

Seagoie Parish Magazine.

FEBRUARY, 1922.



THE RAVINE AT HAMEL.

We present our readers this month with a photograph of what must be for many among us the most sacred spot in France—the Ravine at Hamel—across which our heroes of the 9th Royal Irish Fusiliers made their glorious advance on 1st July, 1916, and where so many of our loved and honoured ones sleep their last sleep, some in known and some, alas! in unknown graves. The Photograph is taken from the point where "A" Company advanced. The Crosses seen in the foreground mark the graves of many of our men, and also of many of the Royal Naval Division who fell in the fierce fighting of November, 1916 at the same spot. Major Atkinson's grave is on the extreme left of the photograph. On the extreme right can be seen a short section of the road from Albert to Beaucourt, and the railway can be distinguished just beyond the roadway and parallel to it. Further to the right, and parallel with the road and rail, but not visible in the photograph, flows the river Ancre through marshy ground. The high ground beyond the graves was the German side of the Ravine where the enemy had their trenches and dug-outs. Some of our men succeeded in reaching almost the top of the high ground on the German side, but many fell wounded or killed before they had got so far. The Germans had Machine Guns concealed near where the roadway is seen on the right, and were thus able to make a flank attack on our men as they crossed the Ravine. The distance from where the photograph is taken to the Summit of the Ravine in the background of the Picture is only a distance of about 300 yards. The fierceness of the successive battles fought here may be judged from the scarred and torn surface of the ground and from the branchless trunks of the few trees on the roadside to the right. The light colour of the ground where the graves are is due to the fine sulphur-coloured sand, which is plentiful in the district, and has been spread over the surface of the graves. The Ravine extends to the left for a considerable distance. "B" Company, under Major Atkinson, advanced over the ground seen on the left in the photograph. Lieut. Montgomery was with "A" Company, which advanced over the ground on the right. The distance across the Ravine and the formation of the ground correspond roughly with that lying between Seagoie Rectory and Seagoie Church.

The Bishop's Visit.

The Bishop arrived in Seagoe on Saturday evening, January 21st, and during his visit stayed at the Rectory, occupying the room known as the Bishop's Room or the White Room, which his predecessor, Bishop Saurin, so frequently occupied in bygone days 70 or 80 years ago when his son, Archdeacon Saurin, was Rector of Seagoe. The Bishop met the members of the Select Vestry in Seagoe School and considered with them the affairs of the Parish in general. He specially impressed on the Vestry the importance of developing the Weekly Envelope system so that the Minimum Stipend for Rector and Curate may be reached, which is now the Law of the Church for every Parish.

On Sunday morning the Bishop visited Seagoe Sunday School and spoke a few words to the Superintendent, Teachers and children, and also visited the Bible Classes taught by the Rev. H. O. Draper and Mr. S. Rennix. At Morning Prayer the Bishop preached on the text: "Behold the Lamb of God." In the course of his sermon he referred to the importance of the work in Seagoe Parish, which was one of the largest and most populous Parishes in the whole Church of Ireland. A large number of Communicants were present at Holy Communion when the Bishop celebrated. In the afternoon a visit was paid to Edenderry Sunday School, the largest in the Parish. The Bishop spoke and referred to the approaching Confirmation in June, when he hoped to administer that sacred Rite to many in the Parish. The Bishop spoke to all the Teachers and congratulated them on their good work. At Evening Prayer the Bishop preached again. His subject being "Seeking the Lost" his text was taken from the Parable of the Lost Piece of Silver. Good congregations were present at both the Services. The Offerings were on behalf of Foreign Missions. During his visit the Bishop spoke to many of the Parishioners, and showed much interest in the work of the Parish. It will be a help and stimulus to our people to have had a visit from their Bishop, and we look forward with much hope and interest to his visit for the Confirmation in June.

The Seagoe Scouts and Girl Guides with their officers provided a Guard of Honour outside the Church for the Bishop, who spoke to them, congratulating them on their fine turn-out.

Important Meeting.

