

The transcripts of the letters and statements were provided by the late Edward Law.

[No. 1]

COPY

Rathmore,
CO. KERRY.
Jany 16th, 1922

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

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your communication dated 6th inst, and in compliance with the request contained in same to attach the following particulars:-

My farm house was destroyed by Crown Forces (Military and Police), on 5th May, 1921. Practically everything it contained, including all household furniture, bedding, personal property, dairy utensils, and farm implements, were destroyed in the fire which left only the walls standing - and those very much damaged. My house was burned as an official reprisal by the English forces, for an ambush which had taken place in the neighbourhood a few days previously, and in which eight policemen were killed.

Naturally the effects of such a calamity were many and varied. The total financial loss can scarcely be estimated, the house and contents involved a direct loss of over £800, and there were also many serious indirect losses, consequent on the total disorganization of home life and farm work. Of the actual sufferings indured [sic] this is not the place to speak.

In June, 1921, the Irish White Cross gave me a loan of £60.0.0. for the purpose of doing such necessary temporary repairs to the dwelling house as would make it habitable. This is the only assistance given to me by the Irish White Cross. It has enabled me to put up a temporary roof for the winter for my family. In addition this sum has been most helpful in defraying some of the expenses arising from the burning, and in replacing some of the most necessary articles.

I regret that I have not a photograph of my house after its destruction. I would be glad to let you have it.

I am sending you this. I wish to record my thanks to you and your fellow workers in the White Cross, and through you to all those in America, who have so nobly come to the assistance of those who have suffered in the War for Independence in Ireland. In this Christian work they have done incalculable good to the people of Ireland in their hour of need, and for this service the Irish people are deeply grateful.

Yours very sincerely,
(Sd). Patrick O'Donoghue.

[No. 2]

Copy/

Drimoleague,
County Cork.
January 5th, 1922.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter to hand, asking for statement of the circumstances under which our house was burned, and of the relief afforded us by the White Cross.

On the 28th September, 1920, Sergt. O'Dea, R.I.C. was shot in Drimoleague at the other end of the village. This occurred at about 9-30 p.m. At 11-15 p.m. some police ran amock (sic) and starting from the barracks, fired off volley after volley along the street till they came to our house. Our house adjoined that of my uncle, and both of them formed an isolated block. When the police came opposite our house they fired some 50 rounds into both houses. My Mother and seven children were in our house at the time, and my uncle and his daughter were next door. All had almost miraculous escapes. After about half an hour the firing ceased and the police withdrew, leaving my uncle's house in a shattered condition.

Next night, about 12 o'clock four police came along the street with rifles and petrol. They broke the door of my uncle's house first, then went in and set fire to the staircase just inside the door. My father - since dead - and a neighbour were in our house, and they soon heard the crackling of the fire. They rushed in and found the door broken in and the fire well away on the stairs. They screamed for help, and got two buckets and threw water on the flames, which they had nearly extinguished when the police returned and compelled them at the point of the rifle to throw away the buckets, and to retire into our house, closing the door after them. The flames now increased rapidly, and both men saw that they must be burned alive, if they remained where they were, as the partitions between the two houses were now on fire. My father then ran for his books containing his accounts - valued at about £1,300 or £1,500 and a cash box with £60. They were going out at the back door when a policeman who was standing there asked what they had got there. Father replied that he had only his cash and his books. The policeman told him throw them back into the house, at the same time striking him on the chest with his rifle butt. My father still held onto them, and the policeman then reversed the rifle and put the barrel against father's forehead. At this of course he had no option but to throw back his books and cash-box and was then allowed out.

For three weeks after the burning Father lay at a friend's house at the point of death. He could not breath except in gasps on account of the blow he received. He lingered on for some time and got a little better, but soon relapsed and took to bed again, and after six months desultory sickness died on October 8th. 1921. He left behind a widow and nine children, of whom I am the eldest, the youngest is aged seven. He died in a stranger's house without hope of ever having a home of his own ever more. I was present at the bedside when he died and tried to console his last moments by promising to get the house rebuilt as soon as possible. He died - and just as the burial was completed and the sod was to be laid on the grave, my brother, arrived agter [sic] travelling all night.

After the burial the next best thing to do was to start the house. We got a Loan of £100 from the White Cross, just before father died, and we proceeded to utilize this. We

were assisted in every way by Mr. Coakley - Lieutenant of Transport for the Battalion. He provided masons and help for us. We worked night and day, and in about two months had a house built. This we never could have done were it not for a further Loan of £100 from the White Cross. Of course £200 did not pay for all, and the house is still in debt, but were it not for the Loan we should still be homeless.

I assure you that the donors of the Loan to us have not been forgotten if the prayers and gratitude of a widow and orphans can produce any merit. Let me add that the Irish people should never forget the generosity of the American people, and I conclude with a heartfelt wish:

God bless the White Cross.

Yours faithfully, John O'Sullivan.

[No. 3]

COPY.

Miltown Malbay,

Co. Clare.

Jan'y 21st. '22.

In the following story an "official reprisal" is described. When "unofficial reprisals" were carried out by R.I.C Black & Tans, and Military, they often disguised themselves, carried out the work at night, and next day calmly went round to investigate the damage. A few days after one would read a statement made by Greenwood in the House of Commons, that the burnings were done by Sinn Feiners. Towards the end of the war. "official reprisals" were carried out openly, being duly authorised.

On the 1st April, Crown Forces entered my house at 6 a.m. and questioned me as to my movements on the previous night, when a Black & Tan had been shot dead in the street. I was ordered to leave the town, and threatened to be shot. Later I was visited by the Inspector of the R.I.C. who gave me two hours notice to go. Almost everybody in the town now cleared out to the country for the night.

Four days later, about 9 a.m. British soldiers broke into our house. Mrs O'Sullivan secured the assistance of some girls, - (all men were rounded up to witness the reprisals) - to remove the most valuable Goods, etc. as she was informed by the Officer in charge that the house would "go West", but that anything removed would be safe. The house was then destroyed with explosives after the soldiers had thrown heaps of loot in the lorries, and the piles of "saved" goods set on fire by the Officer, who laughed at the girls for their pains. The soldiers threatened to shoot if anything was removed from the fires.

B

The destruction of house, furniture, and large and valuable stock left us homeless, (until a house was kindly lent by a neighbour), and deprived us of practically all our means. I was "on the run" until the Truce.

C

Before the loan, Mrs O'Sullivan received Grants amounting to £75.0.0. from the White Cross.

D

£200.0.0. has been lent by the White Cross for the purpose of stocking to a small extent the premises which we occupy at present, and for buying household necessaries, such as bedding, etc.

(Sd). John O'Sullivan.

(Son of Mrs. O'Sullivan, owner of house).

[No. 4]

COPY.

Gaggin, Bandon,
CO. CORK.
Jany 14th, 1922.

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

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your letter of January 6th, and am most willing and anxious to give all information and details in connection with the official reprisal carried out in my place on May 24th, 1921, by Military and Crown Forces. It is my wife has given me all information, as I at the time was undergoing a term of imprisonment in an English Jail.

She tells me the Military and Crown Forces arrived in eight lorries and an armoured car. The Military Officer in charge, (Lieut. Doherty), known here in this locality as the one-eyed Officer, entered the house and read a Notice for her, telling her she had one hour to remove food-stuffs, as her place was to be burned as a reprisal for an attack on His Majesty's Forces on May 14th. (There was a soldier shot in this attack). When he had finished reading the Notice he ordered her into a room to be searched by two women searches. She indignantly refused, but subsequently had to give in. The only occupants of the house at the time were herself and two helpless little children, one aged 2 years, the other 9 months. When the women had completed their search, she had to travel a good part of the farm to call in the assistance of an old man and a little boy who were assisting her with the farm-work. Two soldiers were ordered to escort her. When she returned the Officer told her she then had only 21 minutes of the time left to remove the food stuffs as far as possible from the house, but when any attempt was made to remove clothing of any kind, they were ordered to leave it behind at the point of the revolver. Even when she asked for a cup to give a drink to the child, the Officer callously told her not to dare take it. She was trying to remove some of her own and the children's wearing apparel, but they were roughly taken from her. Before he gave orders set the dwelling house and out-offices on fire, he went round the premises with some of the men, and ordered them with a couple of sledges to smash all the machinery and anything that could not be destroyed by fire. When the hour was up he told my wife and helpers to clear off. She went with her two children to the old man's cottage, and from there had a full view of the preparations carried on in the farmyard. The tacklings were removed from the horses and thrown into the flames. The out-offices were set on fire first. Many tins of petrol were used to destroy same. The dwelling house was the last destroyed. It burned very quickly as there was a good deal of timber work in it. During the burning many soldiers and tans looted Goods of every description, and removed them to the lorries under the supervision of their Officers. The whole place was reduced to ashes in a couple of hours. Even the washed out clothes were ordered to be gathered up by the Officer and thrown into the flames. There were four broods of little chickens burned also. A little grove near the house was partially destroyed by the fire. While the fire lasted the Tans and Soldiers showed their sympathy by playing an Accordeon (sic) which was looted from the house. There were sentries around the whole farm, and at 4 or 5

farmhouses convenient to my place. The Officer stopped in the yard until he saw nothing could be saved. He took precautions to break the pump & spill any water available. When he and his men went away, a few of the neighbours came to offer their assistance and sympathy, but found there was nothing left for them to save. My wife and children had to share the cottage with the old man & his family. A kindly neighbour supplied her with bed & bedding. My sister (who was from home on the day of the burning), had to go a distance of half mile every night to sleep. In consequence of the destroying of the stalls the cattle had to be turned into another farmyard for a length of time, until my wife got assistance to erect a temporary shed. The work of the farm was at a stand-still, as there was no machinery or tacklings to do business. I had all the buildings erected a few years before, and had purchased all new machinery. The same cost me a lot of money, and I had no money to start building operations again until I got assistance from the White Cross.

Previous to the Loan, I got £2 a week for 5 weeks, and £1.10.0. for one week. I then got the first loan of £200, which I have expended in putting a roof on the dwelling-house, and making it habitable. I have now received another loan of £100.0.0.

Owing to the terrorism in the Country at the time, we got no photo of the premises taken. You can use this letter as you wish, and I sincerely thank you for your kind interest.

With every good wish.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

(Sd). Michael Walsh.

[No. 5]

COPY

CHURCH STREET, LISTOWEL,
CO. KERRY.

January 18th, 1922.

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

Dear Sir:-

In reply to you Circular letter of the 6th inst, I beg to say that I give you on attached sheet, particulars of help which we got from the Irish White Cross, and also particulars of what we lost and suffered. I must say that Irish men and women owe a debt of gratitude to the American people.

Thanking you for past favours.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd). J.R. Walsh.

[No. 5a]

CHURCH STREET, LISTOWEL,
CO. KERRY.

January 18th, 1922.

A

My premises were burned on the 27th April, 1921, by the Military as an official reprisal for the shooting of Sir Arthur Vicars, Kilmorna House, Co. Kerry, although I was interned since November 22nd, 1920, and only my wife and six young children the occupants.

B

After the burning my wife and family were homeless but for the kindness of some of our good neighbours who took them in until the White Cross came to their assistance. Our house was completely burned down with most of the stock and furniture. When our house was burned my wife and family had no source of Income, as I used earn £400.0.0. per annum as Commercial Traveller, and this was lost for months before we were burned out.

C

In July, 1921, The White Cross allowed my wife and family £2.10.0. a week, and in December, 1921, sent my wife a loan of £250.0.0. to put up a temporary shop and sleeping compartments.

D

I have now started my business again in this temporary building awaiting such time as the White Cross will give me the loan for the permanent building.

E

I have no picture of my house as it was not photographed since.

The White Cross have done noble work in Ireland, and there were many persons who had thousands of pounds worth of stock and furniture before they were burned out that would be destitute but for the White Cross coming to their aid, and I know that the Irish people will for ever remember the act for the American people.

(Sd). John R. Walsh.

[No. 6]

COPY/

Lahinch,
Co. Clare.
January 24th 1922.

Henry Kennedy Esq.,
28, Harcourt Street,
Dublin

Dear Sir,

I beg to inform you that the completion of my destroyed home is about to be raised up to its former position. Thanks to that Historic and ever to be remembered a Great Humanitarian Record for the terrorised Irish race, The Irish White Cross and the Great American Gaelic pressure saved us from going under. may that great Republic live for ever.

Yours faithfully,
(sd) Patrick Walsh.

[No. 7]

COPY

Droumroe,
Farranfore,
CO. KERRY.
20/1/'22

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

Dear Sir:-

On the 8th May, 1921, a patrol of Black & Tans, stationed at Farranfore, were ambushed. For about six months previous to this, two of my sons were marked men, and were consequently on the run.

My place had been continually raided in search for them but each search proved fruitless. On the evening following the ambush, - May 9th, four lorries of Frown Forces, (comprised of a mixed Force of Auxilieries [sic], Military, Black & Tans, and local R.I.C.) arrived at my house. They read a Notice to me - signed by an English Commandant, stationed at Buttevant, and in charge of the Kerry Brigade, saying that my house was to be burned as an "official reprisal" for the shooting of Constable Stockton, who was one of the party fired on the previous evening, and giving us one hour to clear our foodstuffs and clothing, but no furniture.

After about a quarter of an hour they started demolishing the windows and furniture, and in less than a quarter of an hour they sprinkled and sprayed petrol around, set it on fire, and immediately the house was in flames. It took fire all the more readily, half of it being thatched, and the other half covered with corrugated iron. Some of the articles which we had removed were again [thrown in] to heighten and speed up the blaze. We saved nothing practically in the dwelling except some clothing.

While some of the party were setting the dwelling ablaze, another party had already (even before the Notice was served on me) begun burning outside. They burned the following:-

- a Dwelling-house, furniture, and clothing.
- b A hay-shed and its contents, (3 tons of hay).
- c A rick of straw, (about 2 tons), a quantity of wheaten straw, and a large quantity of rushes.
- d About 1290 Sts. of potatoes, which were in a pit.
- e A cow-house.
- f A barn (which was attached to the cow-house), and its contents; dairy, farm, & household implements.
- g A machine house & its contents, - mowing & raking machines, also ploughs, etc.

Owing to the petrol running out they only partially succeeded in burning a stable and piggery.

Faced with the facts that we were now homeless and deprived of everything to carry on our farm-work, we were in a bad plight. The financial loss would amount to

about £2600, - a not excessive figure, considering all that was either burned or destroyed. We had to seek shelter from the neighbours, and had not even as much as one implement to carry on farm pursuits, thereby suffering still further loss.

I received no assistance from the White Cross until October, when I was granted a Loan of £250, - £100 of which I have received to date. This amount I have now expended in rebuilding the dwelling, which as yet is only a quarter completed.

I have not any pictures of my premises after they were destroyed.

Mise le meas
(Sd). John T. Walsh.

[No. 8]

Copy/

Bartliney,
Fermoy,
Co. Cork.
January 12th, 1922.

Dear Sir:-

As one of the recipients of a Loan from the Irish White Cross I write to thank you for same. In December 1921, [recte 1920] Crown Forces wrecked and partially burned my home, hay and straw, - making a complete wreck of the whole place, not leaving a scrap of furniture or glass unbroken. Imagine my distress when on the next morning I saw my home a complete wreck. My only son being "on the run", and I in some financial difficulties at the time. It was very welcome news for me when the Local Curate told me that the Irish White Cross were sending money to people in similar circumstances. I at once wrote to the Secretary asking him for a Loan of £50. I received a letter shortly after, and a visit from two inspectors, who on examining the wreckage told me I was entitled to the Loan. After having given some more particulars I received a cheque for £50, which helped me to repair the windows and procure some extra bedding for the winter, which owing to the big fall of prices I should have otherwise done without.

Wishing you every success in your good work.

I remain,
Yours faithfully,
Danl. Daly.

C.J. France, Esq., Director,
American Committee for Relief in Ireland,
Dublin.

[No. 9]

Copy/

Muccross,
Clonakilty,
6/1/22.

Dear Sir:-

In response to your letter of January 6th, I now give you particulars of the burning of my house.

In March 1921 my house was raided by the District Inspector and members of the Crown Forces. They took away about fifteen deal timbers. The D.I. told me that my son was to be shot and my house destroyed.

In March 1921 the Military came to my house they handed me a paper which said that my son was a member of the I.R.A. and told me they came to burn and destroy the house. They then sprinkled petrol all over my house, which they set alight, completely destroying it and all its contents including clothes, - they allowed me to remove not a single article. They then wrecked and burned the outoffices, two horse carts and harness also donkey cart and harness, farm implements, and everything I possessed. The result was that I was left on the roadside destitute and dependent on the kindness of my neighbours to help me. My son had to go on the run for fear of being shot.

