

COPY.

Tarmon,

Castlereagh.

16 - 1 - '22.

C. J. France Esq.,
Standard Hotel,
DUBLIN.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your letter of Jan'y 6th, duly received, in which you state you require the details for publication as to how my home was destroyed, together with the effect of same on myself and my family, financial and otherwise, as also the great relief afforded me by the White Cross in the form of monetary assistance. I now have the greatest pleasure in herewith submitting my case to you, who as Secretary of "The American Committee for Relief in Ireland", has proved yourself such a true and sincere friend of mine. It is as follows:-

On the night of the 2nd October, 1920, I heard what had become very common in our midst, namely, the noise of one of those powerful Crossley Cars, as it came slowly down the narrow road, before reaching a gate which opens on to an avenue leading to my house. Into this avenue the car was turned, and then towards my house came those plunderers and murderers, fully armed, and each one carrying two petrol tins, well known by now, the world over, as the Black and Tans. They immediately proceeded to break in my front door, and called for my son, Peadar, whom they took with them, and having beaten him they fired at him, but thank God, for that time at least, he was saved, being left badly wounded and beaten. They next searched the house, and took with them anything which they considered valuable enough to be worth removing. Their next step was to gather all the furniture in the house into the kitchen, and having poured plenty of petrol all over proceeded to set it on flames. The coat of thatch on the house now drew their attention, and this they quickly had in flames. They then proceeded to burn all my crops which were saved and gathered together in the garden:- some three large stacks of Cuts and a large rick of ~~hay~~ turf. I had at this time two sons alive, one was sleeping away from me, and the other boy wounded, as stated above, was taking himself as best he could to where he would be treated properly. My wife had fled to a neighbour's house in her night attire and as I watched the flames demolish my only shelter in this world, although very deaf and badly suited for trouble of this kind, I decided to return and see if I could not at least save a portion of my house. But do you imagine for a moment that such fiends as these would be prevented from completing their wicked work by the exertions of one old man? No such thing; - they quickly caught me by the arms, and twisting them behind my back dragged me some distance from the house, and as they fired shots into and around the burning building, they at the same time told me if I did not lie there quietly they would soon settle me. So I had perforce to look on at all I had in the world being destroyed by fire, except some little stock and a horse.

As a result of above I was left dependant on a friend for housing accomodation. I had absolutely nothing either in the way of money or clothes, except as I received from friends and benefactors. Thus you see I was left homeless, with one son Peadar, shot dead on the 23rd November, by the same Black and Tans, with the other boy's and my wife's health weakened from excitement and hard times, to a very low degree, and as I have become very deaf and stupid it will be seen that my family and myself have suffered, perhaps to as great an extent as anyone could imagine, but thank God it was not in vain we suffered, and we would if possible, go through as much more before we would yield to be ruled without our common sanction.

(OVER)

The White Cross, however, has come to my aid, and I received during my trouble a sum of about £60. 0. 0. in eight weeks. From them I again received a loan of £300.0.0. to help in rebuilding my home, and to buy, as far as it could, what necessaries were required, both to furnish and provide, as also re-stock the inside of my house. I am now in a position to carry on my agricultural pursuit as a farmer as a result of this great monetary assistance given me.

In conclusion I regret to say I have no photo of my house when it was burned, and will be only too pleased provided you are agreeable, to have my name signed to the above.

Again thanking both you and your Committee for your great kindness to me through such hard times.

I remain, dear Sir,

Faithfully yours,

(Sd). Frank Flynn.