

ictory

by a group of men a banner emblem with big characters "All Cups Come to Limerick." Tar barrels and fires lit up all the streets in the vicinity of the Strand and the Barracks. Cllr. J. G. O'Connell, said it is no victory but a vic-tor-erick.

1927/28 season outstanding one Limerick sporting besides Young's all-Ireland Limerick Boat Club, won by Tommy O'Connell, won the IARU Eight's Champi-ship in Cork, and A won the Irish Limerick Cup.



Strand Barracks having been shell in the Civil War

violate the situation. Terror stalked the streets and those that ventured out did so at their peril, with many of them being wounded or injured. The centre of the city was the scene of most of the sniping and many families in the area fled to diverse locations outside the city such as Mungret College where they were looked after by the Jesuit community.

There were several overtures during the siege to effect a ceasefire but whatever chances of that happening went by the board when a Free State soldier named O'Brien, a native of the city, was shot dead in Nelson Street, his companion, Private O'Connell, having been disarmed a few minutes previously. From that moment, all efforts at a truce vanished and both sides took up commanding positions or points of vantage. With barricades springing up all over the place, it became a beleaguered city with mills, business houses, private houses, even bellfries of churches all being com-mandeered by the troops.

One of the turning points in the battle came when on Thursday, July 20th, the Free State troops trained heavy artillery on the Strand Barracks, the occupying Irregulars eventually surrendering when the front portion of the building was hit. This incident precipitated a withdrawal of the Republicans from the city and around midnight that night a string of cars were seen, or heard, to be leaving the city, heading south. It signalled the end of the battle and the lifting of the siege.

The Irregulars were not finished yet, however, and shortly after midnight several violent explosions rent the city air. A mine

MILLENNIUM BRIEFS

Compensation
THE widows of the de-ferred Mayors of Limerick, Mrs. Clancy and O'Callaghan, received additional grants of £1,000 and £3,600 respectively.

High farce
A DISPUTE between Lax Weir Salmon Company and net fishermen resulted in high farce on June 19, 1925, a launch, containing bailiffs, city guards and militia patrolled the Coon area to protect the fishery, but their boat was "netted" by the fishermen and left high and dry on the mud flats while the fishermen fished happily away, at the same time deriding their persecutors. Several hours elapsed before the launch was lifted on the rise, tide by which time the fishermen had departed for their homes with hoots of derision jeering at their persecutors.

owned by Hickey's), Denis O'Donovan (grandfather of Des O'Malley T.D.) was shot down in cold blood when he refused to divulge the names of men who just before had been involved in shoot-out on the premises in which two constables died. A Surgeon Cripps, who was on a fishing holiday in Castleconnell at the time, was so horrified at Mr. O'Donovan's shooting that he wrote a strong letter to his brother Lord Parmoor, who read it out in the House of Lords. After a heated debate, he and Lord Cecil crossed the house as a protest and later William T. Cosgrave stated that it had a salutary effect on Lloyd George, who shortly afterwards initiated the Truce.

The whole country breathed a sigh of relief when the Truce was announced on 11th July, 1921. "Truce. Mr. De Valera addresses the Irish People," ran the local headlines.

On the run-up to the voting for or against the Treaty the editorial in the *Leader* urged the people to accept it, and in the same issue Dr. Fogarty, the nationalistic-minded Bishop of Killaloe, who had been targeted by the Black and Tans, saw the portents of more terrible strife in the disunity and acrimony in the debates in the Dail if it was turned down. "No man or group has the right to lead the country into a ruinous war against the considered judgement of the nation." He was referring to renewed war with the British if the Treaty was not accepted, but he and the country were not to know that, despite the acceptance of the Treaty, a bitter Civil War around lay the corner. After enduring the hardships of the War of Independence, people despaired as the country was plunged into another war which was to leave a bitter legacy for the next half century.

62 lb. salmon

A 62 lb. salmon, stated to be a record for the Upper Shannon, was landed in Corbally by the Abbey netmen in 1925. It was on view in Mrs. McInerney's fish shop in Lock Quay, was put hanging outside the front door and elicited no amount of curiosity from passers-by.

Fishing was good in Castleconnell, with the water at high level but not too high for the prospect of sport. On Newgarden, General Corry killed two salmon, 32 and 35 lb.; on Prospect, Colonel Leatham one, 20 lb.; on Doonass, Major W. Gough, six, 40, 12, 30, 14, 14, 22 lb.; on Worldsend, Colonel Roche-Kelly, one, 20 lb.

£300 house
A LOCAL builder in 1925 said that five-roomed houses could be built at cost of £300 to help relieve the overcrowding in tenements throughout the city.

Unnamed
THE Abbeyfeale cor. was in a cynical mood and wrote: the weather is still cyclonic (May 1925) an almost invariably showery. Every extra down-pour now swells the rivulet which by this time has established a statutory passage through the main street of the town. This latest tributary of the Feale unlike "Glouragh" which it joins, but outrivals in size and importance remains still unnamed. It is about time some fitting name were coined for it as it now qualifies for a place in all future maps of the country.

Game of "45"
A READER inquired if the ace of hearts was led in a game of "45", with clubs as trumps, would a player without a trump be required to put his King of Hearts on this lead. The Editor, in his reply, boxed clever, stating that some of the local "45" players of ability and experience will be able to give an authoritative answer to the query. "They are welcome to our columns for that purpose," he concluded. (1925)

Hunchback
IN 1925, patrons of the Hall, Hospital, enthusiastically viewed the picture version of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" by Victor Hugo.

