

Copy/

Ballukilelin, Rooskey,  
Dromod, Co. Roscommon

January 13th, 1922.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your letter of the 6th. instant. On the night of the 26th. November 1920, the Crown Force was out for destruction.

When we heard the lorries coming, the firing of shots and roaring like wild beasts, we had to run for our life through hedges and ditches, having to drag my long weak family with me. We were out all night in the wet and cold half clad. The Crown Forces came to my house, set it on fire, burned part of it down, beds and bedding, all the clothes belonging to myself and my family; burned and broke all my furniture; took out of bag of ~~hay~~ flour and scattered it on the street. When we came back in the morning we had nothing for our breakfast only what bread our neighbours brought to us. For three weeks we could not live in the house, - myself and my long famoly scattered here and there in neighbour's houses. Myself and my wife and ten children were too much to go to one house. At the end of three weeks myself and my wife and two small children came back and made our bed on the ground. Ever since the rest of my family is depending on their neighbours for shelter.

Myself and my wife have lost our health. My wife has a cold and is deaf from all the wet, cold and hardship she got. I have got a cold myself, which I think I will never get better of.

The Crown Forces on the same night burned 20 tons of hay on me; they shot two pigs and killed all my fowl and brought them away. I was not able to replace them since; so it was a terrible loss to me. In fact I was left destitute. My cattle were starved during the winter, as I had not enought money to buy enough hay for them. I am robbed for life.

In October, 1921, Miss Hobson of the White Cross came to my place, and she can tell you the bad state I was in. She got a Loan of £150 for me to repair and roof my house for to shelter my family, - May God spare the health, as I was not able myself.

You can use this letter and myname if you wish.

Yours truly,  
Peter Reynolds.

J.J. Pearce,