

Copy/

Ballymurphy,  
January 11th, 1922.

On the 19th. March 1922, my house and premises were surrounded by hundreds of British Military, who found an officer of the I. R. A. in my house who was recovering from wounds previously inflicted. We tried our best to make good his escape, but there was no chance as the house was too well surrounded, though he fought hard and shot two of them, and was shot dead himself. They put me and my son against the wall to be shot, but thank God we escaped along with my two daughters who were in the midst of the shooting. They took the I. R. A. officer and put him on our car and made us draw him for a distance of three miles to Crossbarry, where there was a big battle fought on the same morning. We had terrible experiences there. They let me back in the evening and took my son a prisoner with them to Bandon Barracks, where they beat and kicked him and gave him six months hard labour in Cork Jail, from the effects of which he is not too well yet.

Before they ( the Military) left they set fire to and burned about 7 tons of first crop hay and 2 tons of straw, and 1 ton of imported seed oats, together with a valuable car, house and farming implements, which made it very hard for me to carry on any business. I had to hire a man to do work in place of my son, and have him yet. I am a man of 79 years of age, and am not too well yet after the fright. I got from them, - searching my place, for, it being headquarters of the West Cork Brigade.

I received a Loan of £150 from the White Cross, and prior to that £2, which, of course, I utilized as best I could to hold on my business.

Gentlemen of the White Cross I beg to convey to you my sincere gratitude for your kindness to me, and remain,

Sincerely Yours,

Denis Forde,

Ballymurphy, Upton,

Co. Cork, Ireland.

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