



Main Street Lismore in the late Forties or early Fifties. Photo taken from West Street. Devonshire Arms Hotel on the left behind the Monument, the Red House pub on the right. The railings of the Courthouse in the right foreground. Note scars on road, from laying new pipes for the town's water supply, most likely. More cars than usual in the street. Couple taking no chances crossing at the junction.

All roads led to and from the Monument, whether they were main thoroughfares or byroads filtering in through the southern and western approaches of the town, somewhere along which was sure to be situated a 'big house' or two. Lismore straddled one main road, the trunk route from Waterford City to Cork City. Five miles to the south-west lay Tallow with its glorious Sweep that offered the thrill of a long freewheel down on your bicycle – as long as your brakes held together for the hairpin bend halfway. Past the Sweep, it was a straight run across the bridge over the river Bride into the town itself. A couple of miles out from Lismore on this road on the left-hand side lay Toortane House.

To the east on the trunk route was the small town of Cappoquin. A more or less flat, winding four-mile stretch, bordered by woods on your left and the northern meadows of the Blackwater on your right, took you into it. You skirted the water's edge at the Kitchen Hole, reputedly the deepest spot on the river and part of the Bishop's Fishery, where the fishermen of the Lismore Estates Company fished for salmon with nets. Halfway along this road on the northern side lay Salterbridge House.

On your way out of town across Lismore Bridge a sharp left turn took you west along a shady road to Ballyduff, the fourth small town, including