I have no photograph of my house to send. Should I be able to obtain one later I will send it on.

I am at present unable to do anything owing to ill-health; and my son who has also been ill for a long time is not yet able to do any heavy work on the farm.

Yours very truly,
Ellen Driscoll.

C.J. France, Director,
American Committee for Relief in Ireland.
Dublin.

[No. 10]

Copy/

CASE OF SHARKEY SISTERS

Una Sharkey, County Councillor,
Chairman of Strokestown District Council,
Chairman of Strokestown Poor Law Guardians.

Lena Sharkey, Co-Proprietor of the American Novelty Store,
The Eire Og Library and Irish Industries Depot.

Strokestown, Co. Roscommon.

At the time when the U.S.A. Delegates visited Ireland in connection with the placing of Ireland's case before the Peace Conference, an affidavit was requested of the facts concerning this case, and the writer thinks that such a document is now in the hands of one of the then delegates, Mr. Frank Walsh, of Kansas City, New York. At that time they had been imprisoned for selling literature and Irish National Emblems which had been passed by the Censor. A local policeman constituting himself Censor of the Censor, and using his unchecked power of might and militarism to thus carry out petty jealousy and personal resentment. Again for the second time these girls were torn from their business which was thus left without anyone to guard or manage. The loss thus incurred was very great to them, and to add insult to injury one of the sisters was forced to rise from her sick bed, dress while a policeman remained at the open door of her room. He insisted on staying in the room, but she refused to dress until he retired. He then left the room, but remained in the open doorway. The sick girl was then flung with her sister into a Military lorry and driven over 30 miles of heavy roads, imprisoned in a Criminal's condemned cell and kept there for days, until seeing that God sustained, she was given a better cell and political prisoner treatment. After their release from Sligo prison the Sharkey sisters were ordered by the Crown Forces to close their premises. These girls had visited America and had there made business connections which helped them to encourage direct trading, and this they did through the support of American goods in their store - "The American Novelty Store". To draw attention to this work, as well as to testify their devotion to the principles for which "Old glory" stands, they flew from the flag staff which they had erected over the store, the American and the Irish National flags. These flags were seized on several occasions, but the Sharkey sisters had a stock of them on hand and, even when the flags were seized by Military at 2 o'clock a.m., the girls had other new flags floating "still there" at 8 o'clock next that morning. They were forbidden and forcibly prevented from using their Store for mart purposes, and by erecting a new building behind the Store and making the Store an entrance or great hallway, they defeated the order while still keeping within the compass of their tyrants' persecuting decree.

Mr. P.J. Neilan, of Roscommon, who rented a law office on their premises was their solicitor, and Mr Timothy Heay (Healy) K.C., was their Counsel. Their case was refused a hearing, it was the rule of the Sword and Might was the dictator.

Enraged at seeing the brutal pretence at law defeated by two girls, the local District Inspector of Police, Mr. Nixon, now seized upon the entire property of Sharkey sisters. The precincts of the American Novelty Store and Eire Og Library was declared a "Military area" and for four hours soldiers and police dismantled the home and the Store, and removed in Military lorries the entire stock amounting to £3,450 worth of goods. The invoices, bills of lading and other documents proving the value were then available and offered by their Solicitor to the Courts where he tried to obtain a hearing for this abominable outrage on all law and justice. The D.I. in charge of this robbery admitted to Mr. Gaynor, another Solicitor, that he knew he had no authority or law for such an act, but that Military necessity and the stubborn insistence on their rights on the part of the Sharkey sisters left him no other course.

The Sharkey sisters having failed to obtain a hearing in what claimed to be Courts of Justice of their persecutors now settled down to suffer with fortitude their great loss. After leaving school at Dublin and visiting America - they being orphans - resolved to make their own way in the world, and amongst their own kith and kin. Being cultured and educated young Irish women, they saw the need of instruction for their fellow-townsmen and the youth of the district in which they lived. To help in supplying the need, they courageously invested their entire fortune, - a very modest one - in wholesome and instructive books. This was the beginning of the Eire Og Library, which they ran since 1912, until it was broken up and destroyed by the Crown Force. With the Lending Library went a book-selling newsagency and stationery business; and in addition to this they managed The Irish-Made-Goods Depot, in which were to be found a miscellaneous variety of Irish wares. Attached to this also was a Jewellery and Tobacconist business, while they meantime carried on a light refreshment trade in connection with their Confectionery Department. They had learned from their visit to U.S.A. many business facts which they put to such successful use that their Store had become famous, not only in their district, but in all Roscommon and throughout Ireland. Commercial Travellers had given it as their verdict that Sharkey sisters' Store was the most tasty business-like and efficiently managed in all their travels, and this testimony may still be obtained from any of those travellers who knew the Sharkey sisters and saw them at work in their store.

In order to encourage local enterprise the Sharkey sisters installed on their premises a Knitting machine. Their purpose was to increase the Machinery as they advanced and by providing local employment help, as far as they could in stemming (sic) the flow of female Emigrants from the district.

The Police Sergeant, who was the chief persecutor of these girls, conceived the idea that the Knitting Machine was some kind of a gun or bullet making apparatus, and, persistently annoying them as to its use, and receiving no information, he brought a Military Engineer on the scene to make an investigation. The Military Engineer enjoyed the joke as heartily as the owners of the Machine, and the stupid peeler was so incensed at his own stupidity and its discovery, that he vowed vengeance on the innocent victims of it all. This man took charge of the "Black & Tans" when they appeared in Strokestown, and acted appointer and setter in showing them the people whom they were to annoy. There are witnesses to prove that they saw Sergeant Cowley pointing out the Sharkey sisters to these minions of lawlessness, and very soon Sharkey sisters had a touch of their brutality. Again and again their shop was looted. Again and again their goods were taken away in quantities, musical instruments, watches and other jewelry,

underwear, shirts, books, - anything that a British official fancied he took away, and on more than one occasion the tills and safe were rifled, and the money they contained was appropriated by the “guardians of law and order”. When D.I. Nixon was carrying away the entire stock, he invited his favourites and friends among the bystanders to take anything they liked from the jewelry cases, or other goods. Much of the valuable goods were thus given by the “legal highway robber” to those whom he thus encouraged to participate in his crime. Evidence of this fact is yet available.

The nation knew of this outrage upon every form of chivalry and justice, and a Testimonial of some hundred pounds or more was given to the Sharkey sisters; and when the Councils of Ireland were reforming, Una Sharkey - the older of the sisters, was elected Chairman of the District Council, Chairman of the Poor Law Guardians and County Councillor for Roscommon. With the Testimonial proceeds Sharkey sisters again re-stocked their store, and then re-organized and re-built their library by means of a prize ticket system. The people showed their appreciation by a support which enabled them to clear off almost all the old debts in which their imprisonment, robbery, and reduction to destitution had involved them. The Cuman na mBan or Council of Irish Women is an organized effort of the women of Ireland to support the manhood of the Nation. The Misses Sharkey took their due share of duties, and at the time when the Society was outlawed one of the girls was the Representative for her province. Since the Society has been banned no one save those who are still members know or can know who are the officers in Command of the Association, for seeming officers may not be such, lest all officers might be thus imprisoned. The Military Authorities, however, arguing off pre-Proclamation conditions bring the girls to prison for charges which can only exist even in Military law - since the Proclamation (sic). They have no evidence to prove anything even of these British-made crimes. Yet notwithstanding all this, Sharkey sisters were torn from their home for the third time and flung into horrible filthy cells in Longford Military Barrack. As soon as the writer could get the opportunity he called to see his sisters, and was twice threatened with a bullet if he did not leave the gate. The visit was refused, as it had been refused to other relatives, for two weeks. The writer then addressed a letter to the Colonel in charge of the Military Barracks, and requested an interview and an explanation of such treatment of girls who had not even been brought up on a charge, to Mountjoy prison, and are in the “tomb of the living” at the present time. They have had no trial. There is no charge and only suspicion of their having had what is called by their Captors “The Republican Post Office” but their business is now again left without a protector or a manager. The Forces of the British Empire have helped themselves to their stock, and whatever remains of the £1000 of goods on the premises at the time of their thirs (sic) arrest and imprisonment is now completely at the mercy of the “uniformed men” with the taking ways. Bills amounting to about £800 cannot be paid to their Creditors because they cannot sell those goods or whatever remains of them. Thus are they again put in a wrong position with both their creditors and those customers who had relied on them for their Irish Industrial purchases. In order to terrorise them and to drive them from their home British officials threatened to burn their house unless they left the town. They refused to leave their own home and on more than one occasion these “Saviours of Civilization” pushed the barrel of a loaded revolver into the flesh of their temples. They did not fear death, but when the dark dreadful threat was made that they would be attacked at night, they did fear, and so for the past six months they left their

own home each evening after business, and accepted the hospitality of their brother and his wife and young family, - feeling more secure at night and relieving the anxiety of us all. This brother has been now penalised for helping his own sisters, and has been for the past five weeks confined in durance most vile in the Military Camp at Strokestown. No charge has been made against him, and it is quite clear that the purpose of the whole persecution is an effort to smash his and the sisters' health and business and reduce the whole family to poverty and peonage. The landlord of the girls' house and (sic) now served them with a "Notice to Quit", and as he has already done the same to another tenant who was "on the run", and has taken possession of the man's house in his absence. An assistant from the store of my imprisoned brother and (sic) kept possession and business in some shape by opening the store each day for a short time. This defeats the mean-spirited combination that would otherwise seize on the house and thus at last succeed in driving these girls from Strokestown. The girl who is an assistant in my brother's Store cannot be well spared to his wife - his oldest of four children is only 8 years, and he cannot afford to pay another to take her place. I have mentioned all this because of the necessity of keeping some semblance of business going in order to preserve for the Sharkey sisters the roofree they have so bravely tried to retain. I an personally unable to do anything effective, but have suggested to the Irish Development Association at Dublin (12 Molesworth St.) that they use the Store (with the Sharkey Sisters' sanction) as a distributing Centre, and I have asked them to bring the matter to your notice.

If the bills due were covered and an allotment made to pay the wages of two young bright girls until the Sharkey sisters are themselves able to take charge:-

1. The employment given the girls would relieve unemployment just so much.
2. The Industrial drive would help others to employment directly and indirectly.
3. The girls' credit would be preserved by the allotment to cover bills due, and creditors would not be injured by the case.
4. The girls would find their old home still their own when they returned from prison and come out from this attempt at reducing them to penury and peonage.
5. There would be continuance of the effort for Direct Trading in so far as this unit was concerned.
6. Their brother in prison and themselves would be relieved of anxiety and mental pain because of the situation.
7. Mrs. McWhorte, Chicago, and my brother Lowell and others who are strongly supporting the White Cross would feel pleased for Mrs. McWhorte is a dear friend of the family.

I have written this case at large because it is a sort of historic case, and because it is the only thing I can do to help those whom I dearly love.

In their house the Roscommon plans were laid, Count Plunkett, Countess Plunkett, Eamon de Valera, Harry Boland, and such made the Eire Og Library and American Novelty Stores their Headquarters when elections and other campaigns were on. Terence MacSwiney, a dear friend of theirs wrote them letters, now seized with their cheque books account and everything else of a documentary nature; and since I cannot do more, I feel it my duty - even if they were not my sisters, I should feel it so - to put the case into your hands.

P.A. Sharkey.

[No. 11]

COPY.

Lyre, Miltown,
CO. KERRY.
January 18th, 1922.

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

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your circular letter of the 6th inst. I beg to inform you that on the 1st November, 1920, about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, a number of Auxiliary Forces of the R.I.C. motored from the adjacent town of Kilorglin, (5 miles from here). I was in the town of Miltown at the time, - the only persons in the house were, my father-in-law over 70 years of age, my youngest son aged 14, and an elder boy aged 21 years. The latter saw the motor approaching, and got away with the old man and little boy. My eldest son was "on the run" sometime previously, and was not at home. I saw the motor going in the direction of my house, and shortly afterwards saw it and the contents of my haggard, (which included a large quantity of hay, straw, etc) on fire. I was afraid to go near it to extinguish the flames, and did not do so until the Crown Forces left. I then obtained help, and when I reached the house I found that all my hay and straw were destroyed, and the kitchen of my dwellinghouse on fire. I succeeded in preventing the flames extending beyond the kitchen, which was partly destroyed. In addition all my household effects were either burned or smashed to pieces, excepting one bed which I succeeded in saving.

As a result of the burning my family were homeless during the winter months. The old man and my youngest son I had removed to a friend's house, and I had to find refuge myself wherever available, as I constantly dreaded the Auxiliaries would return, and I knew if they did so my life would be in grave danger. Until the Truce, the uninjured part of my house remained unoccupied, and it was only then I repaired it temporarily so that we could live in it. After the burning my second son had to fly for his life, but was later arrested and remained in prison until the Truce. My financial loss was over £400, apart entirely from the loss entailed owing to myself and my son being unable to do any work on my farm.

I am deeply grateful to the White Cross for their timely and much acquired (sic) relief. I am very grateful for the Relief given me, and am only too glad to permit you to have this letter published with my name, as a small mark of appreciation for the help given me.

I shall send Photo later.

Yours gratefully,
(Sd). John Leahen.

[No. 12]

COPY.

Barnaleen,
Monard,
Tipperary

C.J. France Esq.
Standard Hotel.
Harcourt Street.
Dublin.

Dear Sir,

I wish to express my thanks to you and through you to the American people who have subscribed the money, for the assistance I have received from the Irish White Cross.

On the last day of December 1920 my house, in which was myself and my daughter, was surrounded by English Military and Black & Tans.

They ordered us out into the Winter weather without giving us the opportunity of putting on a coat on our shoulders, and having looted everything that was of value in the house, they burned it to the ground with whatever remained in it.

The hay which was to feed the cows for the Winter was treated in a similar manner. As a consequence I had to sell the stock. One of my sons being in Jail, and two on the run I had to throw myself on my friends resources for the remainder of the war.

When the truce was signed I immediately received a grant of £170 from the Irish White Cross, which enabled me to build a temporary house of which I enclose a photograph. I received a further amount of £60 from the White Cross to provide furniture and support myself, and my family untill (sic) we could re-establish our way of living. Were it not for these loans I do not know how we would have existed from the signing of the truce to the present time.

Allow me to again express my sincere thanks for the generosity (sic) and promptness with which I was treated.

I am, Dear Sir,
Yours Sincerely,
Ellen Doherty.

[No. 13]

Copy/

Abbeyside,
Dungarvan,
County Waterford.
18th. January, 1922.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to yours re Loan received from White Cross, for repairs of my house. The following are the particulars:-

- A On the night of the 13th, April, I with my niece were routed out of my house at 2 a.m. by Crown Forces who had broken in the doors and windows. Several houses were then on fire, and a large number of people had collected on the scene. The f=roof of my house was then partly demolished.
- B This greatly interfered with my business, which is a shop, as I had to keep closed off and on for a long time, whenever it rained the rain poured in through the broken roof - destroying furniture, shop goods, and putting me to a big financial loss.
- C I received no assistance from the White Cross prior to the Loan.
- D I received a loan of £75/-/-, which has helped me to roof my house, and therefore, enabled me to partly re-establish my business as shopkeeper.
- E I am sorry I have no picture of my house to send you.

I shall feel ever grateful to the subscribers to the White Cross Fund for the assistance I have received to help me to reconstruct my premises.

I remain,
Sincerely Yours,
Kate Terry.

C.J. France, Esq., Director,
American Committee for relief in Ireland,
Dublin.

[No. 14]

Copy/

Rockroad House,
Mullinahone, County Tipperary.
January 1st, 1922.

Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 6th. inst. re inquiries of reprisals.

On the 8th. April, 1921, about 12 o'clock, (noon), an officer of the British Army and about 20 soldiers came to our house and read a document signed by General Cameron, giving us an hour to leave the house, and to remove valuables, clothes and foodstuffs.

When the hour was up we were put out on the street at the point of the rifle and stood there for about four hours looking at them breaking everything with pickaxes, crowbars and sledge hammers. Two officers got out on the roof and destroyed it. They played the piano and sang and then used the pick on it.

They didn't even leave us a cup or a teapot without smashing.

At 9 p.m. the same night, the black and tans (drunk of course-) came and tried to put us out again.

