

# FEBRUARY



FATHER PHELIM

Went to Africa 1931  
Year.

Stationed

1931-1932 (6 months)

Athlone

1932-1933

Loanfa

May till July 1933

Supplies at Matroasfontein

1933 - 1935

Livingstone

1935 -

Sainte Maria

11 Tuesday

12 Wednesday



# BAROTSELAND

## The Country.

Notwithstanding the great progress in travel and transportation that the world has witnessed in the past twenty-five years, Africa is still an unknown continent and a land of mystery. Notwithstanding the fact that dozens of first class liners connect Europe with her most far-flung ports, that one can get from London to Capetown in ten days by air, that a perfectly good railway covers most of the distance from Cape to Cairo, the "dark Continent" is still a continent of unknown lands. How many people in Ireland, I wonder, could tell me where Zululand is, Basutoland, Bechuanaland, Somaliland, Ngamiland, Jubaland or Barotse-land? I for one never heard of the latter until the Irish Capuchins took it over as a mission field, and even then, it took me weeks to locate it in the map. But it is there all right, as I have since discovered; it is a pretty good sized country, too, and the people who live there are firmly convinced that it is the finest country on earth. Barotse-land is situated in North Western Rhodesia. To be exact, it lies between 12 and 18 degrees longitude and 22 and 26 degrees latitude. I have walked it and I know that, though as the crow flies it is about three hundred miles long by two hundred miles wide, still to me it seemed ever so much longer and wider. According to the Geography, its area is over 60,000 square miles. Like most African countries, it is anything but beautiful at first sight, being covered with dense bush from beginning to end—with the exception of the Barotse Plain, which extends along the banks of the Zambesi River for about a hundred miles, and is about thirty-five miles at its greatest width. In the rainy season this Plain is converted into an immense lake, as the Zambesi floods its banks. The natives then move into the hills and bush, taking with them their cattle and belongings. The inundated plain then becomes the hunting ground of the hippos and crocodiles who infest the river, and the hundred and one different species of birds who live along its banks. The bush is a paradise for big game hunters, containing wild animals of all descriptions, including lions, elephants, giraffe, buffalo and bucks of every description. The climate of course is tropical, and though not so unhealthy as so many parts of Africa, is prolific in the usual tropical diseases, such as malaria, typhoid and black-water. That great stretch of country contains less than one hundred and fifty white people—Government officials, mission

aries and traders. Since it is a native reserve, Europeans cannot purchase any land within the territory. The country is ruled by native chiefs, who are subject to the King, Yeta III and his Kota or parliament. Being a British protectorate, the British Government is represented by a Principal Commissioner and many other subordinate officials who try criminal cases and collect taxes from the natives.

## The People.

The native population, numbering over 350,000, contains 23 different tribes—all, alas! speaking different languages. Taking them as a whole, they are a fine type as the natives go, well built and intelligent. They are admittedly superior to most of the natives in Northern Rhodesia. By nature they are expert herdsmen and boatmen, excellent workers in skins, ivory, pottery and basket making, and under white tuition and supervision they make very good carpenters and house builders. From an intellectual standpoint they are not backward either, and with the proper training they become excellent teachers and Government clerks.

## Missionary Situation.

Although we are the first Catholic priests to undertake missionary work in this vast field, we are not by any means, unfortunately, the first missionaries on the scene. The Protestants have been in Barotse-land for the past fifty years. There are to-day at least twelve Protestant missions built at all the most strategic points in the land, each station being a nucleus for several village schools. Those first on the field were the Paris missionaries, mostly a Swiss Calvinist body, with a French name. To-day, with their six mission stations and close on a hundred village schools, they can only lay claim to three hundred native Protestants. Nevertheless they are using their influence to the utmost to prevent our expansion. It is owing to this fact that, though we have three missions in Capetown and one in Livingstone, after three years we have only one Mission in Barotse-land itself. Six months ago we made application to the King for two other missions, but owing to this Protestant influence our applications were refused. Those three years, however, have not been wasted. Our Fathers have spent them in studying the language and the natives, and in training catechists and teachers to help them to carry on the good work. We have now several village schools in the course of erection, and the number of our catechumens is increasing rapidly, thank God.



FATHER FINTAN, O.M.C.A.P.



	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934
Fr. <u>Casimir</u> 18 Monday *	Cape town	Cape town	Livingstone	Livingstone	Livingstone	Livingstone
- <u>Declan</u>	* Livingstone	Livingstone	Livingstone	RETURNED HOME		
- <u>Alban</u>	Athlone	Athlone	Athlone	Athlone	Athlone	Athlone
- <u>Oleiver</u>	paraw	* paraw	paraw	paraw	paraw	paraw
- <u>Killian</u>	-	.	* Livingstone	Livingstone	Loanja	Loanja
- <u>Phelim</u>	-	.	* Athlone	Loanja	Livingstone	Livingstone
- <u>Seophia</u>	-	.	* paraw	Loanja	Loanja	Loanja
- <u>Prose</u>	-	.	.	.	* paraw	paraw
- <u>Fintan</u>	-	.	.	.	* Livingstone	Trek to Mongu
- <u>Levinus</u>	-	.	.	.	.	* Athlone
- <u>Christopher</u>	-	.	.	.	.	* Livingstone
- <u>Marcellus</u>	.	.	.	.	.	.
- <u>Timothy</u>	.	.	.	.	.	.
- <u>Garath</u>	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bro. <u>Alexius</u>	.	.	.	.	.	.

	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934
Fr. <u>Agathaughlin</u> 19 Tuesday	.	.	.	.	.	.
- <u>Gerard</u>	.	.	.	.	.	.
- <u>Lithbert</u>	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bro. <u>Domnick</u>	.	.	.	.	.	.
Fr. <u>Damasene</u>	.	.	.	.	.	.
- <u>Aquinas</u>	.	.	.	.	.	.

20 Wednesday



Livingstone	21 Thursday parow	<u>Returned Home</u>	Cape	Cape		1
athlone	athlone		□			2
parow	parow	parow	parow			3
Leanja	Livingstone		Livingstone	Livingstone		4
Sainte Maria						5
Leanja						6
athlone	athlone	athlone	athlone	athlone		7
Livingstone	Livingstone	Livingstone	Mankoya			8
Leanja	Sainte Maria	Sainte Maria	Sainte Maria	Sainte Maria		9
Livingstone	Livingstone					10
* parow	parow	parow	parow	Livingstone		11
* Leanja	Leanja		□			12
	* Livingstone	Livingstone	Mankoya	Mankoya		13
	* Livingstone	Livingstone	Livingstone	Livingstone		14
22 Friday	* Leanja	SIKOLE	SIKOLE	SIKOLE		15
		Sainte MARIA *	Sainte MARIA	Sainte Maria		16
		?	SIKOLE	SIKOLE		17
		SIKOLE	MANKOYA	MANKOYA		18
				PAROW		19
				SIKOLE		20
						21
23 Saturday						
24 Sunday						