

Miltown Malbay,  
CO. Clare.  
Jany 21st, '22.

In the following story an "official reprisal" is described. When "unofficial reprisals" were carried out by R.I.C. Black & Tans, and Military, they often disguised themselves, carried out the work at night, and next day calmly went round to investigate the damage. A few days after one would read a statement made by Greenwood in the House of Commons, that the burnings were done by Sinn Feiners. Towards the end of the war, "official reprisals" were carried out openly, being duly authorised.

On the 1st April, Crown Forces entered my house at 6 a.m. and questioned me as to my movements on the previous night, when a Black & Tan had been shot dead in the street. I was ordered to leave the town, and threatened to be shot. Later I was visited by the Inspector of the R.I.C. who gave me two hours notice to go. Almost everybody in the town now cleared out to the country for the night.

Four days later, about 9 a.m. British soldiers broke into our house. Mrs. O'Sullivan secured the assistance of some girls, -(all men were rounded up to witness the reprisals) - to remove the most valuable Goods, etc, as she was informed by the Officer in charge that the house would "go West", but that anything removed would be safe. The house was then destroyed with explosives after the soldiers had thrown heaps of loot in the lorries, and the piles of "saved" goods set on fire by the Officer, who laughed at the girls for their pains. The soldiers threatened to shoot if anything was removed from the fires.

(b). The destruction of house, furniture, and large and valuable stock left us homeless, (until a house was kindly lent by a neighbour), and deprived us of practically all our means. I was "on the run" until the truce.

(c). Before the loan, Mrs. O'Sullivan received Grants amounting to £75. O. C. from the White Cross.

(d). £200. O. C. has been lent by the White Cross for the purpose of stocking to a small extent the premises which we occupy at present, and for buying household necessaries, such as bedding, etc.

(3d). John O'Sullivan.

(Son of Mrs. O'Sullivan, owner of house).