A representative of the White Cross called in August and told us to apply for a loan to repair the house. On September 20th, 1921, we got a cheque for £100, and on January 6th, 1922, a second instalment of £100.

Yours faithfully,
M. Vaughan.

C.J. France, Esq., Director,
American Committee for Relief in Ireland,
Dublin.

[No. 15]

Copy/

Coosan,
Athlone,
January 16th, 1922.

Dear Sir:-

I am pleased to comply with your request of the 1st instant. My house is situated about one mile from Athlone, - one night in June last about midnight we were awakened by [sic] find the place surrounded by Crown Forces, masked and armed with revolvers. Being ordered out and on doing so found the roof, which was thatched, in flames. The raiders on entering sprinkled the furniture and ceilings with petrol and set all on fire. We were allowed no time to remove anything except a few articles of clothing as everything was consumed in a few minutes. The raiders also destroyed barn and stables, containing fuel, timber and farm implements.

Myself and my family, numbering six, were very much affected by our home being destroyed. We could not procure an empty house, and each one had to go to some friend or neighbour; thereby causing great inconvenience and expense.

Prior to being granted the Loan from the White Cross we received the sum of twelve pounds, which was of great help to us. Later we were granted a Loan of £310 in all. Having already received first instalment of £150, with part of same we have re-roofed cowsheds and barn, which we use as temporary dwelling, enabling us to carry on our business. We hope to rebuild our house in the near future.

I have no objection to my name being used in Piblication (sic); and heartily desire to thank you and our American friends for all they have done for us in the fight for Liberty.

With many thanks to you,

I remain,

Sincerely Yours,

Thomas Wanslow. [recte Wansboro]

C.J. France, Esq., Director,
American Committee for Relief in Ireland,
Standard Hotel, Dublin.

[No. 16]

Copy/

Currananty,
Ballymote,
January 18, 1922.

Dear Sir:-

My house in Currananty, used partly as dwelling house and partly as a Sinn Fein Hall, was burned by Auxiliary Police on the 22nd. September, 1920, they having broken up doors and tables and sprinkled them with petrol. It was all burned in half and (Sic) hour. Myself, wife and child lived with my mother since. It was a very serious loss to me. I received a Grant of £25 from the White Cross. Then I got a Loan of £300, for which I am deeply grateful.

I have my house almost built up again.

I am sorry I have not got a picture of my house, but thanking you again for your generosity, I remain,

Yours sincerely,
Michael J. Walsh.

C.J. France, Esq., Director,
American Committee for Relief in Ireland,
Dublin.

[No. 17]

COPY.

DROMORE, FEAKLE,
CO. CLARE.
Feby 19th, 1922.

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

Dear Sir:-

In reply to yours about the destruction of my property, I beg to relate as follows.

On the 23rd October, 1920, I received information which caused my family and I to leave our home, - all except my wife. Next morning the Crown Forces surrounded my place, searched and smashed my furniture, and all my Agricultural Implements, destroyed my Dairy and its contents, looked for my sons, my daughter and myself, and threatened to shoot us if they caught us. They came next day again and tore up the ceilings of my home, also the flooring, and smashed all the windows. They kept firing shots all around it for 1 hour. They searched my four ricks of hay. They came each night in succession until the 29th. On the morning of the 29th, they burned my dwelling-house and 4 ricks of hay, and left us penniless. They still kept coming day after day, thinking they would catch some of us. On the 8th November they came in Lorries - Black & Tans, Auxiliaries and the R.I.C. They surrounded the place and fired shots all around, bombed a new range of Out-offices, and burned them to the ground. They destroyed a rick of turnips and mangolds, etc, and my potatoes were not lifted, and had to remain there, as none of us could go near the place, and were destroyed by the Winter. So the place was deserted for 7 months. My wife, daughter and myself, then got leave to come back. My two sons would be shot if they were caught, so they had to remain "on the run" until the Truce. We had no home then to come to. A friend of mine had a new house built by the Board about a mile from where I lived, so he let me have the house. I had no help then to do anything on the farm, and all the neighbours at the time were afraid to give me any aid. There was another son of mine in England, who fought in the European War, I sent for him to help me in the farm, and he came. At first the authorities seemed not to mind him. A little later on they seemed hostile to him, and ran him before the lorries, and he had to go on the run also. So I had 3 boys on the run, and I was in a bad way until the Truce came on.

Well, I received £20.0.0. from our Bishop. I applied for a loan of £200.0.0. to rebuild my Out-offices. They granted me one so I completed the work of my Out-offices, but that sum did not go far in the work. I applied for £5000.0.0. compensation, but when my case came on I could not appear, as I was on the run, and it was adjourned until later on. Then when I could attend, the Government put the Crown Forces on the Ennis Courthouse, and would not allow Judge Bodkin to hear my malicious claim, or other claims, so it was never tried since. Now as the times are peaceful I intend to rebuild my home immediately, as the owner of the house I'm living in presently wants his house for his own use, so I'm applying to the White Cross for a loan of £600.0.0. to help to rebuild my house. Hoping they will grant it to me immediately.

You can use my name as you please.

Yours sincerely,
(Sd). Patrick Tuohy.

[No. 18]

COPY/

ABBEYDORNEY,
CO. KERRY
12-1-'22

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

Dear Sir,

My house was burnt on the morning of the 9th Feby, 1921, by the Black & Tans. It was left in a complete wreck. I did not live in this house, but my daughter had a shop in it in which she sold small drapery & other goods. She also carried on dressmaking in it. All the Goods she had were burnt including material which she had to make clothing for other people, and some of her own wearing clothes. She is idle since then, as she has no place to carry on her dressmaking. She got no help from the White Cross Funds. I was granted a loan of £100.0.0. from the White Cross for rebuilding of the house. I have received £50.0.0. of the money. I am commencing to rebuild again. I have no photo of the Ruins as I have them cleared away for rebuilding.

You are welcome to publish this letter and make use of my name.
I remain,

Yours truly,
(SD). Michael Whelan.

[No. 19]

COPY.

Ballymote, Co. Sligo.
January 16th, 1922.

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

Dear Sir,

I wish to thank you and your associates of the American Committee for Relief in Ireland, for the help you have given to myself and my Country-men, in our struggle, and I should be very glad to tell the people of America, who subscribed to reliev (sic) our sufferings, of the gratitude we owe them for their generous assistance.

It was at 1 a.m. on the 4th November, 1920, that the Black & Tans visited my place. One who carried a heavy sledge-hammer, smashed the door, others broke the windows with their rifle-butts, and some more sprinkled petrol over the out-houses, hay, oats, and turf, and set them on fire. When everything was well ablaze they fired a volley from their rifles, and went to some other man's place to do still more destruction.

Nearly everything I had except the cows was burned, and these I could not sell since we were not allowed to have Fairs or Markets. It was a loss to me of £725.0.0. apart from the consequent losses and misery which I had to go through.

Fifteen pounds of a Grant was the first help I got, and then a loan of £200.0.0. was given to me to help to repair my houses, and replace some of the things that were burned, and I am glad to tell you, that with that help I am fairly well able to carry on.

Again thanking you.

I am, Dear Sir,
Your Obedt. Servant,
(Sd). Patrick Duffy.

[No. 20]

Copy/

Kinvara,
Co. Galway.
10-1-'22.

Dear Sir,

On the night of the 11th February 1921, the Black and Tans burst in the door and pulled myself and my son and daughter out of bed; put us up against the wall of the yard in our night attire; scattered petrol all over the house and outhouses, - and after killing all my fowl, set the whole premises on fire - sacks of corn, hay and everything I possessed.

Being a farmer, I had neither seed nor money to carry on agricultural pursuit.

At the time I was down and out I received £15 from the White Cross, so that, with a little help, got me out of the difficulty for the time being. Later I received a Loan to repair my premises - the sum of £200.0.0., through the Reconstruction Commission of the White Cross.

Signed: Bridget Quinn.

[No. 21]

COPY.

O'Gorman Hotel,
Bundoran.

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

A Chara:-

I am in receipt of your letter of the 6th inst, asking for particulars in my case, and to submit circumstances.

I carried on a business at my residence which was situated at Creevykeel, Cliffoney, Co. Sligo. My sister who was then 16½ years of age, was living with me, and I was her sole support. On the 25th October, 1920, a patrol of R.I.C. were ambushed at a place called Money Gold, about 4½ miles from where I lived at that time. My home was visited next morning by Crown Forces, who looted the place, and smashed everything they could leave (sic) hands on. I had to leave home and go "on the run" 3 months previous to this, as the house was raided several times for me.

On the morning of the 28th October, - 2 days later at 2.30 a.m. a reprisal column of Crown Forces arrived in Crossley Tenders and Ford Cars. They were a mixed force, - Military, Auxiliaries, Tans, and R.I.C.. As soon as they arrived they did not wait to knock to get in, or see if any person was living in the house, but started throwing in bombs through the windows which they had broken on the previous day. But as luck had it, I had my sister removed out of the house that night at 9 o'clock. They then set the house on a blaze. When they had left some men turned out and extinguished the flames as they had not got much of a hold at this time. When they had to (sic) flames just out the Crown Forces returned and arrested 3 men whom they got at this work. The Military re-lit the

premises and it was burned to the ground. They also burned another store belonging to me. My whole furniture, Stock-in-Trade, and Books, were all destroyed. Everything I possessed was burned to ashes. My sister, who was only a child, as I might say, has partly lost her health, and is not able to work. She is under the Doctor's care at present. She got a job 7 months after we were burned out, to keep her going. She is now an invalid in my hands, and we are both penniless and homeless, unless we get rebuilt again.

I have got some allowance already from the White Cross Committee, (Cliffoney Branch). The last sum I got was £8.0.0. on Xmas week. I got some previous to this, but at the time of writing I cannot say the exact amount, but will let you know total amount I received. The only means I have of existing is money which has been lent to me by private friends, which I have to repay when I get built up again.

I received £250.0.0. - first instalment from Reconstruction Committee a week. I will start to rebuild next week with same, as I did not wish to start until I was sure that things were settled down a little. The total loss of property destroyed on me would value £6,000.0.0. or £7,000.0.0. For loss of business for 12 months alone, it would be anything from £700 to £11,000, or perhaps more.

I am a whole time Officer in the I.R.A. and I never received a cent from that organization, and in times like these it is fairly costly to keep going on. I have been an active member of same since 1915, and have been imprisoned several times during the last 5 years. I made application to the White Cross through Dr. Kennedy, to make some weekly allowance for me. I was informed that there was some Order that I.R.A. men would be allowed no money from the White Cross to maintain them. I wish to state that I am very much dissatisfied (sic), as my case is one of the most deserving I know of. I know people getting weekly allowances who have not been burned out at all, and have all their people working, and at home. I furthermore wish to state that both myself and my sister are American born, and our father and mother are American Citizens. My mother was killed during the trouble in this Country by a Head Constable in the R.I.C.

I regret very much I have not a photo of the burned establishment to send you at present, but I will let you have same as soon as I can, and statement for publication. Any statement I make in my case I can stand by it, and prove same.

Is mise le meas mor,
(Sd). William Gilmartin

[No. 22]

COPY/

Edenveva,
January 25th 1922.

Dear Sir,

As one of those who have suffered from the reprisals in Ireland during the progress of the recent War, I feel glad to appreciate my compliance with your request by giving the following details.

On the 28th October there were three houses burned in Cliffoney district. At about 2.30 a.m. on that date we were awakened by noise of rifle fire and shortly afterwards a rough knock was heard at the door. I rushed to the door and opened it not taking any time to dress, and a number of policemen rushed in and filled up the kitchen which was small. Most of them wore masks or had blackened faces - they immediately shouted "where is your son the murderer" I answered them saying I did not know and the angry voices retorted you do know. On refusing to answer as they wanted they used all kinds of threats presenting the rifles at my face and shouting "tell us quickly where he is". At this moment another policeman rushed into the house shouting "get out the house is burning". This man used all kinds of threats to my daughter presenting a rifle and bayonet at her face in the hopes that she might tell him where her brother was hiding. She managed to dress herself under great difficulties and get outside before the roof would fall in. We had no alternative but snap whatever bits of clothing we could and run out then crawling on our hands and feet as they discharged shots over our heads for half an hour. They went into the lorries and drove away firing shots in the air as they departed. We stood on the road only to watch the house, hay, turf, and every ounce of our property dwindle into ashes. We then went to the back of the house to see if the cows, donkey, and fowl were burned, but we found that by miracle they had escaped.

There was no vacant house in the neighbourhood and we had to take shelter in a neighbour's house. In a few weeks we procured a room from a lonely man who had two rooms and a kitchen in his house where we have lived until now. The hardest of all was to provide fodder for the cows and other stock for six months as we had to depend entirely on a few kind-hearted people who did not fear the reign of terror which was carried out by the Crown Forces. My daughter took refuge with a friend who lived four miles away, and my son who was on the run until the Truce was called came on a few visits in that space of time as he had no money to buy clothes and received no help from any other source. Since the Truce he has been in lodgings and received no help except what I was able to give him. He says it would take £40 to pay his debts. We have only four acres of bad land and the fruits of our labours for ten years are gone in the late struggle for freedom, but I am sorry we had not more to sacrifice.

Prior to the Truce the loan was granted to me I received £39 from the American Committee for Relief in Ireland and £10 from the Parish Priest. I have been granted £300 of a loan and I have received a cheque for half of that amount. I have not made any effort to reconstruct the house but I am now about to build a temporary residence of wood where we might live until such time as we would build the house by the help of the compensation claim.

I do not desire my name to be used but I am giving the deepest satisfaction to those in America who have so generously subscribed. I feel happy in extending to them my greatest thanks and I earnestly hope your efforts will bring about a generous and sympathetic feeling towards Ireland.

Do Buan Chara,
(Signed) Michael Harkin.

[No. 23]

COPY.

Annabella Terrace,
MALLOW.
Jany 7th, 1922.

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

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of this morning received. I have much pleasure in complying with your request to put before you the particulars connected with the destruction of my my (sic) home and means of livelihood.

On the night of September 29th, 1920, armed English Military Forces invaded our Town of Mallow, Co. Cork. Coming in lorries from different Military centres they proceeded to sack the town, looting and burning down the principal business houses, the Town Hall & the Creamery. At 11 p.m. my family and myself had retired for the night, not expecting any trouble, when we were arouse by terrific explosions made by bombs. My house, which was one of the largest burned was situated in the main street, in which I carried on with the help of my two daughters, Confectionery, Grocery and Bar, was almost the first to be attacked, so that we had to fly out the back, partly undressed, and climb a high wall to get out of the danger zone. Here we crouched until daylight watching almost we had in the world go up in flames. This was a terrible loss to me as I had no ready money to clear away debris or build a temporary business place.

On last September the American Relief Committee came to our aid, and I was granted a weekly sum of 30/- per week to enable me to live, and in addition to this I was granted a Loan of £200 to enable me to build a business place, I have also a promise of £200 when first instalment is out.

I am very glad of this opportunity of thanking publicly the American Relief Committee for Ireland, for the great assistance they have given, not only to myself alone, but to the rest of my fellow sufferers all over Ireland.

I am sorry I have not a picture of my place. If I can I will get one and send it on to you. Again thanking you for your kindness.

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs). Johanna Hanover.

[No. 24]

COPY.

Benmore, Ballyduff,
CO. KERRY.
16-1-'22.

C.J. France Esq.
DUBLIN.

Dear Sir:-

Necessity compels me to write to you in such times as these. I will start and relate my long sufferings.

In 1918, my son William was arrested for drilling, and sentenced to 6 months imprisonment. During that time he went through two hunger strikes, - one in Cork, and the other in Mountjoy Jails.

On November 1st, 1920, following the shooting of policemen in Ballyduff, Crown Forces called at my house, and asked for my sons, William & James. They were not there, and that was all the luck they had. My son, John was in bed. He, being the eldest of the three, they took him out and battered him with butt-ends of rifles. they next placed him against the ditch in front of the door, and out a bayonet through him three times. They next put five bullets through his body, and he died in a few minutes. My wife and myself were looking on at the time. While some of them were doing that, the others set fire to my shed and hay, and in the morning it was burned to the ground. They also broke every window in the house, and a lot of furniture. I applied for Compensation at the Listowel Quarter Sessions which were held in Tralee. I was granted some for my shed and hay. For my son's death it was put back for the County Court Judge, Tralee, and tried there again and dismissed. I appealed and it was tried in Dublin, and I was put out without any money.

