

LYMNAUGH, HEADFORD,

CO. GALWAY.

14 - 1 - '22.

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

Dear Sir:-

On the night of the 20th January, 1921, at about 12 o'clock (midnight), a party of Crown Forces, armed with rifles and revolvers, knocked at the door of my dwelling house, and asked to be admitted immediately. My son, Martin, opened the door, and was told by the head Officer to tell all the people in the house to clear out, which included myself, the above-mentioned son, and two daughters, my other two sons being "on the run". I was taken with my two daughters to a neighbour's house, 100 yards distant, and told to stop there. My son was pitched into an adjoining field, and badly beaten by two of the Crown Forces with an iron bar, and the butt-ends of revolvers, until he was left for dead in the field. His legs and body were black and badly bruised. He did not recover from his injuries for six months after. They then searched the house and took away everything they could get which was of any value to them. Afterwards they sprinkled petrol all over the house and set it on fire, and would not allow myself, or my two daughters leave the neighbour's house until it was partly demolished. They also set fire on the same occasion to my Corn and Hay.

I told the Crown Forces when leaving my dwellinghouse, that one of my daughters, (Mollie) was unwell, and unable to get out of bed. They told me to "clear her out to hell". This girl has died since, and I firmly believe that night shortened her days on this earth. They also turned a cow loose on the same night, and she also died from exposure. They did their utmost to burn the barn also, but when the Crown Forces left, a few of the neighbours and myself put out the flames. I fixed up the barn afterwards and turned it into a dwelling-house, until I build a new dwelling this Summer.

As regards my farming operations, I was badly hampered owing to my horses' harness being burned, also my plough and harrow damaged, as they were in the haggard beside the Corn Stands. I also had to buy hay and seeds in the Spring for sowing the corn crops, and only for the aid rendered me by the White Cross, for which I feel grateful, it would be very troublesome to me financially.

Prior to receiving the last loan, I received the sums of £30 & £20, (£50) from the White Cross. As regards the loan, I was granted £200, but up to the present I have only received £100, with which I am building out-offices, but when the weather permits I intend to build the dwelling-house.

Sincerely yours,

(Sd). James Hynes.