A meeting of the Vestrymen and Sustentation Fund Collectors was held in Seagoe School on Thursday Evening, 12th ult., at 7.30. Tea had been kindly provided by some ladies of the Parish, and was much appreciated. The Rector presided, and after a brief speech invited Mr Green, of Edenderry, to address the meeting. In a most interesting and convincing way Mr. Green brought home to all present the importance of developing to their utmost the resources of the Parish so that the full continuity of the Church's influence should be maintained. He referred to the recent Legislation adopted by the General Synod for securing the Minimum Stipend for the Clergy. He gave several very telling illustrations of what had been done by other Parishes in his experience not so favourably situated as Seagoe, and then concluded by suggesting practical methods by which on the system of

Weekly Envelopes the requisite amount could be raised. A discussion ensued in which all present took part. Eventually a Secretary for the Sustentation Fund Scheme was appointed in the person of Mr. James Twinem, whose practical wisdom and abounding energy have so often proved of advantage to the Parish. Arrangements were also made for the Canvassing of the Parish, so that the system of Weekly Offerings might be much more widely extended. A very hearty vote of thanks was at the close of the meeting accorded to Mr. Green for his kindness in attending the meeting, and for his practical advice so generously given; also to the ladies who had so kindly and efficiently provided tea for those present. As a proof of the interest taken in the meeting we may add that it did not conclude until 11 p.m., and every one waited to the close.

ENTERPRISE.

Mr. Charles Montgomery, of High Street, recently won the Second Prize (£20) (in open Competition with the United Kingdom) offered by "Khovah" Company for Window-Dressing. Mrs. Palmer's Plum Puddings were a striking feature in the window. A Photograph of Mr. Chas. Montgomery appeared recently in the "Daily Mail." It was a snapshot taken at the Grocers' Exhibition in London by a representative of the "Daily Mail." In the photograph Mr. Montgomery is shown busily engaged in blending Teas. He did not know that he had been snapped until he saw the photo in the "Daily Mail."

Four separate advertisements of the firm of Messrs. T. J. Montgomery & Son appear in this number of SEAGOE PARISH MAGAZINE. This constitutes a record, and is a proof not only of the sagacity of the Firm in pushing their goods but also of the value of our Columns as an advertising medium.

Seagoe General Vestry.

In accordance with Statute a Meeting of Seagoe Select Vestry will be held (D.V.) on Tuesday, February 7th, in Seagoe School, at 8 o'clock, to revise the List of the Registered Vestrymen of the Parish. Those who desire to have their names Registered as Members of the General Vestry should attend.

Seagoe Select Vestry.

A Meeting of the Select Vestry was held on Tuesday, January 24th, for the purpose of electing a new Treasurer for the Parish. The vacancy has been caused by the resignation of the Treasurership by Mr. James Sands, who had held the office since the late Mr. Wolsey Atkinson resigned some two years ago. We regret very much Mr. Sands' resignation. He did good work and hard work for the Parish, and had the merit of installing the Weekly Envelope system, which we believe is destined to solve many of our financial difficulties. Owing to stress of work as Factory Manager he felt compelled to resign. The Select Vestry has unanimously appointed Mr. Hugh Stoops as Hon. Treasurer in his place, and Mr. Stoops has kindly consented to act. Mr. Stoops has spent all his life in Seagoe Parish and has often given unstintedly of his time and effort for the welfare of the Parish. We have every confidence that under Mr. Stoops' care the good work begun by Mr. Sands will be continued and developed.

The Envelope System.

The Parish has been mapped out into Districts of two or more Townlands, and a Superintendent and Collectors have been appointed for each District, who will supervise the Collection of the Weekly Envelopes from Contributors. A Social Meeting to launch the above scheme was held in Seagoe School on Thursday, February 2nd. There was a large attendance, and much interest was taken in the proceedings. Mr. James Twinem has accepted the post of Secretary to the Sustainment Fund.

Lent, 1922.

Lent begins this year on March 1st (Ash Wednesday). On that day Services will be held in the Parish Church as follows:—

11.30 a.m.—Morning Prayer, Litany and Communion Service.

8 p.m.—Evening Prayer and Sermon.

During Lent there will be Special Preachers at the Wednesday Evening Services, as under:—

March 1st—Ash Wednesday—Rev. J. W. T. Belton, M.A., Lurgan. March 8th, the Rev. C. F. H. Carroll, B.A., Waringstown; March 22nd—Rev. J. H. Mac-Cleary, M.A., Belfast. March 29th—Rev. G. C. Johnston, M.A., Lurgan. April 5th—Rev. W. R. S. Clarendon, M.A., Maralin.

Prize Distributions.

The following arrangements have been made for Sunday School Prize Distributions:

HACKNAHAY—Tuesday, February 14th, at 7.30.

SEAGOE—Thursday, February 16th, at 7.30.

DRUMGOR—Tuesday, February 21st, at 7.30.

CARNE—Thursday, February 23rd, at 7.30.

Concert.

Mr. T. H. Wilson, Organist of Seagoe, has arranged a Grand Concert to be held (D.V.) in the Town Hall, Portadown, on Tuesday, April 4th. A fine Programme will be contributed by leading Artists. Tickets are now on Sale. Secure your Tickets early as already many of the available places have been booked. The proceeds are on behalf of providing a Piano for use in the Parish.

