

Derry Castle,

Killaloe, Co. Clare.

Feby 25th, 1922.

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

Dear Sir:-

Referring to your letter received some time ago, I regret not having replied to same before this time, and hope I am not too late. I would have answered it sooner, but I was waiting to see if I could procure a picture of the premises, but as there are no photographers around this locality I could not get same, but I may be able to have one taken later, as the ruins are there still, just as after being burned. I did not repair them. It was another house next door.

As regards the nature of your letter, the following statement I will give to the best of my ability:-

On the 19th January, 1921, Crown Forces entered my house at midnight, saying there were trees felled some distance from my house, of which I was perfectly unaware. They ordered my two sons out of bed, and questioned them regarding the trees. They then told the eldest boy to dress and go with them, saying they would not keep him long, but they did not let him return until morning, during which time we heard shots, and thought they had been shot him. They visited us the next day and again took my son, keeping him all day in a lorry, whilst others of them were searching the neighbourhood. On returning they took him in over a wall and beat him. This same night, - January 20th, 1921, they came armed and masked at midnight, and burned my house and all my belongings. At this time I was invalided myself - suffering with my eyes, as the result of an accidental stroke which I received at my work couple months previous. I was under the care of a doctor and had not been out of doors for two months. When I tried to explain to them they dragged me out and fired shots at my ear, saying they would blow my brains out. I was improving splendidly up to this time, and the doctor said I would get quite alright again by keeping quiet. All this trouble and shock caused me by Crown Forces affected my nerves again and I got worse than ever. I went to Cork Hospital under the care of an Eye Specialist, who told me my nerves were affected terribly, and he was afraid nothing could be done for my sight. He treated me with medicine and drops for my eyes, but they have done me no good, therefore I am invalided since. My family and myself were then rendered homeless. My sons could not do any work on the farm as it was not safe for them through danger of being shot by Crown Forces. Therefore, we sustained great loss - being unable to sow our crops, or look to our business.

I received £25. 0. 0. from the Bishop of Cashel, prior to the time the loan was made me. Some time after this I received a loan from the White Cross, consisting of £150.0.0. which enabled me to repair the house I am living in at present, and provided me with necessary furniture & clothing, also assisted me to carry on my agricultural business.

For the Loan and Relief I have received I wish to express my sincere thanks to the White Cross, and to those who contributed the money..

With kindest regards to you.

P.S.

When I procure picture I will send it to you if it is not too late.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

(SD). WILLIAM MAHER.