Scot-  
land and England, and one  
from Wales.

Another interesting fact  
given by Dr. White is that  
the Declaration of Indepen-  
dence was printed by an Irish-  
man: John Dunlap, from  
Strabane.

workers gener-  
restriction for  
years but the  
did not regard  
part of the  
community.