Remembering the Terror

ODDS AND ENDS
"AN MANGAIRE SUGACH"

When I was in the sandaled in the city, a man spoke for the first time of days in succession, some extracts from a book by Fr. Colm Coughlan, as cited in Fr. Colm Coughlan's book "The Story of the Irish People." There were many of the daring exploits described in the book, and we were even more amazed when we learned that the author of the book, a man who had killed all those incredible things, had lived, still alive. And Dan Breen was there, too. He told us a story about a man who had come to the MacCarthy house asking for a swab of blood from the McGarr family. He had just bought a gun, and when he opened the door, he was asked to leave and he fell dead in the hallway. As he lay there, he was asked if he wanted to speak to the priest, but the priest had already left. The man who had come to the house to see the family was asked if he wanted to see the family, but he had already left.

One night later, a number of armed men came to the house. They asked for information, but the family refused. The men then dropped the couple in the back yard and set fire to the house. They then left. The house burned down the next day.

Came in the direction of the barracks. He would get all the information he wanted. He bought a gun and went down the street. He saw the family, the priest, and the military. He then set fire to the house. The priest and the family then left. The man who had come to the house to see the family was asked if he wanted to see the family, but he had already left.

There is another example of British methods in Ireland in 1920, as cited by Fr. Colm Coughlan: "On 19 October, Frank and Ned Dwyer of Baltimore were barbarously murdered by men in military uniform. The police, still in uniform, went into the house and took the bodies of the men. The police then left the house.

MURDER MOST FOUL
Here's another example of British methods in Ireland's capital. In 1920, as cited by Fr. Colm Coughlan: "On 19 October, Frank and Ned Dwyer of Baltimore were barbarously murdered by men in military uniform. The police, still in uniform, went into the house and took the bodies of the men. The police then left the house.

They fired some shots through the door and the wooden partition into the room, and then left.

Two months before the Dwyer murders, the Archbishop of Cashel had written an indictment of the British Government, in which he declared:

"The official acts of the Government have murdered with impunity old and young. The British Army has wrecked towns, villages and peaceful homes. They have destroyed cemeteries, and have been guilty of many robberies and murders."

And it is noted that this terror campaign against the civilian population of Ireland was carried out by the British Parliament by the Premier, Lloyd George, the Chief Secretary, Sir Henry, and by the great Englishman, Winston Churchill himself.

In another splendid article in the Capuchin Annual, "Aspects of English Rule in Ireland," the historian, Oliver St. John Goghill, M.A., has this to say about the official reign of terror which was subject to in 1920 and 1921:

"It is doubtless that any number of British soldiers who were killed in the war was a factor in the decision of the Crown forces of another civilised country to attack the town of the end of the second quarter of the present century."

These are the same ruthless Crown forces against whom courageous men like Dan Breen fought for the life of Irish men to be masters in their own land.