What a lot of money I lost to carry out the ruse three times, and a lot of funeral expenses. My two sons were nine months "on the run", and my land left without anyone to work it. I couldn't get a man to stand in my garden, as it was too near the Police Barracks, where there were 20 Black & Tans. I had no crops, therefore, I am in a very bad position to-day. While my sons were "on the run" I was 2 months sick in my bed, and nobody to come and help me. I also had to buy a lot of hay that Winter, and it was very dear and scarce.

I must now finish. Hoping to receive some money in the near future.

Yours truly,
(Sd). James Houlihan.

[No. 25]

Copy/

36 Watercourse Road,
Cork.
January 18th, 1922.

C.J. France, Esq.,
Director of American Committee for Relief in Ireland,
Dublin.

Sir:

I received your letter in due time, and I hope you will excuse my delay in sending on full details of burning etc.

Unfortunately I hadn't a photo taken of the burned premises, but I got it taken in the present repairing condition. It will give a good idea of what it was like. I will let you have full account in a few days, also photos, as the latter are not yet fully completed.

I remain,

Sincerely Yours,
(Mrs.) Michael Howard.

[No. 25a]

36 WATERCOURSE ROAD, CORK.

C.J. France, Esq.,

Dear Sir,

I am a horsedealer. I have a wife and four little children whose ages vary from 1½ years to 7 years. My premises are fairly large. One portion of it was let to a blacksmith who paid ten Shillings a week for it; another portion of it was let to a carpenter who also paid Ten Shillings a week rent, and the third portion was occupied by the Irish National Volunteers as their Club Room, who, paid me Eight Shillings a week for it. But that is all forfeited now.

The first of the trouble began in having our house raided six times by the Military and police. It is too horrifying to recall it as we had to leave our house each time for fear of being shot and take shelter in a covered van of our own at the end of the yard. That was not the worst. On the 23rd November, 1920, we were all asleep at 1.15 a.m. We received no warning or notification of any kind from the Forces of the Crown until we were awakened by the noise of the lorries and the breaking in of our doors. The house was burning fiercely and my wife and children were in a terrible plight. I had to escape through a back window and remain prostrate on the ground in one of the adjoining yards until the Military returned to their Barracks. In the meantime my wife had to take the little children one by one down to a stable at the end of the yard, and being afraid to venture out remained there until 7 o'clock in the morning.

From that day forward we received temporary shelter from our goodly neighbours for a period of six months. After that my wife and her four ;little children had to reside in one little room which escaped being burned. Previous to the house being burned the

Military called on us and requested that we should put the volunteers out of the place, but we refused to comply with their request, and said on principle we could not put them out whatever the consequence would be.

After burning our house and all that was in it, the military and police came again and dismantled a motor car which was at the time our only means of support.

I regret I cannot send you a picture as our house is after being renovated, but the inside can never be dried: there is no cellar or valut (sic) to equal the interior.

On February 28th, 1921, I broke my leg and was laid up 5 months, in or about the 4th April. I received £70 from the distress fund. I also received a loan on two different occasions, the first was £100 and a second £50, making a total of £150. I was also awarded £775 by the Recorder of Cork for damages sustained. Yours, etc.

(SIGNED) MICHAEL HOWARD.

[No. 26]

COPY

KILGARVAN,
CO. KERRY.
24.1.22.

C.J. France, Esq.,

Dear Sir,

It is some weeks since I received a letter from you for which you required an answer. A serious illness in my family prevented me doing so by return, and I earnestly hope to be excused.

The grateful thanks of all of us in Ireland go out to the American people and to your Committee for the aid and the noble work done to relieve distress in our poor persecuted country.

I received a loan of £50 for which I am most grateful. I am not able to express my great thanks in suitable terms. We all in Ireland wish to express our appreciation of the sympathy and generosity of our benefactors in America. We can do nothing but pray for them. I beg to state that I did not receive any other gift but this loan of £50.

I put in a claim for this loan because my business was completely destroyed through the activities of the Crown Forces. They had a regular set on me as my son was a prominent I.R.A. man. He got two terms of imprisonment and was 'on the run' for over two years. I am an old man and could not work and he was my support. They raided and searched sometimes three times weekly and they never caught him. They posted proclamations (sic) on my house and threatened me if they were torn down; they were, and I was ordered to appear at a Military court twenty miles from my home. I did not go and I was fined £10 in my absence. In a few days a party of military and police came and seized all the goods in my drapery, two bicycles, a set of harness and a fancy clock - in fact, ten times the amount of the fine -, and they left my little shop bare. The loss to my business then was worse than all. I could not get in any stock and I could not go anywhere. In a country village, if you run down you can't pull up. The customers are taken up by others who can carry on.

With all the terror, my daughter got heart trouble and is an invalid since. My wife, too, is not strong; we are both old. So I mean you to understand this is how I suffered. My house was not destroyed though it was threatened, and so was my life. We are glad to have peace, though we have not what we suffered for. I hope you will excuse the length of my letter. You can publish what is suitable, and I would be grateful if you did not publish the name in U.S.A., some of my friends may not like it.

With many thanks to you and Committee.

I beg to remain, Yours faithfully,
(SIGNED) JERH HEGARTY
Main St., Kilgarvan.
Kerry.

[No. 27]

Clonyconry,
January 20th. 1922.

Mr. C.J. France.
Standard Hotel.
Dublin.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 10th. inst. in which you ask me to give an account as to how I suffered as a result of burning during the war. As crown forces had visited my house several times before burning I could not possibly state what trouble and inconvenience they caused me and my brothers and sisters. They first (sic) visited (sic) my house about the middle of October, brought us out of bed at the point of the revolver; my brother became excited and started to run after going out. A sergeant (sic) of the police in khaki fired two shots at him with his revolver. His escape was miraculous (sic) he never got hit. I was held then under an armed guard while they were searching the house however, they found nothing and left. They came three times to our house afterwards and we were not there, making a search everytime (sic) they came and taking any things they met in the line of jewelery, scarfs and womens heavy jumpers. On Christmas Eve they came to our house enquiring for us. I was not far away from the house and saw all there {sic} movements it was loot they wanted on that occasion. That day they took away a hat value £2. a pair of rugs I could not say exactly what they were worth also seven ducks, four hens, three geese. The next visit then was on 20th. January when they burned the dwelling house and one years produce of the farm. During that day there had been an ambush seven or eight miles away from our place. About eleven o'clock that night we were in bed when we heard the lorries on the road, our house is about 300 yards from the road. The next thing was that they opened the door which was locked by pucking it with the butts of the rifles. I and my brother were up half dressed when they tore in around the room and ordered us out. We left half dressed and were glad to be allowed to go, our sisters bringing our boots and stockings. When we got out the haggard was a mass of flames and smoke. The haggard consisted of a hay barn with about thirty tons of hay, a rick of straw about five tons also a slide rake grinding stone with frame, ladder. hay knife, and some forks and rakes. The dwelling house which was thatched was set fire to from the back and took fore (sic) quickly. They immediately left after setting fire to the house. As soon as we found they were gone we got back and by the help of the neighbours around managed to save two rooms, one over the ither (sic). In those two rooms we managed to cook and carry on a little business but had to seek a bed every night from our neighbours untill (sic) the White Cross came to our aid and we built up again. At the time of burning we had about 34 head of cattle old and young with two horses. As we had no money in the bank we had to sell some of the strong ones to buy fodder for the weaker ones. About what money I received from the White Cross as a loan is £175, which went in temporary repairs on the house. Before I got this loan from the White Cross I received in two instalments through the Most Rev. Fr. Fogarty the sum of £25. as temporary relief. As I have to give my brothers and sisters the means to get a decent living the war has disturbed me in my agricultural pursuits in a bad way as all my

Capital is gone. I have been awarded £611 compensation if it is ever paid. I think I have told you all or very near it. I am very thankful to you and all sympathizers in America who have stood so loyal to Ireland in there (sic) struggle for National Independence. You may use my name any way you wish. **I have no objection in saying those were Crown Forces that did the burning.** I will now finish with kindest regards.

I remain, Dear Sir,
Yours Faithfully,
(Sgd) Patrick Hayes.
Broadford.

[No. 28]

COPY

Knockracurra,
Ballinadee,
Bandon.
22.1.21

Dear Sir:

I received your communication re the White Cross a short time ago, and will do the best to answer details as required.

(a) Dwelling house, 20ft x 20, two storey, bombed and burnt to ground, with all furniture etc., early in March (4th) 1921, by disguised Military (enemy) party. Savage treatment to aged parents and sisters. Two outhouses destroyed in same manner 1920 and haggard July, for which compensation had not been claimed. Also Saw Mill destroyed or part, July 1920 (big saw cost £12. utterly wrecked - latter the property of Thos. Wm. Hales.

(b) Family rendered homeless for long period. Men at Saw mill had to leave and go on run.

(c) Three members of family and 1 in prison received weekly assistance for some weeks after Truce - 5 or 6 weeks in all.

(d) £300 was granted, to temporarily repair and re-roof of house £100 of this has been received and £200 forthcoming for remainder of work. Family in a better position now and able to carry on work. Will be able to live in house after some further repairs. £50 given to repair of saws, and work just resumed.

(e) I have no photo of house after destruction.

I am stating this for my father, R. Hales, who is now rendered to a very low state and unable to write. The many shocks have been too much for him. He fully appreciates the assistance so nobly given by the White Cross Relief Committee of the United States of America.

Certainly letter can be used for case required - (although hasty note).

I mise le mor
Liam MacHale,
for Robt Hales.

C.J. France, Director, A.C.R.I.,
Dublin.

[No. 29]

COPY

Tormakeady.
Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo.
17th January 1922.

Dear Sir,

As Chairman of the Tormakeady Branch of the Irish White Cross I feel that I am under the deepest obligations to acknowledge the great help we have received from the Reconstruction Commission of the Irish White Cross. The Society (Tormakeady Co-operative) are the recipients of a loan kindly made by the Above Commission to repair the premises maliciously destroyed by the British Crown Forces.

On May 3rd, 1921 an ambush of Crown Forces took place in Tormakeady (sic), Co. Mayo. About a quarter of a mile from the place of the ambush stood the premises of the Co-operative stores. On the same evening these premises were totally destroyed by the Forces of the Crown. The Society which controlled these premises was entirely non-political. Yet it was their property that the British Crown Forces in their mad fury destroyed.

We have now received from the Reconstruction Commission of the Irish White Cross the loan of £400 to partially help (sic) in building up the destroyed premises.

Prior to the time the loan was made the White Cross helped the Manager of the Stores by granting him £1-4-0 per week.

J. Heaney, C.C.

[No. 30]

COPY

AUGHNACLIFFE,
MOLBY [recte Molly]
19th January, 1922.

Sir:-

In reply to queries, I subjoin the following:-

I am a farmer of an ordinary class in Co. Longford. While doing some handy repairs for neighbours in order to supplement the small profits of my farm, at a distance of a mile from my house, two Lorries filled with Black and Tans came on my premises and burned my house with all its contents, also the outhouse and all the hay that grew on the farm. My wife, a delicate woman and suffering from a nervous disease for years, was rendered frantic - being the only occupant of the house then. They followed her to a neighbour's house possibly with the intention to shoot her. The appeals of women stating her condition of nervous breakdown for years saved her life. They proceeded then to where I was earning a day's wage, and arrested me at my work, and lodged me in the Military Barracks of Longford for a month. My wife was then without food or clothing, and not having shelter of any kind. Her delicate condition rendered an unsuitable guest for friends or neighbours, as it takes most of my time to nurse her.

I had no time for politics as I was too engaged to earn a living, with a wife so afflicted. They were prompted to this act by learning that my son was unanimously voted to a high position in the I.R.A.

My son was after this a "wanted man", and he could not at the risk of life look after his afflicted mother. He could not safely enter the locality.

After a month in Barracks I was tried and acquitted and returned, but had nowhere to lay my head.

Characteristic of the Irish, they did all they could for my wife in my absence, but the nature of her disease made that a difficulty. My worry in prison, under these circumstances, has left its mark for life and may hasten my demise by years.

My wife's malady increased. Being beyond middle age myself the catastrophe made me aged and irresolute. We had neither money nor clothing. The provision, clothing and money was all consumed. The furniture, fittings and outhouses took years, and I might say generations to furnish, and which in present rates of market could not be replace, without a very large sum of money. We stood penniless, without clothing, shelter or food. Till we got assistance we were in danger of perishing were it not for good neighbours.

My farming implements are wanting and far yard manure is nil, and to put in a crop as usual is impossible. Whatever live animals were on the farm I had to dispose of them at great disadvantage, and none is supplied since, and in fact I am now unable to do so.

My little house is situated in a mountainy district where a living of a moderate kind is got by tilling the land. If better things will not turn up I am not yet in a position to put in a crop for coming year.

I beg to acknowledge with deep gratitude the help I received from the American Relief, and, which I may add, saved our lives.

To all that contributed to me and the numerous afflicted ones of Ireland I and they are grateful.

I have no objection to my name and gratitude being appended to these facts I have stated.

I am, Sir

Very Gratefully Yours,
John Finigan.

C.J. France, Director, A.C.R.I.,
Dublin.

[No. 31]

Copy/

Well Street,
Ballylongford,
County Kerry,
Ireland.
(Undated)

James Farrell's house and effects burned to the ground, 2 iron bedsteads, 2 feather ticks, 2 bolsters, 4 pillows of feathers, 12 sheets, j (sic) quilts, 6 pillow covers, 6 bolster covers, 4 blankets, 4 suits children's clothes, 2 suits of my own clothes, 2 suits my wife's clothes, 2 pair children shoes, 2 pair of my own shoes, a pairs (sic) of shoes belonging to my wife, dresser full of ware, 2 kitchen tables and a cufe of fowl, 6 chairs, 2 blocks, tins, kitchen lamp, washing tub and wash board, 2 pairs of window curtains, 2 carpenter's boxes, 4 pots, an oven and a kettle griddle, stand, frying pan, 2 looking glasses, 2 room tables, press full of clothes, a clock, an enamel basin, glass case, mantle piece full of ornaments, 2 dozen of glass pictures for a room, 4 room chairs, 5 rails of turf, 6 bags of potatoes, donkey harness, slane, spade, knives and forks and spoons, 8 st. flour, 2 irons and bread losset, 3 hundred of unions, 2 buckets milk, gallon saucepan, and room lamp, two suits of children's clothes, - all burned on the 23rd February, 1921, by Crown Forces.

(Mr.) James Farrell,

P.S.

I got no money from the White Cross but to build the four walls, until I got £70. It is not half finished.

My occupation is a Labourer.

I have no picture of the house. You can publish this in any paper.

[No. 32]

Copy/

Causeway,
(Undated)

Sir:-

My house was burned by Black & Tans as a reprisal for an ambush in Causeway, leaving four sons and one daughter homeless and out of work since November 1920. I got in the summer of 1921, £15, also another assistance of £20. A Loan of £100 for rebuilding my house.

I have no picture of it after being destroyed.

You may make use of my name: Ellen Feenix, Causeway.

Sincerely Yours,
Ellen Feenix.

[No. 33]

COPY

KNOCKROCKERY,
ROSCOMMON.
Jany 17th, 1922.

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

Dear Sir:-

You have asked me to send you particulars of the destruction of my premises, and how I have been assisted by the White Cross Association.

On the morning of 21st June last, my house and out-offices were completely destroyed by fire, and almost everything I had was, as a consequence lost. I have no doubt it was done by British forces. I am only a small farmer and have only 7 acres of land. I used to work 3 days per week with Mr. Curly at the pipe-making business, and the remainder of my time on the farm. Of course the former source of employment is gone, as Mr. Curley's place was also destroyed. As I said before, I lost almost everything, clothing, furniture, farm implements, utensils etc. I had to a certain extent, to replace those things, and of course that cost me quite a good deal. My family and I which consists of six members are since living in a stable which I repaired. Only for the assistance I got from a local fund & the White Cross, I certainly do not know what I and my family would do. The White Cross is also giving me a loan of £200, half of which I have received, and I am about starting to rebuild. I am sorry I have no photograph of my place to send you. You can use my name any way you wish, for publication, etc.

One word of appreciation for our American friends, in subscribing so liberally, they have done a great work, and all I can say is God bless the..

I remain,
Yours faithfully,
(Sd). Patk. Fitzgerald.

[No. 34]

Coolborbeen,
Newport.
Co. Tipperary.
Jan. 23rd.

Mr C.J. France.
Standard Hotel.
Dublin.