Bible Class Social.

A Social for the Seagoe Bible Classes is being arranged for Tuesday, February 28th (Shrove Tuesday), in Seagoe School, at 7.30. The Social is for those whose names are on the Rolls of the Bible Classes.

Parish Register for Jan., 1922.

Baptisms.

The following were Baptized in Seagoe Parish Church on January 7th, 1922:—

Porter—Florence Gertrude, daughter of David and Annie Elizabeth Porter, of Lower Seagoe.

Sponsors—Edith Watson, Maria Watson.

Rainey—Samuel, son of Samuel and Elizabeth Rainey, of Edenderry.

Sponsors—Mary Elizabeth Forde, Elizabeth Rainey.

Burial.

Boyd—February 3rd, Rache: Boyd, of Edenderry, aged 68. Interred in Drumcece Churchyard

ITEMS.

Seagoe Morning Sunday School has largely increased in numbers.

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The Bible Classes conducted each Sunday Morning in Seagoe School have also increased in numbers. The Men of the Parish are invited to join the Rev. A. O. Draper's Class, and the Women and Girls will find a hearty welcome in Mr. Rennix's Class. The subject for study this year in both Classes is 'The Book of Genesis.'

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We hope in the near future to publish in the Magazine a Map of Northern France illustrating the movements of the 9th Batt. R.I.F. during the War. It will form a useful companion also to the Letters of Colonel Blacker, which appear from month to month in our columns.

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Dr. Dawson, son of the late Dean Dawson, has been appointed Chief Medical Inspector under the Ministry of Labour for Northern Ireland. He is coming to reside in Belfast. We congratulate Dr. Dawson on his appointment to this responsible post, and his many friends in Seagoe will rejoice at his return to Ulster.

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We hear that Eleven Battalions of British soldiers will be stationed in Ulster. Wherever they go they will get a hearty welcome from our people.

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The Lurgan road is in a 'pitiful' condition. It is certainly full of pits. Just where the Urban and Rural Districts meet at Seagoe turns there have been three huge holes for the past month sufficient to break the springs and axles of any car, to say nothing of the ordinary push bicycle. Who is responsible?

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The Lady Inspector of Laundry work visited Seagoe School last week and expressed herself well pleased with the progress made by the girls in this important branch of Domestic and School work.

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Seagoe School, in common with all other National Schools in Ulster, came under the control of the Northern Parliament on Wednesday, February 1st.

Old Seagoe Notes.

SEAGOE 700 YEARS AGO.—The following references to Seagoe are taken from the Calendar of the Register of Archbishop Fleming—

2 November, 1406.—Collation by the Archbishop, Guardian of the Spirituality and Spiritual Jurisdiction of the Diocese of Dromore, *Sede vacante* (during the vacancy of the See), of the Vicarage of Teachgowo [Seagoe] in that Diocese, vacant by the death of Sir Patrick O-duberayn, to John McEogayn, clerk. Dated at Atrium Dei.

2 November, 1406.—Mandate to Master Thomas Omstead, Archdeacon of Dromore, to induct the same to the Vicarage of Teachgowo [Seagoe].

WITH THE "NINTH" IN FRANCE.

By Lieut.-Col. S. W. BLACKER, D.S.O.

(Continued from January Magazine.)

Saturday, March 25th—["Hedauville"]—Snow fell up to about 5 p.m. yesterday and made trenches vile. Fine for relief, luckily. To-day fine, but very cold, and no coal so far. Leave stopped again. The French counter attacks were very costly in life. Redmond's Shamrock has never come. Nothing more about the move, but if it comes off we shan't go far.

