

COPY/

Main Street,
Miltown-Malbay,
Co. Clare.

9. 2. '22.

A Chara,

Enclosed you will find particulars concerning destruction of my house by Crown Forces on the 22nd Sept. 1920. A photo of the burned premises will be sent you in a few days.

Kindly accept and convey to the American people my most grateful thanks for their most generous action in coming to the aid of the Irish people in the hour of need.

I have received a cheque for £175. towards construction of a shelter and £78 in the way of immediate relief.

Is Mise,

(sd) Mary Anne Roche.

Mr. C. J. France,
Irish White Cross
Standard Hotel, Dublin.

COPY/

HOUSE OF MARY ANNE ROCHE, MAIN STREET,
MILTOWN-MALBAY.

My house was burned in Main Street, Miltown-Malbay on the night of the 22nd September, 1920, at 25 minutes to 11 o'clock (new time). I was sitting in my kitchen at 10 o'clock. Miss Anne Hogan was with me. We were only in the kitchen about ten minutes when we heard a light step pass the window three or four times. We were surprised as the town seemed to be so peaceable and quiet. Anne Hogan went from the kitchen out to the shop door and looked out through the letter-box, ran into the kitchen very much frightened and said there are soldiers walking closely up to the door. I looked out the kitchen window and saw three soldiers standing in the middle of the street facing my house, two of them had guns and one had a can in his hand. We both got excited and ran upstairs, but were hardly at the top of the stairs when we heard the shots firing into the shop and immediately all the shop door windows were ~~shattered~~ shattered to pieces all made noise like thunder. We hurried down stairs there was volumes of smoke coming before us, the soldiers firing all the time and howling like mad wolves. We made our way to the back door, down the yard the soldiers firing after us. We had to climb a high gate to get out to the new road, we were only a few yards past the gate when shots went off behind us. We hurried as fast as we could a little further through walls, wire fences and trenches finally we got into the centre of the land away from the public road. We knocked at a farmer's house, were let in and remained there until half past seven next morning. The owner of the house had a view of the town during the night and believed all the town was on fire. We left the farmer's house at 8 o'clock, came into the town, and found my home and all it contained burned to the ground. My son and daughter lived with me in comfort. My daughter was gone to see an Aunt of hers, who was dying a week before the occurrence and my son was gone out after securing his place and licensed premises at 10 o'clock (new time).

The cruel tyrannical hirelings of the British Crown were not satisfied with leaving myself, son, and daughter homeless, scattered and thrown on the world. Some weeks after the burning of my house, - on the night of the Armistice, they took the roof, rafters, all the timber which was in an out-house of mine, and which the burning did not reach. They also took 21 cases, 5 Empty Casks, a large crate, a big table for bottling stout, and several other items, - brought them down to the square and burned them there opposite every one in Miltown. These hirelings celebrated the Armistice at my expense.

(Sd). Mary Anne Roche.