Dear Sir,

In compliance with a request contained in your circular under date Jan. 6th. 1922. I beg to submit the following account of the destruction of my dwelling-house and out offices under the headings designated in your circular by the letters (a) (b) (c) (d) (e).

(a) My premises were destroyed by a military detachment sent from Limerick under the command of an officer Royal Engineer as an Official Reprisal for the ambushing and shooting of District Inspector Biggs near my house on May 14th. 1921. Although in no way connected with, and having no previous knowledge of this occurrence which fact was certified by neighbours who were able to prove where I was working when the party with whom the D.I. was travelling was fired upon and he himself shot dead, even the survivors, including (sic) an English Officer and two civilians were emphatic in declaring when I was brought before them with other neighbours that I was not among the ambushers. Yet, notwithstanding all this on the 17th. may just three days after as I was working on a part of my farm some distance from my dwelling, word was conveyed to me that military in large numbers were around my house and were inquiring for me. From past experience of their brutal behaviour and treatment of unfortunate men in similar circumstances as I now was, I considered it more prudent to keep out of harms way. (I afterwards learned that their business with me on this occasion was to read me a proclamation (sic) authorising them to demolish my homestead) After a lapse of half an hour or so a deafening explosion told me the work of destruction on which they were bent. I imagined (sic) the very ground under my feet shook and a cloud of slates, stones and timber were driven high in the air. After another half hour a second explosion went off. In all there were four explosions and then this Glorious Army, those Champions of Small Nations moved on to wreck a similar vengeance on two more farmsteads. When I reached home not one house was standing, not a stone was left in the walls, even the foundation stones were uprooted. Nor even did a new hay barn escape, its pillars were broken across by a bomb or something and a large quantity of hay was set on fire. In fact every farm implement and any article that would burn was piled on the fire, also cars and harness, gates, etc. My sister Mrs Ryan who lives in the next house claimed certain things which were her property she would not be allowed bring them out but they were thrown into the fire. The dwelling house was new built in 1913.

(b) Apart from the financial loss sustained the disaster could not cause me much of a shock as people around were used to those acts on the part of the military. On one occasion soldiers under an officer searched my house and threatened me when they could not get me to tell them secrets which they thought I possessed. On another occasion at night fall they came in a lorry and while I was absent burst in the door, broke my bicycle,

smashed pictures, took away a clock and watch and anything that seemed useful to them. I amy (sic) say that during this period and up to the time of the reprisal I was living alone. My loss financially was very great as I was left neither cars or harness or implements of any kind to carry on my work, and had to rely on the generosity of neighbours.

(c) I received no assistance whatsoever from the White Cross prior to the time I obtained the first instalment of loan nor did I apply for any help in the nature of grant.

(d) I received a loan of £250 from the White Cross which I used for the purpose of building out-offices for shelter for my cows etc. for the Winter.

(e) I regret that I have no picture of my houses after destruction I shall have then (sic) taken and send you one.

Allow me in conclusion to thank through you the friends who contributed the money that helped so many in their need.

(Sgd) Denis Flannery.

[No. 35]

Copy/

Electric Saw Mills & Joinery Works,
Denmark Street,
Limerick. 10/2/22.

C.J. France, Esq., Director,
The American Committee for Relief in Ireland.
Dublin.

Dear Sir:-

As requested I give you a short account of my burning. Sickness and other troubles prevents me from giving you a more detailed account of the fire.

At another time I may have more to say about this outrage.

There was no authority for making a prisoner of me.

Yours truly,
P. Bourke.

ACCOUNT OF BURNING:-

Gentlemen, the following is the story of my burning by the English Government.

Last April 10th, at 3 o'clock on Saturday, the city was closed down, and all people ordered indoor by the Military. A Military Force of about one hundred men, including Colonels, Captains and Generals - mine was an official reprisal - called at my premises and put my wife and myself with the household under arrest. The soldiers then made all the necessary arrangements to secure the other property from taking fire. The glass in my factory and dwelling-house was broken, the entire of the building were strewn with petrol and then set on fire. The flames continued for four hours and could be seen for ten miles away. When all was burned the soldiers cleared out and left not one shed to shelter us for the night. When dark came on we stole into the neighbouring houses - one to each house - some far away and some near. The police were on duty during the process, but took no active part. I would say they had not sympathy with the work, and were disposed to allow me to save some foodstuff, but the soldiers would not permit

The army officers took the barrels of pipheads and cast them into the flames.

(b) The burning leaves me without (sic) a possibility of starting in life again - other than a small dealing my wife has - My immediate loss is two thousand pounds. I have nothing now left but the four walls of an empty (sic) yard where once I employed fifty men. The loss to my trade I cannot estimate, but I am sure in putting it at another thousand.

(c) One pair of blankets and a quilt, - cannot say value.

D The amount of loss £100. I erected three rooms against wall of brick - timber rook (sic) and felt. It would take a thousand pounds to start me in a small way as a builder.

I failed to get a picture of factory or joinery works. Should I succeed in securing a copy I will forward it to you. P Bourke,

[No. 36]

COPY

Abbeyside,
DUNGARVAN.

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

Dear Sir,

My house was burned by Crown Forces, not as a reprisal but for showing them up to the public for gross misconduct in my house on the night of April 3rd, towards my maid and myself whilst my husband was in Jail. They burned my premises on the 14th April, which was a Fee Simple, and I had to jump a 12 ft. wall with my child of seven years to save our lives, and my maid followed after me. They left us penniless, and we had nothing on us but our night attire.

On a rough calculation I received something about £50 or £60, and from the end of September the Committee allowed me £2. per week for my husband, child, and self, for lodging, food and clothes, which is little for 3 of us. When my husband came out of prison on the 8th December, I had to purchase for him inside & outside clothing.

The amount of loan - £150, which has provided me with a kitchen & bedroom at back of premises.

I am enclosing picture of premises, - front & rare (sic), after being destroyed.

Sincerely yours,
(Sd). (Mrs) Bridget Fahey.

[No. 37]

COPY.

Tarmon,
Castlerea.
16-1-'22

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

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your letter of Jan'y 6th, duly received, in which you state you require the details for publication as to how my home was destroyed, together with effect of same on myself and my family, financial and otherwise, as also the great relief afforded me by the White Cross in the form of monetary assistance. I now have the greatest pleasure in herewith submitting my case to you, who as Secretary of "The American Committee for Relief in Ireland", has proved yourself such true and sincere friend of mine. It is as follows:-

On the night of the 2nd October, 1920, I heard what had become very common in our midst, namely, the noise of one of those powerful Crossley Cars, as it came slowly down the narrow road, before reaching a gate which opens onto an avenue leading to my house. Into this avenue the car was turned, and then towards my house came those plunderers and murderers, fully armed, and each one carrying two petrol tins, well known by now, the world over, as the Black and Tans. They immediately proceeded to break in my front door, and called for my son, Peadar, whom they took with them, and having beaten him they fired at him, but thank God, for that time at least, he was saved, being left badly wounded and beaten. They next searched the house, and took with them anything which they considered valuable enough to be worth removing. Their next step was to gather all the furniture in the house into the kitchen, and having poured plenty of petrol all over proceeded to set it on flames. The coat of thatch on the house now drew their attention, and this they quickly had in flames. They the proceeded to burn all my crops which were saved and gathered together in the garden:- some three large stacks of Oats and a large rick of turf. I had at this time two sons alive, one was sleeping away from me, and the other boy wounded, as stated above, was taking himself as best he could to where he would be treated properly. My wife had fled to a neighbour's house in her night attire and as I watched the flames demolish my only shelter in this world, although very deaf and badly suited for trouble of this kind, I decided to return and see if I could not at least save a portion of my house. But do you imagine for a moment that such fiends as these would be prevented from completing their wicked work by the exertions of one old man? No such thing; - they quickly caught me by the arms, and twisting them behind my back dragged me some distance from the house, and as they fired shots into and around the burning building, they at the same time told me if I did not lie there quietly they would soon settle me. So I had perforce to look on at all I had in the world being destroyed by fired (sic), except some little stock and a horse.

As a result of above I was left dependant on a friend for housing accomodation (sic). I had absolutely nothing either in the way of money or clothes, except as I received

from friends and benefactors. Thus you see I was left homeless, with one son Peadar, shot dead on the 23rd November, by the same Black and Tans, with the other boy's and my wife's health weakened from excitement and hard times, to a very low degree, and as I have become very deaf and stupid it will be seen that my family and myself have suffered perhaps to as great an extent as anyone could imagine, but thank God it was not in vain we suffered, and we would if possible, go through as much more before we would yield to be ruled without our common sanction.

The White Cross, however, has come to my aid, and I received during my trouble a sum of about £60.0.0. in eight weeks. From them I again received a loan of £300.0.0. to help in rebuilding my home, and to buy, as far as it could, what necessaries were required, both to furnish and provide, as also re-stock the inside of my house. I am now in a position to carry on my agricultural pursuit as a farmer as a result of this great monetary assistance given me.

In conclusion I regret to say I have no photo of my house when it was burned, and will be only too pleased provided you are agreeable, to have my name signed to the above.

Again thanking both you and your Committee for your great kindness to me through such hard times.

I remain, dear Sir,
Faithfully yours,
(Sd). Frank Flynn.

[No. 38]

Balrobuckmore,
Corrondulla,
Co. Galway.
16-1-1922

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

Sir:-

On the 20th January, 1921, myself and family were preparing for bed when we heard the tramping of people coming towards my house. On looking out I noticed about 2 Black & Tans approaching my house. I ordered my two sons out at once. One of them took one direction and the other another direction. In the meantime I heard shots they fired after them. By a hairbreadth they escaped.

They then surrounded my house. Ten of them came in by the front and as many more the other door. They asked me where my sons were or were they at home. They ordered me outside, then my wife and three daughters, and put us standing against the wall and said if we left there until they were ready they would shoot us all. They then started to throw petrol on the house inside and then set fire to it. When I saw the house I asked my coat of one of them as I had no coat on. My wife asked her boots and stockings as she was preparing for bed at the time. We were both refused. In about fifty minutes I saw the house falling in. They then left after discharging about forty shots. I was all night looking for my two sons; I was sure they were shot somewhere about the house. About 12 o'clock the following day I saw my sons coming towards me. It was then I came to myself again, for I never cared as long as I saw my sons alive after all the shots that were discharged after them. It effected (SIC) myself and wife very much as we were thrown out of our bedroom. We had no clothes what-so-ever, and no means to get any. My three daughters had no clothes either, and they were depending on the neighbours for six or seven months. I could not sow my Spring properly as my two sons were "on the run". I lost £100.0.0. that Spring. It effected (sic) one of my sons very much. He got a severe cold when the truce started, and spent three months in bed in a neighbour's house. He was attended by a doctor and is hardly fit for work yet. I cannot describe to you the hardships I had to undergo.

I received £10.0.0. from the White Cross prior to the time I got the loan. I received £100.0.0. of a loan which enabled me to get up a portion of my house for myself and family and it was badly needed.

Afterwards I received another £100.0.0. to help me on to finish my house and get some farming implements which I wanted, and especially for beds and bedding for myself and family.

I am sorry I have no picture of my house at present. I don't desire my name to be published in the book with my letter.

(Sd) Patrick Forde.

[No. 39]

Copy/

Ballymurphy,
January 11th, 1922.

On the 19th. March 1922 [recte 1921] my house and premises were surrounded by hundreds of British Military, who found an officer of the I.R.A. in my house who was recovering from wounds previously inflicted. We tried our best to make good his escape, but there was no chance as the house was too well surrounded, thought (sic) he fought hard and shot two of them, and was shot dead himself. They put me and my sons against the wall to be shot, but thank God we escaped with two of my daughters who were in the midst of the shooting. They took the I.R.A. officer and put him on our car and made us draw him for a distance of three miles to Crossbarry, where there was a big battle fought in the same morning. We had terrible experiences there. They let me back in the evening and took my son a prisoner with them to Bandon Barracks, where they beat and kicked him and gave him six months hard labour in Cork Jail, from the effects of which he is not too well yet.

Before they (the Military) left they set fire to and burned about 7 tons of first crop hay and 2 tons of straw and 1 ton of imported seed oats, together with a valuable car, house and farming implements, which made it very hard for me to carry on any business. I had to hire a man to do work in place of my son, and have him yet. I am a man of 79 years of age, and am not too well yet after the fright. I got from them, - searching my place, for, it being headquarters of the West Cork Brigade.

I received a Loan of £150 from the White Cross, and prior to that £2, which, of course, I utilized as best I could to hold on my business.

Gentlemen of the White Cross I beg to convey to you my sincere gratitude for your kindness to me, and remain,
Sincerely Yours,

Denis Forde,
Ballymurphy, Upton,
Co. Cork, Ireland.

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

[No. 40]

Copy/

Clooncaliga,
Moylough,
Co. Galway,
January 10, 1922.

C.K. France, Esq.,
Standard Hotel,
Harcourt Street,
Dublin.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to state that my dwellinghouse and outoffices were burned to the ground, completely destroyed, by Crown Forces, on June 5th, 1921. All my furniture was also burned, also chickens and Hens and three head of cattle partly burned - one of my neighbours gave me shelter for some time afterwards, and when I got the first grant from you of £54.0.0. - and with the assistance of a few kind friends I put a galvanized roof on one of the outoffices, which I am since using as a temporary residence. Your great kindness in giving me a loan of £150.0.0. to assist me to rebuild and roof my dwelling house is indeed most valuable to me, and though it will take years to have it as it was before it was burned, - if it was not for the great work the White Cross is doing for others like me, we would be in terrible hardship.

Again thanking you, I beg to remain,
Yours faithfully,
Bridget Geraghty.

[No. 41]

Copy/

Clifden, January 20th, 1922.

Sir:-

On 17th. March, 1921, at 5 p.m. my residence and all its contents together with my Carpenter's shop and Store with their contents were maliciously and completely destroyed by fire by English Forces of the Crown. Myself who am 75 years of age and my wife who is an invalid for the last 16 years had to jump out of bed without one minute's notice; ordered out and had to walk one mile with only our night clothes before we could get shelter in a hut. We were left homeless and penniless. We have no relations that we know nearer to us than (sic) the U.S.A. They are all of the working class and at present have enough to do for themselves. In fact we are in very bad circumstances. And only for your good Society I do not know how we could get along before getting £150. I got from the White Cross Committee here in Clifden the following:- £10, £5, £10 and four payments of £1, 10 - which amounted to £31.

I was awarded a loan by the Reconstruction Commission of your Society of £275 and have got £150, which leaves a balance of £125. When I got the £150 I had to buy some clothes, shoes and keep ourselves with food and pay rent for the house we occupy.

I was awarded on the 18th June 1921, at Oughterard Quarter Sessions £540 compensation, which is very short to cover my loss. When I got the £15-0 the weather being so bad I could not undertake to get any work done, and at present the weather continues bad; but as soon as the weather takes up I will start to build and will expend all I can with economy, and any work I get done I will get it done well. labour and materials are very high, but we must do the best we can.

I am one of the worst and hardest hit objects in Ireland, and since this Hellish thing happened it left me unable to use a writing pen.

Independently of the Laon (sic), of your Society could give me some aid. I would, and do require it badly.

I am sending by post two pictures, - one of my dwelling house and one of my workshop and store.

My occupation is house-carpenter and Farrier, but the destruction was so complete it left me homeless and penniless completely.

Sir, I would like you would make use of my name in any way you think proper.

James Guilfoyle,
Carpenter, etc.,
Clifden, Co. Galway.

To/

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

P.S. The £150 instalment I will make the most I can, but goes very short when it has to go in different directions.

J.G.

[No. 42]

COPY.

Rossroe,
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 panel 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.

Other using (sic) 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 fitting 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 rolf (sic) 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 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.

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

[No 43]

Copy/JS

See statement and application already sent by Mrs Comerford.

ENNISCORTHY

RECOMMENDATION FOR A LOAN.

1

Mrs Brigid Moran. Her child, a girl of 17 months, whose father was killed as a result of the strife in Ireland.

Wm. Moran. All of Church Street, Enniscorthy.

2

John Moran, age 33, was taken from his bed by Crown Forces Drogheda (sic) on the night of February 5th, 1921, and killed.

William Moran, an old man, with his wife, his son John, and two daughters, had a small tailoring (sic) and dressmaking business in Church Street, Enniscorthy. They were all very keen and active Republicans. Specialised in the making of Irish national Costumes, as well as ordinary suits and dressed (sic); won 15 prizes for Kilts; used as far as possible Irish materials and spoke Irish. John was a very active member of the I.R.A.

