

COPY/

Edenveva.

January 25th 1922.

Dear Sir,

As one of those who have suffered from the reprisals in Ireland during the progress of the recent War, I feel glad to appreciate my compliance with your request by giving the following details.

On the 28th October there were three houses burned in Cliffoney district. At about 2.30 a.m. on that date we were awakened by noise of rifle fire and shortly afterwards a rough knock was heard at the door. I rushed to the door and opened it not taking any time to dress, and a number of policemen rushed in and filled up the kitchen which was small. Most of them wore masks or had blackened faces - they immediately shouted "where is your son the murderer" I answered them saying I did not know and the angry voices retorted you do know. On refusing to answer as they wanted they used all kinds of threats presenting the rifles at my face and shouting "tell us quickly where he is". At this moment another policeman rushed into the house shouting "get out the house is burning". This man used all kinds of threats to my daughter presenting a rifle and bayonet at her face in the hopes that she might tell him where her brother was hiding. She managed to dress herself under great difficulties and get outside before the roof would fall in. We had no alternative but snap whatever bit of clothing we could and run out then crawling on our hands and feet as they discharged shots over our heads for half an hour. They went into the lorries and drove away firing shots in the air as they departed. We stood on the road only to watch the house, hay, turf, and every ounce of our property dwindle into ashes. We then went to the back of the house to see if the cows, donkey, and fowl were burned, but we found that by miracle they had escaped.

There was no vacant house in the neighbourhood and we had to take shelter in a neighbour's house. In a few weeks we procured a room from a lonely man who had two rooms and a kitchen in his house where we have lived until now. The hardest of all was to provide fodder for the cows and other stock for six months as we had to depend entirely on a few kind-hearted people who did not fear the reign of terror which was carried out by the Crown Forces. My daughter took refuge with a friend who lived four miles away, and my son who was on the run until the Truce was called came on a few visits ~~xxxxxxx~~ in that space of time as he had no money to buy clothes and received no help from any other source. Since the Truce he has been in lodgings and received no help except what I was able to give him. He says it would take £40 to pay his debts. We have only four acres of bad land and the fruits of our labours for ten years are gone in the late struggle for freedom, but I am sorry we had not more to sacrifice.

Prior to the Truce the loan was granted to me I received £39 from the American Committee for Relief in Ireland and £10 from the Parish Priest. I have been granted £300 of a loan and I have received a cheque for half of that amount. I have not made any effort to reconstruct the house but I am now about to build a temporary residence of wood where we might live until such time as we would build the house by the help of the compensation claim. I

I do not desire my name to be used but I am giving

the deepest satisfaction to those in America who have so generously subscribed. I feel happy in extending to them my greatest thanks and I earnestly hope your efforts will bring about a generous and sympathetic feeling towards Ireland.

Do Buan Chera,

(Signed) Michael Harkin.