The Gas Helmets Are Absolute Protection,

and we each have 2. Draft of 28 came from Base yesterday, making us up to 991. Many of them (21) those who had gone away sick. Some useful ones amongst them. I dine with R.A. to-night. The relief didn't begin till 7.40 p.m., and was completed at 8.45, and we got away at 9. Had some tea with Fergie and got here at 10.45. Berry, Shill, and I walked out together and rode on here. We've got the Div. cinema here to-night. I hope to see King's Review of Ulster Div. Am promoting Hughes Sergt. **Sunday, March 26th**.—A cold sleety morning has turned finer and warmer. I had a bit of a cold, so stayed in bed. It's nothing much, and I'm feeling much better. Smith came over here this a.m. We move on Tuesday. We got to M— 3 Coys and 1 Coy about a mile this side—no place for transport or stores. 2 Battalions will be in M—, which will be a fearful squash, the other Battalion being one of 109th, resting from the line. 107th goes back to P— to construct a railway. After a fortnight we all change round—we to the line, 109th back, and 107 in support. That's the present idea, but doubtless will be changed again many times. I daresay it will be all right, we always fall on our feet. Had a pleasant dinner with Gunners. We got the Div. cinema show over for the men. 2 performances 5.30 and 7.30 p.m., and again Monday. We had the King's Review. Very good! The white pony looked very well. The Battalion was in excellent line. The show lasted 1½ hours. I have a comfy bed. The sun is coming out, so I trust this is winter's last effort. This goes in R.A. bag. **Monday, March 27th**—Plans again changed for the better. 2 Coys, C. and D., stay here. 2 Coys go to M— to-morrow. Fergie's transport come here. Rain in night, drizzling snow. Thanks for parcel of gifts. You've done splendidly. Padre is sending your list and letter of thanks to each of the local newspapers, which he thinks will be appreciated, showing they have been received.

Very Peaceful Here,

haven't heard a gun since we came in. Great rest! Cinema again to-night for the men. Am trying to get men bathed. 2 Coys of the incoming Div. stay here to-night on their way into the line, but where I cannot think, as the place is packed. **Tuesday, March 28th**—'A' and 'B' Coy just gone. I sent by post to-day the roll of men, with addresses, etc. H.Q. mess will be full again cers of 11th E. Yorks and 2 Coys here last night. All sorts of rumours about of contemplated moves and pushes, to-day for the first time for many weeks. We had 8 Off-nones of which I pay much heed to, but a big forward movement is meant, I believe. Big business moving Fergie's stores, he leaves nothing behind; even the bricks

for the fireplace to heat the water for the baths he has brought. As I have often said, it's very tickling to one's vanity to hear the nice things that are said of one, but I realise more and more how much I have left undone, and how much I ought to do; it is so imperative to be always up and doing. **Wednesday, March 29th**—Had a Battalion Parade, Band, etc., and march past in a.m., and am going to M— now to see A. and B. Very cold wind to-day and threatening snow. Have been inspecting the town, or village, to-day with a large suite, consisting of Pratt, Cather, Fergie, Berry and C—, who is Town Commandant. Owing to many troops just staying the night and passing on, many of the billets are filthy, and much cleaning up has to be done outside our own area; roads cleaned up and repaired, etc. We are 8 in H.Q. mess now, quite a cheery party. Went over to see A. and B. to-day at M—. They're fairly comfortably fixed up in cellars and are on working parties every night. Saw Gen. about leave. He was in favour of my going at once. Got caught in a bad snow storm on our way back, and the ground is again covered with snow; very disappointing. A letter from Queen Alexandra's Sec'y., Streatfield, saying the

Queen Was Sending Some Comforts

to the Battalion, and she wished the acknowledgment of them sent direct to her. **Thursday, March 30th**—Such a snow storm yesterday, and hard frost to follow, but lovely sunny warm day to-day; snow gone. Bosche's plane came over this morning about 9 a.m. Left us alone, but dropped bombs on 3 villages near. **Friday, March 31st**—Have fixed up leave all right, and leave here mid-day Sunday, with Smith and Griffith. Might catch Irish mail Sunday. Must leave London Wednesday, April 12. Leave begins April 3, Monday. Hope to pick up Bill. **Wednesday, April 12th**—Longish crossing, but got to Boulogne in good time—7.40. Shall catch train to A— about midnight, and dine at small restaurant. **Thursday, April 13th**—Here we are in the same place as I left them. We reached A— about 5.45 a.m., and found a car waiting us, so after coffee and rolls came on here, arriving about 7.30 a.m. All flourishing here. 1 shell did all the damage, killed 1 man and wounded 10, of whom 2 have since died, and 1 is not expected to live. It was the 29th in the line. Some of them going on leave this a.m., were turned back at the rail head at 5 a.m. with news that Havre boats were off, owing, I think, to submarines. Wretched luck. Showers this morning, turned into blustery but showery p.m. Cold wind, very like last few days at C. B.

Queen Alexandra's Comforts Have Come.

—about 10 things for each Coy., and about 5 articles for each Coy Officer—cigarettes in box, with picture of H.M., muffler, cigar lighter, spoon, knife and fork, games, etc.—all useful things. There was not a bed to be had in B— last night. Fancy, the people who went by the 7 a.m. train found no boat running and had to put in the day at Folkestone and come over by our boat. Russell been made G.S.O. for London District.

(To be continued.)