The house was continually raided and so much stock was destroyed that the business cannot recover and the Moran Family are in great difficulty and distress.

John married and went with his wife Brigid, and their child to Drogheda. He was a first class printer, obtained work there at from £5. to £6. a week and was promised promotion. He sent £1. a week to his father. They bought furniture and settled down, but he continued his military activities.

On the night of February 5th, he was taken out by Crown Forces and marched away with another prisoner. The voices of the two prisoners were heard protesting "no, never, no!" and in the morning their dead bodies were found torn with bayonets.

Mrs. Moran had no money- she had 2/6 actually in the house. Wm. Moran took her back to Enniscorthy where she is kept alternately by him and by her mother. She is receiving 25/- weekly from the local White Cross for herself and her child.

Brigid Moran is a very gentle, quiet girl, still in broken health and unable to do much for herself. She is a wise and careful Mother and her child seems healthy and promising. She seems dependent for advice on the Morans who are affectionate and kind to her and could, I think, be entrusted with her interests. They are all extremely anxious about the future of the child, as they are falling into poverty and there seems no prospect for Mrs. Moran but to live on 25/- weekly from the White Cross.

III

Compensation claimed was £10,000.

“ granted was

to Brigid Moran	£ 1,250.)
for the child.	1,200.) £2,900
to Wm. Moran.	450.)

IV

After much consultation with the Morans and with Mrs. Comerford, I conclude that the White Cross could help the whole family and secure the future of the child by means of a loan to establish and enlarge Wm. Moran's business. They have an

established custom in the town and in connection with the White Cross Workrooms in Dublin could doubtless find a further market.

V

Five adults are effected- Wm. Moran, his wife, and two daughters, and Brigid Moran and one child.

The business would employ Wm. Moran, his wife, one daughter, who is a dressmaker, Brigid Moran who makes children's clothes and could be trained to other branches, possibly a second daughter who is an accountant in temporary work, and very probably girls of the town who do fine crochet work taught in the convents. Brigid Moran would eventually become independent of White Cross relief.

The Morans feel confident that with a loan of £200. they could make their business pay.

I strongly recommend a loan of at least this amount and recommend that money be secured to Brigid Moran for her child.

Mrs. Moran knows Mrs. Figgis- Her father and son were in Frongroche Prison together.

(signed) DOROTHY MACARDLE.

6.8.1921

[No. 44]

JS/COPY.

1

MRS. MURPHY, CLONEYBYRNE, NR. ENNISCORTHY.

2

Mrs. Murphy, an aged widow, with her daughter Annie, and four sons, all adults and active Republicans, have a small cottage and a farm (sic) at Cloneybyrne. They were frequently raided.

On February 15th, at night, Black and Tans rushed the cottage- threw petrol on the furniture and prepared to burn it. Mrs. Murphy had been ill and bed-ridden for some time and her daughter pleaded for her- "God damn her, get her out, the old hag" was the Officer's reply. They all got out and the boys escaped. The officers fired the cottage using bombs. Miss Murphy tried to save some clothes and one of the attackers threw petrol on the nightdress she was wearing and threw a lighted match on her. She extinguished the flames and then with the help of neighbours put out the fire in the house.

A good deal of furniture was destroyed but the chief damage was to stores of hay - 30 tons were burnt- turnips and straw.

3

Damage of £2,000. was claimed against Forces but the claim was not heard.

4

The family are now in debt and cannot afford necessary farm equipment. Their chief requirement is horses for Autumn work. I recommend a loan of £50. or £100.

5

Six adults.

6

The family would be self-supporting and probably employ farm hands.

7

No one concerned has, so far, claimed or received relief from the White Cross, but a Local Committee is being formed and will have to give relief eventually if the farm fails.

The Solicitor for the Murphys is Mr. Drincar. of Enniscorthy.

The Murphys were visited by Mrs. Despard and Mrs. Comerford who reported, I believe, to the White Cross.

Priest: Fr. Doyle, Kilingshiel, Nr. Enniscorthy.

(SIGNED) DOROTHY MACARDLE.

AUGUST 5th.

[No. 45]

COPY/JS.

JOHN LEARY, BALLYHANDLE, UPTON, CORK.

- 2 Complete destruction of house, furniture, and entire effects, also hay, straw, etc.
- 3 Claim lodged in Court but not heard. £2,000. claimed.
- 4 For the purpose of roofing in part of house temporarily to make habitable for the winter, urgent matter.
- 5 Father, Mother, two daughters, one son home - one Spike Island.

NOTE:- Help is needed very urgently or those people will be exposed to the winter. No suitable outhouse. £200. needed.

(SIGNED) T. V. HONAN.

27-8-21.

[No. 46]

COPY/JS.

EXTRA SPECIAL

- 1 Wm. Dwyer, Kielroe, Eyeries, Castletownbere.
- 2 Complete destruction of house, one outhouse, best furniture and entire effects.
- 3 Claim not yet lodged, about to lodge one.
- 4 For purposes of re-roofing house. Very Urgent.
- 5 Eight boys and three girls.

This is an extremely hard case. Father and Mother buried a very short time previously, small poor farmers - on side of mountain. All (eleven) sheltered at present under temporary rush roof in a most wretchedly small one apartment (sic) cabin, and in great need. Immediate relief very necessary.

About £200. would at least make situation humane.

I recommend strongly special attention to this case.

(SIGNED) T. V. HONAN.

MOST URGENT OF ALL.

[No. 47]

COPY/JS

PARISH BALLINA.

- 1 Mrs. Meagher, Newtown, Derrycastle, Killaloe.
- 2 House and entire effects - nothing saved - destroyed 20th January, 1921.
- 3 £1,250. awarded in British Court.
- 4 To repair, furnish (partly) bedding clothes etc. for an old house lent by a good neighbour.
- 5 Parent, 2 boys, 2, girls (all over 16).
- 6&7 Nominal.

NOTE: This is a very bad case, destruction complete. Claimant Blacksmith - failing sight - completely lost since burning and cannot work. No income save some few shillings one of the boys earn. Loan of £150. or so very necessary.

(SIGNED)
T.V. HONAN.
12.8.21.

[No. 48]

COPY/JS

BALLINA PARISH.

- 1 Thomas Meara, Derrycastle, Killaloe.
- 2 House and complete effects destroyed.
- 3 Claim made in British Court - £1,300. awarded.
- 4 To repair and partly furnish outhouse so as to make habitable, also for purchase of some bedding and clothes. Nothing saved. Sleeping partly on the floor (earthen).
- 5 Two old batchelors (sic) in a very bad way.
- 6&7 Nominal.

NOTE: Above are in a very bad way. Small loan urgently recommended by

(SIGNED) T.V. HONAN.

12.8.21.

[No. 49]

COPY/JS.

PARISH OF KILBLANE.

MICHAEL LARKIN, LEITRIM, O'BRIEN'S BRIDGE, CO. CLARE.

Furniture destroyed 9th November, 1920. £490. claimed and granted.

Second visit - 20th January, 1921. House completely destroyed, also hay, straw, etc.

In the house were father, mother, four boys and five girls. Three children going to school.

There are at present living in one room, and the rain is running in.

A loan of £150 would enable them to cover the house and outoffices for the winter.

[No. 50]

COPY.

LYMNAUGH, HEADFORD,
CO. GALWAY.
14-1-'22.

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

Dear Sirs:-

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 took 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 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 dwelling house, 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.

[No. 51]

Copy/

Drimoleague,
January 11th, 1922.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of the 6th inst, I wish to state what I had to endure during the recent war, which is as follows:-

There was a policeman fired at and wounded in the village of Drimoleague about 9 p.m. and in about ten minutes after the Black and Tans came up from the Barracks and began firing into my house, which was occupied at the time by myself and my daughter; but luckily we were able to make our escape by a back door, having to crawl on our face and hands from a hail of bullets which were directed at our house, as all the time they thought we were inside. The next day the Military and Crown Forces raided me (sic) house, which was situated about half mile from the Village of Drimo. at a place called Gurrane, and enquired for myself and my son, but we had our escape made and were forced to go on the run. On that night - September 29th, Crown Forces came and burned my village house and its contents to the ground. There was no one there on the night in question as we had fled since the night before on account of the firing. Then the farmhouse was left in charge of four girls, and as it was situated less than half miles from the Barracks it was often raided three times a day, so that my girls were forced to go to lodgings in neighbouring houses during the winter months.

Not content with all this my farmhouse was burned on the 1st. June 1921 as an official reprisal, and we were able to save nothing (sic) except our own clothes; of course we got permission to save foodstuffs, but I need not tell you that we used to keep only a very small supply as if we had any surplus the Tans knew well how to lay hands on it. Only an eye-witness can realize what those burnings mean when all which you possess is given over to destruction; when you have not as much left as a cup to take a drink, a bed to lie on or a roof over you - save the canopy of Heaven.

Then my son was arrested on June 15th, on the occasion of a general roundup, and up to the time of writing is still a prisoner. When he was arrested I then had my liberty, as it was only a case, like many others - if the son could not be found arrest the Father.

Then my girls and myself were forced to live in a little cabin made up for us by the young men of the neighbourhood, and to give you an idea of the extent they tried to persecute us to, Military Lorries came along commandeering men to fill in road trenches, and of course, came to the ruins of my house: but all the men had gone to a place of safety and had to remain in hiding until the lorries had gone away, - when they returned and finished the little temporary cabin. While they were looking for the men one of them used to say to the other, "They made a good job of that burning; that's the only way to quieten those murderers", and a lot more such expressions.

Now I have got a Loan of £100, which has enabled me to rebuild my farmhouse, but my house in the village is still in ruins, and I have applied for a Loan to help to rebuild it; as that was the house I lived in where I carried on the business of a Bootmaker, which, owing to the burning is now completely lost.

I am also getting a weekly allowance of £2. in order to pay men to work the farm, as my own health is not of the best owing to the hardships I had to endure while I was away from home, as I am close on 70 years.

I am sorry I have no pictures of my houses. We had one of the village house but it was destroyed in the second burning; but later on I might be able to get one as a lot of travellers took the picture of the village one.

I think now I have given you a fairly good account of what I had to endure during the war, so I must close.

Yours sincerely,
James Sullivan.

P.S. I am getting the weekly allowance since the end of August, 1921. You can use my name when writing the book. J.S.

[No. 52]

Copy/

Coosan,
Athlone,
January 16th, 1922.

Dear Sir:-

I am pleased to comply with your request of the 1st inst.

My home is situated in Coosan. In June last, about midnight, our home was surrounded by Crown Forces, armed with revolvers. We were ordered out, and found the roof already in flames. The raiders sprinkled everything inside with petrol and set fire to all. We only got time to remove a few articles of clothing, everything being consumed in a few minutes. They also destroyed cow-shed and stables containing farm implements and bicycle. My two brothers and my sister were much affected by our home been destroyed. My brother and sister had to go to lodgings. One brother and myself are still sleeping in a zinc covered shed, which is most inconvenient and expensive to us.

Before being granted Loan we received the sum of £12, which helped us well. We were later granted a loan of £243, of which we have received £100, and are about to receive the remainder.

We have rebuilt and roofed cowshed, and are starting the dwelling.

I have no objection to my name being published. And I greatly desire to thank you and our American friends for all they have done to help us in the fight for Freedom.

I remain,
Sincerely Yours,
Patrick Moore.

C.J. France, Esq., Director,
American Committee for Relief in Ireland,
Standard Hotel, Dublin.

[No 53]

COPY

Main Street,
Midleton,
Co. Cork, Ireland.
January 20th, 1921.

Dear Sir:-

On January 1st, 1921 my premises were visited by Crown Forces (British), to carry out an Official Reprisal, I being Chairman of the Local Urban Council and living in the vicinity of where an ambush took place should have known and failed to report it to the Military, there was a notice served to clear out of our home and take nothing but our personal belongings. They commenced operations by breaking up all our furniture with an axe, for instance, the cover and keyboard of Piano, doors off sideboard, wardrobes, etc., - infact (sic) all we possessed. They then visited the Shop or Store (Grocery, Spirit and Provisions) destroyed and looted the entire stock. Then before taking their departure they placed bombs in the shop and again in the upper portion of the house, which blew off the roof and shattered the entire premises. It was my only means of living, all my capital was sunk in the buying of the house and stock in trade. My family and myself were left homeless and I may say penniless as well.

About nine months after I received a Loan from the White Cross of £150, which went to pay rent, rates and a bit of stock to try and re-open my business, the truce being on at the time.

I will send picture of my ruined home in a week or two.

I may add that I am very grateful for the assistance given me by the White Cross.

I remain,
Yours gratefully,
Edmund Carey.

C.J. France, Esq., Director,
American Committee for Relief in Ireland,
Standard Hotel,
Dublin.

[No. 54]

Copy/

Ballinaboutra,
Carrigtwohill.
Co. Cork.
17/1/22.

Mr. C.J. France, Director,
American Committee for Relief in Ireland,
Standard Hotel,
Dublin.

Sir:-

In compliance with your request I will furnish you with details re destruction of my premises etc. at above address.

They were destroyed by the Military as an official reprisal on January 1st, 1921, by setting fire to the dwelling house, barn and dairy, with their contents.

Living since in an outhouse with little or no accommodation for either sleeping or cooking, and having to go to a neighbour's house for shelter for a long part of the time since. Financially we were prevented from doing our work in proper time, - leaving our crops late resulting in poor yield; no place to manage milk or butter rendering these things much below the market value.

I received from White Cross, One hundred and fifty pounds (150). It will enable me to make the outhouse habitable, so that we can be a bit comfortable and make some necessary alterations in it. Also it will enable me to carry on my business as a farmer.

I enclose picture of my premises after they were destroyed, as requested.

Thanking you and the American Committee for Relief in Ireland.

Yours very gratefully,
William Dorgan.

[No. 55]

Copy/

Ballingard,
Ballynacally,
County Clare.

The Secretary,
American Committee for Relief in Ireland,
Standard Hotel,
Harcourt Street, Dublin.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your circular letter of the 6th. instant I beg to inform you that the loan of £4 0 (sic) which the Irish White Cross advanced me was in respect of the burning of my furniture, hay, straw, car, creel, and other out-door effects on the 2nd day of June 1921.

About 4 p.m. on that date seven motor lorries containing Military and Blackand (sic) Tans ~~and~~ Police halted on the roadside outside my dwelling house, situate at Ballynagard, Ballynacally, in a remote part of the county of Clare. The occupants of the lorries then took out my furniture, set fire to and completely destroyed same. At the same time they destroyed by fire a rick of hay and a rick of straw, also a common car creel and other outdoor effects.

I am tenant of a small farm out of which I have to maintain myself, my wife and five children, so that you will easily understand that the action of the persons mentioned left me practically destitute.

I have applied under the Criminal Injury Acts for Compensation to the amount of £515, as so far this is apparently the only means of keeping alive the claim for damages for injuries of the kind suffered by me. The claim however, has not yet been heard owing to the fact that the County Court Judgesin (sic) Martial Law areas were and are prohibited from hearing claims for damages for injuries perpetrated by the armed forces of the British Government.

Yours faithfully,
John Cusack.

[No. 56]

COPY

Ahaclare,
Broadford,
Co. Clare.
25th January, 1922.

Dear Sir:-

In compliance with your request I beg to give you some particulars of the destruction of my dwelling house and farm produce by English soldiers, armed and disguised, on the night of January 20th, 1921.

At 3 p.m. (sic) on January 20th the "Glenwood" ambush took place, when six R.I.C. were killed, 1 seriously wounded, and three escaped uninjured. As Glenwood is two miles from this place I had hopes that I would not have to suffer in the subsequent reprisals that invariably followed an ambush. But I was soon to be sadly undeceived.

Two parties of English soldiers, armed, masked, and half drunk, assisted by local R.I.C., one starting from Killaloe and the other from Tulla, set out on that eventful night to wreak vengeance on a peaceful countryside. Their trail is readily distinguishable by fire and blood. Beginning at the Co-operative Creamery at Bridgetown at 10 p.m. they finish their ignoble work of destruction at 4 a.m. having during that time destroyed a Creamery and 20 farmer's houses and furniture, and all their farm produce.

At midnight the crashing of glass and smashing of doors of my dwelling house was the signal for me that a reprisal was on. Having entered the house through the broken doors and windows, the English soldiers, armed and disguised, ordered me and my wife and two daughters out. My two sons were not there, being "on the run" for some time.

