

# The Fight In East Limerick: New Book By Seamus Forde

(Review by "AN MANGAIRE SUGACH")

BY his choice of title for his book, *Braon Fola* (It was worth the drop of blood), Seamus Malone (Seamus Forde) proclaims his disagreement with Daniel O'Connell, who once stated that liberty was not worth the shedding of even one drop of human blood. At 18, Seamus Malone, a teacher in the C.B.S., Mullingar, took the I.R.B. oath in the local Peis field from Liam Maloney. There followed two weeks spent in Liam's house in Dublin, and meetings and lectures at which the young Westmeath teacher got to know men like Pearce, Sean Mac Dermott, Tom Clarke and Con Colbert. In 1933 he went to teach in the C.B.S., Armagh, and while there administered the I.R.B. oath to an R.I.C. Sergeant, who was soon promoted to the rank of Inspector, and who later left the Force to fight the Black and Tans in July, 1934, and took part in the Howth gun-running; here he saw Eamon de Valera for the first time — he was told he was a Spanish officer who had come over to instruct the Dublin men and that he had learned his Irish during a week spent in Comber.

**EASTER WEEK.** Dismissed in Armagh because of his anti-Redmond activities, Seamus taught successively in the C.B.S., Portlaoise and Crescent College, Limerick. The Limerick City Volunteers he found to be one of the best armed groups in Ireland but he thought they were too much under the control of the old men of the I.R.B. On Spy Wednesday, 1916, he was called to Dublin and sent to his native Westmeath to take charge of operations there. (The Limerick Volunteers refused to give him the gun he himself had bought — for this he never forgave them!) The response to the call out was poor and after a week of confusion and frustration he returned to Limerick. Just before he left in train for Dublin, a letter reached the City it was stopped, and he was arrested and conveyed to William Street Police Barracks. The police were furious when he refused to speak English and insisted on speaking Irish, but a detective named O'Connell, who was very friendly — this man joined the I.R.A. when the Tans came. From Limerick Prison Seamus and other Republican prisoners were taken to Richmond Barracks, Dublin. Some of them would surely have been killed or severely injured by the Throbbing, if the Throbbing Dublin mob, for the protection of the friendly English soldiers who were their guards. The dead of Easter Week had not yet won their victory in the minds of the people.

**IMPRISONMENT.** After three weeks detention in Richmond the prisoners were taken to England, and interned, first in Wakefield, and then in Frongoch. Prison life was not so bad, the officials and guards were kind, and there were many pranks and escapades to lighten the days and the nights. The letters Seamus received from his mother were all in Irish, and the accommodating censorship officer, having no other interpreter at hand, agreed that Seamus himself should translate them for him. He always translated them exactly, even when they were full of the most violent denunciations of England. These passages the conscientious censor cut out. Then when they had been fully censored, he'd hand the letters to Seamus! He got all the clippings back from the censor when he was leaving the jail. They were in an envelope marked "Clippings from the letters of a she-wolf".

Released in December, 1916, Seamus went to Tipperary at the beginning of 1917 as an Irish teacher and volunteer organiser. After a year and a half he was compelled to go "on the run". Michael Collins then sent him as an Intelligence Officer or spy, to Cork, where he got a teaching post in the Christian Brothers' School at O'Sullivan's Quay, under the assumed name, "Forde". He had to find out all he could about individual police and military and, as well, about the Volunteer officers, and report back regularly to Collins. It was work he didn't like. He became friendly with a famous detective called Young — it was he who had arrested Lynchcaun — and enrolled him as an agent of the I.R.A. Collins later told Seamus that he proved to be the best agent in all Ireland — though it seems there are still people in

# Followed by the Hon.ble Francis: Incidents in the Life of Father Fidelis Griffin, O.F.M.

(Compiled from "Assisi" by T. F. Melody)

Father Fidelis Griffin, O.F.M., no longer a young man, recently left the Franciscan Friary, Ennis, to carry on missionary work at Coalville, Leicester, England.

Over the years, his labours in the vineyard have taken him to distant places and in 1929 he was in far away Australia. He has had a number of happenings about that time which will be of interest to readers of the "Limerick Leader." As Commissary Provincial he was one of four Franciscans at a historical event at Kedron, Brisbane. His Grace, Archbishop Duhig, of Brisbane, handed over the parish with the Church of the Little Flower to the care of the Franciscans.

**NOBLE AND GENEROUS ACT.** During the ceremony His Grace said they were effecting a great change in the parish that evening. It was the first time in the history of Brisbane that the habit of St. Francis had been seen in their midst.

