

Sixmilebridge,

CO. CLARE.

Feb. 2nd 1922.

Sir,

My House and premises were attacked by a party (numbering about 30) of Crown Forces composed of Military and Royal Irish Constabulary at 2.30 a.m. January 21st, 1921, following an ambush at Glenwood, Sixmilebridge on the previous day in which several police were killed and wounded.

The only occupant of the house on the night of the attack were my wife, two youngest daughters and myself. The forces arrived in lorries, armed with rifles, machine guns, bombs, petrol and electric flash lamps. Having broken to matchwood the entrance gate, they entered the stockyard, threw petrol on the stacks of hay, and straw, mangolds and turnips and reduced them to ashes. They also destroyed the farm implements. They then broke the glass, sash work, shutters and fittings of all the windows in the dwelling house, shop and dairy. During this destruction several shots were fired and bombs exploded and terrifying yells and shouts were heard by my family. The occupants of the house who were in bed heard a loud knocking and banging on the hall door and a voice demanding entrance in an imperious manner. My wife rushed downstairs, scantily dressed, to open the door, the glass fittings and panels of which were broken through before she got time to unlock it. Several uniformed men rushed into the kitchen. One of them asked my wife where were my men. She told him her husband was in bed in the room she pointed out and that her two sons had not yet returned from the fair in a neighbouring village. They gave her five minutes to clear out. Several men came into my room and threatened to burn the bed under me if I did not rise at once. Being 84 years of age and unable to walk without crutches they took me out and put me down beside a wall where I had to remain for hours without any protection from the cold, as they did not allow me to take even my ordinary clothes. Others rushed up to my daughters' bedroom, enquired for the murderers (my sons) made use of insulting remarks, compelled them to dress in their presence and told them to clear out at once that they were going to burn the house.

Others using their rifles, broke all the ware in the kitchen, bedrooms and parlour and destroyed all the cooking utensils. They piled the furniture in the centre of each room and used petrol and bombs to destroy it. They threw petrol on the roof, inside and outside, and on all parts of the building using bombs to light the petrol, the whole house was enveloped in flames. Some entered the dairy, destroyed the dairy utensils, spilled the milk and cream and set the place ablaze. They then entered the shop, placed in their lorries all the groceries, hardware and foodstuffs, destroyed the shop fittings and set the place on fire. When the whole premises were well ablaze and just before they left, several of them came to me and tauntingly remarked "Have you enough of De Valera now?" "Have you enough of Sinn Fein now?" The neighbours came the following day and patched up the roof so as to make a portion of the house habitable. In this the whole family had to live since with the scantiest furniture

and under the most uncomfortable conditions. We lost our trade in the shop, the greater portion of which we have not yet recovered.

I had to sell off my farm stock as I could not get hay and roots to feed them till they were fit for sale. I did not receive any ~~assistance~~ assistance from the White Cross nor from any other source whatever.

I received £150, portion of a Loan of £300 made to me by the White Cross in October 1921. This amount has been expended on building materials. There has been no picture or photograph taken of my premises since they were destroyed.

I wish to thank the members of the White Cross most sincerely and through them the American People for their sympathy and generosity to Ireland in the hour of greatest need.

Yours truly,

John Gilligan.

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