With savage cruelty and scanty attire we were driven, on that cold bleak night, at the point of bayonet and revolver from that dear home that had taken a generation's loving toil and care to erect and neatly maintain on the sunny slopes of Ahaclare. While one party of soldiers kept guard over us, another party was completing the work of destruction. Having saturated floors, ceilings and furniture with petrol, they set fire to the dwellinghouse. Nothing was allowed to be saved from it. My hay and oats were also burned. We were the unwilling witnesses of our home on fire all that long night. What a pitiful picture do the gaunt ruins present next morning, still smouldering, with an occasional flicker. What prayers are wafted to heaven that these may be symbolic of the expiring kicks of the arch-enemy of our race in his 750 years' grip of our native land.

Hurriedly scanning the country around I soon detected 9 or 10 other farm houses on fire. A great night's work for England surely! That was her method of stifling the aspirations of Irishmen. But no, that fire would fan to flames any dormant spark of patriotism in a slave. But always passionately loving my country, I was now a rebel. Can you blame me? Without boots to our feet, and half-naked, I and all that were dear to me were now homeless on the roadside. Where, of (sic) where shall we turn for shelter? But Irish hearts are full of kindness, sympathy and generosity; and the wrost (sic) being over, the work of converting a barn into a living room, where we have through the rigours of two winters dwelt, now begins.

Through this great disaster and the activities of the enemy in general, I have suffered much. My eldest son was a prisoner in Wormwood Scrubbs for 5 months. A

moderate estimate of his loss to me through money and parcels sent him while in prison, and employing a man to work on the farm during his imprisonment and for six months subsequent to his release as he was unable to work after undergoing a hunger strike for 21 days, would be £100.

The Military fired 6 shots at my second son, early in January. He was “on the run” for 6 months; the elder for a year. Work on the farm was practically, if not wholly, suspended, as sniping at farm labourers was a favourite pastime for the Soldiers and R.I.C. Owing to my hay being destroyed my cattle deteriorated in value to the amount of £100.

From the Reconstruction Commission of the Irish White Cross I received £25, previous to the £300 loan for reconstruction purposes. My house is roofed and slated again, and flowing majestically in the breeze are two flags - the “Stars & Stripes” and the “Green, White & Gold”, - our Infant Republic sending greetings of gratitude to the Great Republic of the West for her loyalty, sympathy and generosity in our hour of trial.

Our deepest gratitude is due and hereby tendered to our American sympathizers who have helped in a substantial manner to alleviate our sufferings by their munificent financial assistance.

I am,
Yours very gratefully,
JOHN DILLON.

[No. 57]

COPY/

Bridge Street,
Strokestown.

24. 1. '22.

Dear Sir,

In reply to yours of the 6th instant.

I beg to state I was in prison for a year and about two years on the run. As a result my wife and eight young children were dependent on the charity of others as they had no one to attend to my business, namely, Sawmills, Threshing, etc., and all my machinery was practically derelict.

Thanks to the Irish White Cross I got money to start my business again, and to renew and attend to my machinery. Had they not come to the rescue I had no means, not even to buy fuel etc. to run the machinery much less to buy materials to work on.

Yours faithfully,
(sd) James Ryan.

C.J. France, Esq.,
Standard Hotel,
Harcourt Street, Dublin.

P.S. The loan I received was £350.0.0

[No. 58]

COPY.

Mullinahone,
CO. TIPPERARY.
Jany 9th, 1922.

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

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your letter to hand. I now beg to supply the required information.

(a) My premises were destroyed as an official reprisal in broad daylight by the military, who proceeded to wreck the roof, doors, windows, and furniture, with a set of axes and crow bars, with which implements they came provided, and with which they completed their work in less than two hours.

(b) This meant the house left uninhabitable, and our business lost, and we were obliged to live on the charity of our friends.

(c) None prior to loan, but am now in receipt of £6.0.0. per month from White Cross.

(d) Amount of Loan £300, which has been the means of saving my house from utter ruin, as it has enabled me to have the roof put on before the really bad weather. I hope to be able to repair the front of the shop with the balance still on hands. But there are 20 windows to be repaired, and there is practically not a stick of furniture left to us. Still without the kindly assistance of your association we would have been much worse off.

I enclose a photo of the exterior of house, but it extends a long way at the back, and is much larger than it appears to be. It gives but a poor idea of the interior wreckage, as the fact of no explosives being used makes it look pretty well in the front, - the walls being cemented. I enclose a second photo of my son sitting amidst the wreckage in his bed-room, which may also be of some interest.

I now take this opportunity of expressing through you, my best thanks to the good people of who so generously helped us in our needs.

I remain,
Very respectfully yours,
(Sd). Ellen M. Redmond.

[No. 59]

Copy/

Inchintaglin,
Adrigole,
Bantry, County Cork.

A Chara:-

The following is an account in detail of the destruction caused by the Military to the house and property of Eugene F. O'Sullivan, as an official reprisal for the shooting of soldiers, which took place several miles distant. The destruction was carried out by a party of K.O.S.B. who arrived at 8 a.m. on the 25th. day of May, 1921. They first ordered the family - consisting of father and mother and two daughters, and an invalid son whose illness was a result of illtreatment (sic) while in military custody, to clear out. They then laid their explosives around the walls of the dwelling house which completely demolished the entire building, and contents of: Furniture, bed and bedding, clothing and all the family belongings of boots, books household utensils, etc. They then laid similar explosives round the walls of the outhouses of barn, dairy, and fowl housedestroying (sic) them similarly, - burning therein farm implements of all kinds, milk and butter, and killing several fowl and a young calf. Prior to the blowing up of the house the three sons of the family were "wanted" men and were searched for twenty times in all. These raid-s (sic) and searches were carried out in all times of the night by Auxiliary, Black and Tan, and Military Firces (sic), who often came disguised and armed with intent to murder, but happily were always disappointed, - often threatening to shoot me if I could not tell where my sons were. Owing to the continual raids and searches the only three men of the family able to work had to go "on the run", with the result that for more than twelve months the crops and work generally were unattended to, a springing cow, value then for £25, being lost as a result of the neglect, there being no one to see after them. The family consists of the following members:- Eugene O'Sullivan, father, 68 years of age, unable to work owing to rheumatism, and only goes about with the aid of a stick, and is in poor health since the loss of his house. Nano Dunne, Mrs. O'Sullivan, wife, 65 years of age, got her mind deranged right after the destruction of the house, and is up to the present in hospital under the care of a doctor. Tady, eldest son, 32 years of age, was arrested and illtreated (sic) while in custody.

Pronneas, second son. Donnachadh, third son, 28 years of age, - did some work at home, though he was never able to sleep there. Eoghan, fourth son, 25 years of age, - had to go "on the run" early in 1921, as the police and Military made repeated searches for him, being a volunteer officer, - it was at considerable risk he ventured home.

Maire, eldest daughter, 27 years of age, Was working, but had to leave her position in order to nurse her mother during the time she lay ill prior to her removal to hospital.

Nora, second daughter, 24 years of age. Working at home in helping the housework.

Neanse, third daughter 22 years of age. Being away from home took ill because of the home worry, and was in hospital during the three months of the Summer.

Michael fifth son, 21 years of age. Had been the whole year on the run; could not even visit home. He was a prominent Volunteer Officer and served with the West Cork Flying Column.

Sighle, youngest daughter, working at home, assisting in housekeeping. She too had a narrow escape as she was fired on, between fifteen and twenty bullets passing within an inch of her. All the family are now at home, and it is impossible for them to live in a locality devoid of employment.

Early in June the White Cross granted a loan of £50, which was indeed very welcome and which was expended in buying food and bedding, and other necessaries that enabled the family to live for the time. During the time that elapsed after the blowing up of the house - up to the time the local Volunteers erected a temporary cabin, which was not even waterproof as it had only a roofing of thatch. This cabin was inadequate to shelter the whole family, who had more often to sleep in the open air under severe weather of rain and storm. On a visit from Inspectors of the Irish White Cross, who saw for themselves the misery we were brought to, granted a Loan of £200 which enabled us to build a house, which otherwise would have been impossible for me to do. This house, which we now live in, is not completely finished, and contains only a limited amount of furniture and bedding. This Grant helped do far, but a further Loan from the Munster and Leinster Bank, partially and roughly repaired a few of the outhouses which are now sorely needed to house the cattle during the winter. Not alone the immediate loss caused by the wanton destruction but the subsequent loss which was most pitiable. For days the milk cows had to be let hold their milk, as there were no vessels into which to milk them, and then when they were milked it was to the mercy of both cat and dog.

I am sorry the picture of the ruined dwelling is a faint one, as there was really nothing but debris to be sketched.

From the foregoing facts you can see that but for the White Cross Relief we would be in a pitiable condition at present.

Per Nance O'Sullivan.

Is mise,
Le mor meas orth,
Eugen O'Sullivan.

(Continued from Pronneas, second son:-

Pronneas, engaged in Dublin, had to leave his position, causing him serious loss, owing to the Military being on his track.

About twelve months ago he started an Irish College at Glengariff, where he taught the language to people who came there from all parts of the country.

The British Government Officials having a hatred for the use of our language, the local Police stationed at Glengariff R.I.C. Barracks went one night during his stay there, at an unknown hour, set fire to the Eccles Hotel Garage, and his Moto (sic) Bicycle which was in the Garage was completely burned to ashes, - this also causing him a terrible loss

I will forward photo as soon as I can as I have none printed.

E.O'S.

[No. 60]

COPY/

Camp,
Castleisland,
Co. Kerry.

C.J. France, Esq.,

Dear Sir,

I beg to thank you and through you the people of America for their generous contributions to the American Committee for Relief in Ireland.

On Sunday, 24th April, following an attempted train ambush in our locality my premises were surrounded by Crown Forces openly and in uniform who without allowing us to remove anything completely destroyed the whole place informing us it was done as an official reprisal. They did the work in a very thorough manner completely destroying a fully furnished dwelling-house and all the farm buildings, while the uprights of the hay shed were broken that the roof should come down on the blazing hay where it was completely destroyed. It is indeed hard to find words to sufficiently express ones gratitude to so generous a people when one recalls that beautiful April.morning (sic) the evening od (sic) which spelled so much ruin to me and mine. When I saw my place surrounded by British soldiers, my only son manacled and cast into prison. When I saw the home which we cherished and which years of toil made comfortable and happy ablaze, and before evening's sun had gone down was but a smouldering ruin. When I saw that our farmyard was no more, our cattle without fodder or shelter. When I saw my girls come forth from the burning buildings with a few little articles they prized only to have them torn from their hands and cast back into the flames.

Ah Sir! my heart should indeed be callous if it did not glow out in beautiful gratitude to your generous countrymen for the aid I have received through the Irish White Cross now amounting to a loan of £100. and a grant of £25. which provided us with a temporary hut and urgently necessary utensils and clothing. No Sir, my heart is not callous or my spirits daunted by the savageries perpetrated on our country and on our people, nor will I regret for my country's sake should destiny so ordain to spend the evening of my life in that lonely substitute for my spacious sitting and dining rooms with all their antiquated furniture and valuable, my pantry shorn of its plenty; my comfortable bedrooms from which I once hoped to start the long, long, journey to that Court which knows no injustice.

Yours gratefully,
(sd) Honoria O'Connor.

[No. 61]

COPY.

Killarney Rd.
Castleisland,
CO. KERRY.

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

Sir,

I beg to tender your Committee my sincerest thanks for their help during my time of distress and trouble. In October, 1920, the Military burned my hay, which was the sole food I had for my cattle for the Winter. Having no money spared, and a helpless family of ten depending on me you can realize what this meant to me. In April, 1921, the Military burned my cow-sheds and stables.

Were it not for the Weekly Relief given me by the White Cross I could not possibly maintain my family. The loan of £30 which I received helped me to erect a shelter for my cattle and a horse.

Let me state again in conclusion that my gratitude to you that my gratitude is deep and abiding. May God bless you all for your great Christian Charity.

I remain, dear Sir,
Yours gratefully,
(Sd). Denis M. O'Donoghue.

P.S.

I had to pay 5/- weekly for shelter for horse and cattle from April 1st to May 20th, till weather was fine enough to let them out for the night.

D.M. O'D.

[No. 62]

Copy/

Limerick Street,
Cappawhite.
January 9th, 1922.

C.J. France, Esq., Director,
American Committee for Relief in Ireland,
Dublin,

Sir:-

With reference to your inquiry re damage done to me and mine. In October, 1920, Military raided my house for a brother of mine who had to leave his work. He worked as a Farrier with me, and I had to employ a man to take his place; from that to Christmas we had several raids at my house and my father's house. On January 17th. 1921 the Black and Tans burned my house - which was a licensed premises, and it fully stocked with everything in the licensed and grocery trade. On the same night they broke all the windows in my father's house. On the following night they broke the windows of my brother's workshop, who is a carpenter, and burned some timber trying to get it on fire, - it was on fire when it was put out by some neighbours.

I have three brothers, one a Farrier, who was gone since October 1920, another a carpenter, who was idle for a long time, another a harness maker, who was also idle. For when you have a member of your family attached to a column they have a special eye on you, and you have got to be careful of yourself. On the 19th. January they made an attempt to burn my forge. They broke a part of the roof, a Vice, a Drilling Machine. There were three of us working in the forge. We had to give up work for a month. In or about the 16th of may 1921 the Black and Tans came to my forge while we were gone to our lunch - and lucky for us at that - and fired several shots into it before going in and cutting my bellows to pieces and damaged several tools. There were 3 Smiths, 1 Harness-maker and 2 Carpenters idle from that to the 1st August.

We got £20 from the White Cross as a weekly allowance for being idle.

I got £50 Loan for damage done to my forge, and a grant of £300 for my house of which I have £150 got. I am building my house, and that amount would not be much good for me but for getting a little help from my father.

Yours truly,
Thomas Ryan.

[No. 63]

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.

[No. 63a]

HOUSE OF MARY ANNE ROCHE, MAIN STREET
MILTON-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 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 hand (sic) 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 to pieces all made noise like thunder. We hurried downstairs 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 everyone in Miltown. These hirelings celebrated the Armistice at my expense.

(Sd). Mary Anne Roche.

[No. 64]

COPY.

KENNYBOROUGH,
BALLINTUBBER,
CO. ROSCOMMON.

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

Dear Sir:-

In compliance with your request, I give as far as possible a description of the injury done me & my property by British forces during the War in Ireland

I am a farmer of 20 acres of land, residing at above address. My family is composed of myself, wife, three sons living with me on the farm, and two grandchildren, - one age 3 years, the other 5 years. These are the children of one of my sons who is an American citizen and living there at present. They were born in America, but on the death of their mother were brought to me to be looked after. My two eldest sons at home have been connected with the Sinn Fein and Volunteer movement since 1916. The British forces seem to have got to know of the fact early in the fight, and were very anxious to know the movements of the boys. To acquire this knowledge and effect their capture my house was raided on several occasions by the famous Black & Tans and Military. The first of these raids took place in September 1920. This raid was carried out in daylight by forces composed of Military & R.I.C. The next - a midnight raid on the night of November 22nd, 1920, by British Forces wearing masks and fully armed, opened the door and demanded the whereabouts of my sons. On my refusing to give the required information they threatened to burn my house and all it contained, but after a thorough search of the place in which they pulled everything about in a savage manner, and taking possession of whatever money or other articles of value they could find they departed promising to call again in a few days.

The next raid on the morning of January 6th, 1921, carried out again by masked Black & Tans & R.I.C. On entering they again demanded where my sons were. I denied having seen them since the previous visit. On hearing this the charge hand of the masked gang covered me with a revolver, called me everything but a gentleman, and told me the gruesome story that they had found one of my sons with two others of his comrades in a neighbouring house. They said he and another had escaped but they had done for one. The morning light proved the story true, as the boy, P. Durr, was found dead in a field riddled with bullets.

The next raid took place on May 10th, carried out by British soldiers this time in daylight. They again sought information of my sons whereabouts. I again refused to give any. The usual search again took place. The result was the discovery of two bicycles which they took with them. I was under the impression that I would be left in peace after this visit for at least a few days, but on that same night when all were in bed, the door was burst in, and an order given by one of the masked visitors to clear out of the house in five minutes. This order was accompanied by a number of shots. At first I refused to leave - a revolver was then levelled at my head, paraffin oil sprinkled about the place, and one of

the rooms set in flames. I had scarcely time to get my wife and the two little children on the road in their night attire when the whole place went up in flames, consuming all the furniture, clothing, etc. which the house contained. The raiders did not seem to have satisfied their thirst for revenge at leaving us homeless. They next turned their attention to the hay-yard, and destroyed between 15 & 20 tons of hay. That day we got shelter from a neighbour.