**FATHER FIDELIS DEEPLY MOVED.** Father Fidelis Griffin, who was deeply moved by the evening's proceedings, thanked His Grace profoundly for the spirit of kindness and generous hospitality with which he and the Fathers accompanying him had been received. He trusted they would be able to realise in some measure what the people expected of them. He could assure them that they would spare no pains in their labours to serve God and the people. They were the spiritual sons of a great founder, St. Francis, and members of an order that had given many saints to heaven and the Church of God.

**A FLOURISHING PROVINCE.** Before, Father Fidelis left Australia the new Province of the Order was flourishing with a foreign mission in New Guinea. The first Friary in Queensland, the beginning of the new Australian Province of the Order, was and has continued to be, a flourishing province, of the Order with a foreign mission where 24 friars are labouring, one of whom is Father Ferdinand Paret, O.F.M.

**IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY IN KEDRON.** Here are a few extracts from a very lengthy article in the "Catholic Leader," Brisbane: Opening of the new Franciscan Friary at Kedron, Australia, by His Grace Archbishop Duhig, of Brisbane, on Sunday, June 29th last.

Very Revd. Father Fidelis Griffin, O.F.M., Commissary Provincial, welcoming the Archbishop, paid a warm tribute to the Apostolic seat of the patriarchal solitudes, with which he had watched over the Franciscans and their enterprise since its inception. The following are extracts from Archbishop Duhig's inspiring address:

I have come, here with a great amount of pleasure to inaugurate today the first Franciscan House in Queensland. About eight years ago I made a pilgrimage to Assisi and I had the pleasure of kneeling at the tomb of the great St. Francis, who stands at the head, I think, of all Italy's sons, not excepting Dante.

**PROPELLOR HAD DROPPED OFF.** It now transpired that the propeller had dropped off, bearing away with it the shaft, and leaving exposed a tunnel about three feet in diameter, along which the water rushed to the engine room and hatches. Things looked very serious and it would be difficult to analyse one's feelings in the circumstances.

**WATER POURING IN.** A heavy swell prevailed, which was the cause of our drifting over a hundred miles, before we were finally rescued.

**SHIPWRECKED IN THE PACIFIC.** By Father Fidelis Griffin, O.F.M. — receipt of a summons in Australia to come to Ireland, I booked a passage on the S.S. "Tahiti," sailing from Sydney, via Wellington, N.Z. and the South Sea Islands to San Francisco. Having done this, I was walking down George St., Sydney, and met a friend who inquired on what boat I was taking the voyage. On being informed, he said: "Oh, don't travel on that; that is a hoodoo (unlucky ship)," explaining that on her last trip to Sydney, she had been very delayed some days owing to bad weather, and, of course, everyone was aware of the disaster of 1927 when in a collision she sank the "Greyhound," a ferry boat in Sydney Harbour, involving the loss of some hundreds of lives.

**CRITICAL DECISION.** In the meantime, unknown to us, the brave Captain Myer of the "Ventura," with his officers, had to make a very critical decision following a radio message picked up from Suva (Fiji Islands). He was on his way from Sydney to San Francisco on a more northern route than ours.

He was 700 miles away from our floating ship, which amounted to 1,400 miles, if his own course was followed. To our assistance meant taking a big risk with the safety of his own passengers, travelling over uncharted seas, studded with coral reefs, with the possibility that after all the effort might be in vain.

But the chivalrous captain, with sound judgment and the true instinct of the sailor, and guided undoubtedly from on high, came to a decision. Instantly he turned his ship around, climbed to the bridge, and for two whole days and nights, against wind and wave, he ploughed the seas at full speed.

The anxiety of all on board rose not from our own discomfort, which in the circumstances were many, but from the uncertainty of

our fate. **MOMENTS OF EXTREME TENSION.** At times during that long vigil on the "Tahiti" of fifty hours and more while standing by the life boats, moments of extreme tension occurred, as for example when soon after midnight on Friday the order was given to take to the open boats. The water was advancing, the bulkheads were beginning to give way, and there was immediate danger of the ship being flooded. In the pale light of the stars, one could hear the splash of the waves against the sides of the disabled ship, as she heaved and creaked from stem to stern.

The order was given. Women and children first, then fathers were separated from their little ones, and husbands from their wives. However, owing to calm confidence in God and the great discipline prevailing there was no panic and no confusion.

**ANGEL OF DELIVERANCE IN SIGHT.** Finally, on Sunday, August 17th, after drifting around for some hours in the lifeboats, when many had all but abandoned hope, the angel of deliverance, the good ship "Ventura" (what a significant name, "Good Fortune" called after St. Bonaventure) hove in sight and effected a dramatic rescue, which is unparalleled and probably unprecedented in the long and glorious annals of the sea. Seldom, if ever, has it been known that a captain has at full speed raced his ship over seven hundred miles of unknown seas and effected the rescue of all on board the sinking liner, in the usual way, and without even an accident.

