

Benmore, Ballyduff,

CO. KERRY.

16 - 1 - '22.

C. J. France Esq.,
DUBLIN.

Dear Sir:-

Necessity compels me to write to you in such times as these. I will start and relate my long sufferings.

In 1918, my son William was arrested for drilling, and sentenced to 6 months imprisonment. During that time he went through two hunger strikes, - one in Cork, and the other in Mountjoy Jails.

On November 1st, 1920, following the shooting of policemen in Ballyduff, Crown Forces called at my house, and asked for my sons, William & James. They were not there, and that was all the luck they had. My son, John was in bed. He, being the eldest of the three, they took him out and battered him with butt-ends of rifles. They next placed him against the ditch in front of the door, and out a bayonet through him three times. They next put five bullets through his body, and he died in a few minutes. My wife and myself were looking on at the time. While some of them were doing that, the others set fire to my shed and hay, and in the morning it was burned to the ground. They also broke every window in the house, and a lot of furniture. I applied for Compensation at the Listowel Quarter Sessions which were held in Tralee. I was granted some for my shed and hay. For my son's death it was put back for the County Court Judge, Tralee, and tried there again and dismissed. I appealed and it was tried in Dublin, and I was put out without any money.

What a lot of money I lost to carry out the ruse three times, and a lot to funeral expenses. My two sons were nine months "on the run", and my land left without anyone to work it. I could'nt get a man to stand in my garden, as it was too near the Police Barracks, where there were 20 Black & Tans. I had no crops, therefore, I am in a very bad position to-day. While my sons were "on the run" I was 2 months sick in my bed, and nobody to come and help me. I also had to buy a lot of hay that Winter, and it was very dear and scarce.

I must now finish. Hoping to receive some money in the near future.

Yours truly,

(Sd). James Houlihan.