Eleven killed in an IRA gun ambush outside Dromkeen

THE dawn of the 1920's saw the War of Independence being intensified, and the British Government saw fit to let loose on the land the infamous Black and Tans and Auxiliaries, the former to augment the armed police force, the latter to strengthen the regular military forces.

The *Leader* and *Chronicle* carried reports of the rebellion in every edition right up to the Truce in July, 1922. There was hardly a district in the city or a town in the county that remained untouched by the troubled years and the newspapers carried regular reports of the actions.

One of the country's biggest massacres of the Troubles, as they were to become known, took place in Dromkeen on 3rd February, 1921, when a well planned I.R.A. ambush at Dromkeen saw eleven of a British convoy (six R.I.C. men and five Black and Tans) being shot dead. At a point between Dromkeen and Pallas two lorries were ambushed and under a deadly hail of fire the occupants were shot dead. The *Leader* said there were no reports of I.R.A. casualties.

A few months later tragedy struck many families in the county when the *Leader* reported six I.R.A. men killed in an engagement with the British at Lackelly in East Limerick and three Auxiliaries were shot dead in Oola which led to the arrest of eight I.R.A. suspects.

Full coverage was given to the five-hour battle for the Newcastle West R.I.C. Barracks (site of the present AIB) which was left a smoking ruin by the I.R.A., and the reprisals that followed in which

women and children had to flee the town; the terror in the Boherbough district in Limerick when the police, in the persons of the Black and Tans, ran amok smashing in windows, doors and burning houses, and all the incidents of the war occurring in the county and city.

"Limerick Horror. Appalling Triple Tragedy. Mayor, ex-Mayor and Another Shot Dead." This was the *Leader* headlines of Monday, 7th March, 1921. This assassination got world headlines and became known as the "murder of the two mayors," when in the early hours of Sunday morning, 6th March, British Crown Forces broke into the homes of the Mayor of Limerick, Ald. George Clancy, and Cllr. Michael O'Callaghan, and with their faces blackened, shot dead both men in front of their families. The "Another" shot dead was Volunteer Joseph O'Donoghue who died in the same circumstances.

The funeral of the victims was reported in the *Leader*, (with the thick side of the column rules turned to give a melancholy look of mourning to the page), as being the biggest in the history of the city. "Never, in the history of Limerick, it is probably safe to say was a public funeral so thoroughly representative and truly expressive of profound and universal sorrow and sympathy as that which accompanied the remains of the murdered victims." Mayors from all over the country and provisional Dail representatives were all in attendance. The previous month, the Lord Mayor of Cork, Ald. McCurtain, was shot dead in similar circumstances and the Limerick City Council adjourned as a mark of respect. And almost every issue carried news of Cork's Terence McSwiney during his 73 days hunger strike and the world waited and eventually

heard of his death. No part of the city or county escaped tragedy during these years. Two young boys from Thomondgate were shot dead on February 20, 1921, in appalling circumstances in Blackwater, a few miles from the city. At the military enquiry it was alleged that the boys kept running after being ordered to stop by a military patrol but a witness said that the victims, when they were surprised by the lorry passing along the road near the river, put up their hands and notwithstanding were shot dead. The boys were Cecil (17) and Aidan (15) O'Donovan, of Thomondgate. The president of the inquiry said he was extremely sorry for the death of the boys.

The I.R.A., in their relentless pursuit of a notorious Black and Tan, District Inspector Henry Biggs, eventually cornered him at Coolboreen, 4 miles from Newport, on May 14, 1921, and shot him dead when his car was ambushed. Unfortunately, in the shoot-out, 23-year-old Winifred Barrington, the well loved and only daughter of Sir Charles Barrington of Glenstal, also died. She had been a passenger in the car. It was an event that caused great sorrow and mourning amongst the tenants at Glenstal and those of the surrounding countryside. "A story of a shocking occurrence" was the newspaper heading of the tragedy.

"Sensational Occurrence"
A shooting took place in Limerick, off Chapel Lane in William Street, on February 1st, 1920, when an R.I.C. Sergeant named Wellwood was shot and seriously wounded. These incidents were to be repeated many times during the next two years. The Bishop of Limerick, Dr. Hallinan, at the 12 noon Mass the following Sunday in St. John's Cathedral, condemned the outrage and said that

those who committed such crimes did no good to Ireland. "These outrages were quite extraneous to and were not connected with the national movement."

How wrong he proved to be was borne out by the subsequent happenings of the next two years.

A diversion during those troubled years was the happy day, when Eamon de Valera, of whom there was constant reports of his tilts with British premier Lloyd George, and Limerick woman Mrs. Clarke (nee Daly) the widow of patriot Tom Clarke, were granted the Freedom of the City. Thousands turned out to greet them and the city was en fête for the ceremony.

Another diversion took place in 1920 when sensational reports came from Templemore stating that statues and crucifixes in the home of Thomas Dwan, started to bleed. The town was in an extraordinary state of excitement with crowds and invalids coming from all over the country following the report of a miracle when a soldier who had a serious leg injury in the First World War, walked home smartly unaided after kissing a crucifix in the house.

The first execution in Limerick since the 1880s took place in the New Barracks (later Sarsfield) when Thomas Keane was executed when caught in possession of arms on June 4th, 1921. Four days later, Galbally men Patrick Maher and Ned Foley were executed in Mountjoy for their alleged part in the shooting of two R.I.C. men in the rescue of Sean Hogan at Knocklong. It was stated that Maher had nothing got to with the rescue and Foley was present but was unarmed.

A dastardly crime and one which it was said hastened the Truce, took place in Castleconnell on Sunday, April 17, 1921, when the proprietor of the Shannon Hotel (now

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