After I had laboriously climbed the rope ladder, and while endeavouring to get over the deck rail, I was assisted by a kindly officer, who assured me in an unmistakable voice that I was now quite safe. He was Mr. P. Carroll, native of West Cork, the purser of the ship.

**RECEIVED WITH THE GREATEST CORDIALITY.** Having got on board the "Ventura" we were received with the greatest cordiality by passengers and crew, and during the remainder of the voyage were treated with genuine American hospitality.

From the deck of the "Ventura" we watched the end of the "Tahiti" — a most harrowing, yet fascinating sight. She resembled some giant monster in the throes of its last agony, as she sighed and heaved while gradually sinking, and finally in one long gasp, the prow rose and her stacks crumbled; there was a loud explosion and she went down in the waters of the South Seas. In short time there was the stillness of death over the water. The "Ventura" circled the spot, sounded a last salute, and then headed for Samoa and San Francisco.

**GREAT FEATS OF HEROISM.** The officers and crew of the "Tahiti" had performed feats of heroism in keeping her afloat so long, while the epic of the "Ventura" in successfully averting a disaster of the first magnitude deserves to be written in the imperishable rolls of fame. Another golden link in the chain of human brotherhood has been forged which will serve to bind the hearts of all concerned, and will be an inspiration and example to future generations.

Hold it up not a stain



## there's whitened Surf

Just look at that for... whitened Surf... You'll feel proud to the light! Yes, whitened!



for real relief you

Get a month's supply from you

**You put in a penny...**

**and collect threepence**

Every pennyworth of Terramycin you put into pig-feed puts 3d. in your pocket. This is the way it works out. You add a teaspoonful to each bucket of pig-food. This costs 1d. From weaning to slaughter you spend, in all, about 5/- per pig on Terramycin. In return you get an extra profit of 15/- upwards per pig. This is due to the fact that Terramycin-fed pigs fatten so fast that they're ready to market a fortnight earlier. Think of the feed saved! And the labour! Not added in the 15/- profit are the benefits that can't be calculated. The better health of your pigs — the increased resistance to disease — the freedom from scouring and coughing. What it all adds up to is that Terramycin is a first-class investment. Try it on your pigs. Get some from your chemist today.

**Terramycin**  
ANTIBIOTIC FEED SUPPLEMENT

(Terramycin T.M.5 contains 5G oxytetracycline activity per lb.)

Pfizer PFIZER LIMITED, 34 Grainger Street, Dublin D02.

**"A Class Of A Bombshell" For Councillor**

**A BOMBHELL**

Mr. P. Clohesy, T.D., said that the appearance of a deputation from his own parish without his knowledge, and headed by a solicitor for same as a class of a bombshell for him. He knew the roads in his area from A to Z and he knew their condition. He thought that before such a deputation came before the Co. Council they could have interviewed the Co. Engineer and the Co. Engineer. They would have got a lot further. Instead of coming before the Council to listen to some Councillors talking about something they knew nothing about. The Engineer, in co-operation with the Manager, would find a solution of the matter in the near future.

Chairman — The Co. Engineer will look into the matter immediately.

Co. Engineer — Whatever action is to be taken will be taken immediately.

Mr. J. English said that he would not like to see his children going to school under such conditions.

There was no further discussion.

**Sold As He Got It: Flour With Cereal Mites**

Murphy A252R—FM/VHF Radiogram

This is a luxury set at a luxury price—but what a luxury performance!

On the radio side, there's FM/VHF for fine interference-free reproduction of all B.B.C. stations—as well as the normal Long, Medium and Short wavebands.

On the gram side, there's a four (yes, four) speed auto-changer that deals with up to 10 records. (The fourth speed is 16 2/3 rpm which is likely to become widely used.)

Both sides are served by two matched speakers, which give a beautifully balanced reproduction.

Finally, the cabinet is veneered in glorious, glowing sapele mahogany—a beautiful piece of furniture.

**She knows why she feels so well**

Why deprive yourself of the joy of sparkling eyes and radiant health when her valuable health secret can be yours this very minute?

**First step!** Here is your first step to really good health: take Beecham's Pills at bedtime to clear away those impurities that make you look tired and older than you are.

**When morning comes!** In the morning you'll be like a different person—alive and happy, ready to smile. This gentle, effective and wonderfully reliable laxative is the health secret of countless happy, successful people.

And this new glow of fitness could be yours—tomorrow! Get some Beecham's Pills now, for tonight —

**FOR 'HEALTHY' REGULARITY**

**NOW NO LIMIT TO DEPOSITS**

**INTEREST ON £1,000 FREE OF INCOME TAX**

**LIMERICK SAVINGS BANK**  
GLENWORTH STREET,  
UP TO £20 PAID ON DEMAND.