The morning of May 11th saw us homeless my greatest anxiety was for my wife and the two little American visitors who were left in my care, but when God had saved all our lives (I considered I have reason to be thankful. My next trouble was to find a temporary shelter. One of the cattle shed which had been saved from the fire by the timely assistance of the neighbours was the only place available. With a good bit of trouble and expense I made it fairly habitable and went to live there with my nerve-shaken family, till my sons, who had been on the run for several months at this time, could come and assist me in repairing the damage.

During all this trouble I could not attend properly to my work on the farm, thereby undergoing heavy losses in various ways. I received as a free Grant from the White Cross in sums amount in all to £34. That amount is outside the Loan which was granted for rebuilding purposes. The amount of the Loan granted to me is £300. This money has greatly assisted me in having stones and other materials supplied for the erection of a much needed home.

Trusting this letter shall give you an idea of life here during the reign of terror. I wish to return my sincere thanks to you and all the good friends who have helped me in my troubles - especially to the friends of Ireland in America, who have at all times given their all for the Cause of the Old Land.

With many thanks, and kindest regards,
I am, Yours very Sincerely,
Patrick Cunnane.

[No. 65]

Copy/

Main Street,
Swanlinbar, County Cavan.

HOW MY PREMISES WERE DESTROYED.

A

Premises destroyed by fire on the night of the 17th December 1920, by Crown Forces, -including Military, & R.I.C.

The Military were drawn from Enniskillen - a distance of ten miles; The R.I.C. were local men. They surrounded the premises and sprayed it with petrol; smashed the windows and doors; also sprayed the inside of premises, and then set it alight. The fire lasted for ten or twelve hours, and the ruins kept smoking for five days.

B

The effects it had on my family were very serious. One son had to go "on the run" for 3 months, afterwards was arrested and interned for nine months. My other son who kept a butcher's shop could not carry on business for six months for want of accommodation, and continued raiding by Crown Forces. The loss financially amounted to £800, or odds, owing to burning of house, furniture, cash therein, and loss of business on my son's part. I had to reside in a cow-shed for 9 months, and it was not fit for human habitation.

C

I received no assistance from any person or Body of persons whatsoever, until I received the White Cross Loan.

D

The amount of Loan received was £100. This amount helped to furnish the house when it was rebuilt.

E

Owing to the trouble, I have no photograph of the premises.

Signed:

Mrs. Catherine McCauby. [recte McCauley]

To/

C.J. France
Standard Hotel,
Dublin.

[No. 66]

COPY/

Abbeydorney.
24th January, 1922.

Dear Sir,

I am a Blacksmith and live by my trade only. On the night of February 9th, 1921, my wife, daughter, and myself being the only occupants of the house. My two sons were on the run fearing they might be shot by the Black and Tans.

We were in bed between ten and eleven o'clock when loud knocking came to the door, it was thrown in with the sledge from my own forge. A lot of Black and Tans came in and told us to get up and clear out until they burned our house. It was a thatched one and they sprinkled it all over inside and outside with petrol and set it all ablaze. When we went out to look round my forge was all on fire, and what was not burned they took away with them.

I was idle all the time until the Truce. My Parish Priest, through the White Cross, gave me little help from time to time to support myself and my family, and then to repair my forge the amount of £33. I am still lodging with another family. I got £100. from the Irish White Cross also to do up my house which is nearly built now. Only for the White Cross we should have been unable to start our new house yet. We pray night and day for the kind American people who have always come to the aid of the suffering Irish people.

I am, dear Sir,
Yours sincerely,
(sd) Eugene Moriarty.

C.J. France, Esq.,
Harcourt Street,
Dublin.

[No. 67]

COPY.

Mulranny,
Co. Mayo.
Jany 17th, 1922.

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

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of letter of January 6th. I beg to state that my store and all my farm implements were burned down by Crown Forces on the 22nd June, 1921. I cannot find words to express my thanks to your American Committee for Relief in Ireland, that enabled me to buy a new cart to work my small farm which was the chief means of my living. I have no picture of the burned building at present, but if I can get one taken in the near future I will send it to you. May God always bless each and every one of your American Committee. The amount of the loan was £20.0.0. You may use my name as you desire.

With kind regards,
I remain,
sincerely yours,
(Sd). Patrick Moran.

[No. 68]

COPY.

Knockatoreen,
Kilkishan, Co. Clare.
Jany 30th, 1922.

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

Dear Sir:-

In reply to yours of the 23rd inst, I have to state as follows:-

(a) There was an ambush within 3 miles of my place, at Glenwood, on the 20th Jany. '21 whereat (sic) 6 policemen were killed, and a couple of others of same Force wounded. The Crown Forces, military and Police, came to our place that night, or early next morning, and burned all our hay and straw, outhouses and their contents, including Oats - about 100 Stones. The furniture, and other effects of dwelling were either burned or otherwise destroyed. Touching the dwelling itself - they had it fired, were certain very apparently it was going to be a successful conflagration. It was the last thing they applied the petrol to. They went away convinced that it was burned into cinders, but fortunately, after their departure, with neighbours' assistance we succeeded in extinguishing the flames. Result - there was but an inconsiderable portion of the thatch burnt. A bullock yearling died couple of days after above experience, got hurt somehow, - the walls of the outhouse it may be fell on him. I can't say for certain what led to his death, but he was well that evening before the terrorists arrived, and his death at date mentioned was manifestly the result of such as I have stated. They shot a pig dead which was nine months old.

(b) I am between 70 and 80 years of age. They dragged me out and beat me. They knocked or rather tore a nail off my finger. When putting on my coat - ordinary coat - they took it from me, poured oil on it and threw it into the flames. My wife and daughter were also most cruelly and savagely treated. Of course my boys had left that evening. Had any of them been in the house on the arrival of these ruffians, I can very well visualize the dire consequences. None of us slept in the house for three months. Where there were four boys, wife, daughter and myself, you can well picture what an amount of clothes we had. Well, after the destruction we were left but a few of the barest necessities.

(c) The White Cross, prior to time of loan, gave two sums, one of £11 and one of £12. £20 came to help to buy clothes from source not White Cross, I think.

(d) They (White Cross), have given £100 already, and another £100 has been granted. Half of the destroyed buildings has been restored after this, that is cow-houses, barn, stabbling (sic) piggery, etc. With the help of Grant which is coming, we shall continue the work of building and restoration. Hay and Straw had to be purchase after the arson; bullock & pig replaced, - clothes, both bedding and personal to be bought.

I am, Sir,
faithfully yours,
(Sd). John McNamara.

[No. 69]

COPY/

Drumcollogher.
20.1.'22.

Sir,

On May 14th last an ambush took place here, in which one member of the British Forces was killed and two wounded. For days afterwards we had the usual running hither and thither of Motor Lorries filled with military and Black and Tans who were let loose on the place and who went round writing threatening and offensive inscriptions on doors, windows and walls of many houses in the town. About 10 days later four lorries of British Soldiers accompanied by an Aeroplane and armed with all the machinery of war made a sudden swoop on the little town and immediately surrounded my place. With drawn revolvers and rifles at the ready, two officers and half a dozen men entered and enquired for my assistant and I, needless to say we were both 'not at home'. They read a list of charges against me such as being a Sinn Feiner, sympathising with Volunteers and such other charges, which in any country would be considered patriotic but which in Ireland was punished with long terms of imprisonment and even death. They gave my wife half an hour to clear food-stuffs and valuables in other words she might remove a loaf of bread or a pint of milk but could not remove valuable drapery and boots with which my shop was stocked. My little boy aged five years had to be taken out in his cot suffering from diphtheria about ten minutes before the house was blown to atoms.

There was not a stone left upon a stone, the only thing that was left was a picture of the Sacred Heart being on a gable wall was not damaged in any way though parts of the house were blown from 50 to 100 yds. away. The picture stood there suspended by a light cord on a small nail, the glass of which was not even soiled. One of the British Officers said after, though he was not a Catholic he had to give in to that.

After blowing up the house they went to the other end of the town to a store which I had newly built and which was filled with valuable drapery and boots, they took out all the goods they found and piled them in heaps, poured petrol over them and set them on fire - they then blew up the store. Some people in the vicinity attempted to save some boots and succeeded in doing so, but some Black and Tans came on, took the rescued stuff from them and threw it back again into the flames.

Fearing arrest, or even worse, I could not stay at home and did not come back until the Truce. Even then owing to the doubt as to whether hostilities would break out again I could not re-start business even in a temporary premises, consequently I am without earning one penny to support my wife and children since May last. The White Cross Reconstruction Commission granted me £500. towards erecting a temporary premises out of which I got a cheque for £200. Needless to say that cheque was of the greatest assistance to me. I am enclosing you photographs of the house as it was before being wrecked and as it looked after.

I remain, Sir,
Yours truly,
(sd) M.J. Murray.

P.S. Please return photographs and oblige.

[No. 70]

Copy/

Ballukilclin, 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 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 family 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 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 w as not able myself. You can use this letter and my name if you wish.

Yours truly,
Peter Reynolds.

C.J. France,

[No. 71]

COPY.

Ballyhandle,
UPTON.

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

Dear Sir:-

I received your letter with thanks. I am giving you some details of my burned premises.

I was burned out by Crown Forces on the 8th April, 1921. My dwelling house was completely burned out, also my furniture, bedding, clothes, food stuffs. Everything I had in my dwelling was completely burned, also all my out offices, cars, machinery, hay, straw, turnips, mangolds, potatoes, fowls of every description, and my family left homeless for six months. I had to leave my farm-yard and live in a cold cottage some distance away. My only son was "on the run" and in gaol for eight months. Since my house etc. were burned, I had no machinery or implements to do any work. I am an old man myself, - 73 years of age, and could not work. I received no White Cross money by the week, or in any way, only £2.0.0. last August, until I received the Loan of £200 to roof and slate my dwelling house. I am sorry I have no picture of my burned premises.

I would be only delighted to have my name published throughout America.

With kind regards to you.

Sincerely yours,
(Sd). John O'Leary.

[No. 72]

COPY.

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 of 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 from 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 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.

I remain,
Yours sincerely,
(SD). WILLIAM MAHER.

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

[No. 73]

MEELIN, NEWMARKET,
CO. CORK.
January 14th, 1922

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

Dear Sir:-

Undermentioned are the particulars requested regarding the destruction of my house and premises by Crown Forces, after an ambush in the immediate vicinity.

(a) My house is situated at the south-western side of a hill, about 1000 feet above sea-level. From this elevation the Crown Forces were, on the 4th January, 1921, attacked very near my house. On that evening - after an interval of two or three hours, reinforcements arrived and so terrified were we, (I, my wife, and family), eight altogether, that I almost wished we were dead, as we were in danger of being shot any moment. On the following day Crown Forces again came on, and gave us but a few minutes to clear out our affairs. Their orders should be so promptly obeyed, that we hadn't time to remove even half our bedding, when our house was bombed, so the practically the majority of bedding and furniture were totally destroyed. The next operation was the wrecking of my workshop, - the forge, the windows and shutters, all of which they smashed to matchwood, together with cutting my bellows to pieces, rendering it useless. All this was done as I didn't report to the nearest Military Barracks, or to the Military passing by my workshop, that the ambushers were on the hill. I had to sleep in the workshop described for the three or four following nights with my family - if we did sleep. Of course I need not say my dwelling was totally destroyed. The walls must be raised (sic) to the ground to renovate it.

(b) Owing to my bellows and workshop being partially wrecked, which was the sole means of keeping my family, I was practically idle for three months, and were it not for a neighbour, who rented me a house which he needed for himself, at £15.0.0. per annum, we would scarcely have survived the Winter, owing to exposure and trouble.

(c) The only assistance I got prior to Loan was £4.10.0. from what source I do not really know.

(d) £50.0.0. is the amount of loan made to me towards the purchase of furniture and tools rendered useless.

(e) I have a picture of my premises from a cutting of a paper, which I enclose with particulars given.

Any other information which you may require at any later date I shall be only too anxious to supply you with.

I beg to state you may use my name and letter as you please.

I am,
Most gratefully yours,
(Sd). Timothy Murphy.
(Blacksmith).

[No. 74]

COPY/

Coolagh,
Ballydehob.
January, 1922.

To:

The American Committee for relief in Ireland.

Dear Sirs,

My dwellinghouse and adjoining premises were completely destroyed by fire on the 25th May last by Crown Forces, all the furniture therein, some clothing, a quantity of hay and straw and damage to shed in which same was stored. I had to clear away from the place for a long time. Our cattle were neglected and we had to sell out our stock of pigs, having no means of cooking food for them, or noone (sic) to attend them. On returning after the Truce was signed we had to endure terrible hardships, trying to cook and sleep in wretched old outhouses.

The Irish White Criss (sic) granted us a loan of £200. One hundred pounds of which we received. This helped us to erect a little temporary building where we are living at present and carrying on our farming operations.

We feel very grateful to the White Cross for the help we have received, and to those in the United States who have contributed towards its Funds.

I hope to be able to procure a picture of the premises in a few days.

I remain,
Yours gratefully,
(sd) Jerome O'Sullivan
Coolagh,
Ballydehob.
Co. Cork.

[No. 75]

COPY

Coolagarranroe,
January 16th, 1922.

Dear Sir,

In answer to your note of 10th inst my house was blown up on 13th May, 1921, by Crown Forces, all my furniture broken in pieces, the stones of the house were the only seats left us, and the only bedsteads we had was pieces of boards of the broken furniture. Until I got the first instalment of the Loan £50 I had to fix up a barn I had as it was in a cowshed I was from May until November. I received £100 from the White Cross for which I am thankful: it enabled me to fix up my barn and to get some furniture and bedsteads. I received no help of any kind until I got your Loan, as I am a small farmer only eight or nine Irish acres, I have 4 sons; one was interned, two had to take their rifles and the fourth a young fellow 'on the run' and helping (sic) the fighting men in every way he could, so I could not describe to you properly what my wife and myself suffered having a visit from the Military and Black and Tans every week once or twice, raiding and tossing every thing about. I have not a picture of my house at present but as soon as I can get one I will send it to you.

With Best Wishes,
I remain, Dear Sir,
Yours sincerely,
Edmond Mulcahy.

[No. 76]

Copy/

4 Whitworth Place,
Drumcondra Road,
Dublin.
10-1-'22.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your favor dated 1st instant, May I, in the first instance, beg to thank you and through you our kind benefactors the American Committee for Relief in Ireland, for their generous Loan.

Our home at 25 Patrick Street, Cork was completely destroyed on the night of the 10th/11th December, 1920, by, as is since known and published, British Crown Forces; - my husband, baby and self getting away under a hail of bullets to seek shelter where we might get it.

The complete destruction of our furniture and everything that a home contains, personal property and foodstuffs, placed us in a pitiable position, and to add thereto, it threw another member of the family out of employment and on to our burden.

We had to secure furnished lodgings, at far less comfort and treble expense, and also to make good outward appearances, certainly not being able to provide the proper bodily comfort.

This Loan of £100, which I might state here was out (sic) only Loan from the White Cross, went to pay up the extra expense incurred in furnished lodgings, which in a year comes to a considerable amount; to secure the necessary clothing, and pay up items overdue on these, and also to provide such articles of cooking utensils, and baby comforts, and bedding, as far as it could go; but unfortunately it could not go far enough to buy the necessary furniture for a house which would thus rid us of the high rent of furnished lodgings and place us in a more comfortable position by enabling us to live within our weekly wage income, - to say nothing of the health of myself and child confined to too small a space.

Again thanking you most sincerely for your kind benefaction, and also each and every kind sympathiser who subscribed to the Loan.

I am, dear Sir,
Yours respectfully,
Una Martin (Mrs.)

C.J. France, Esq.,
Director, American Committee for relief in Ireland,
Standard Hotel, Dublin.

[No. 77]

Copy/

P.O. Feakle,
County Clare.

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

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your letter I am enclosing you my statement, for publication. I regret I have not a photo of the building presently. I may be able to get some, and will forward them to you in case I succeed. You can use my name in the publication.

I would be thankful if you would send me a copy of the Book when completed,
and oblige
Yours J. Moloney.

STATEMENT:-

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your communication and have great pleasure in granting your request I furnishing you with a description of my experience of the terror and barbarism used against the Irish people during the war in this Country in their struggle for National Independence.

On the 7th. October, 1920, an ambush of a Police Patrol took place at Feakle, County Clare. My house, which was the Post Office premises, and adjoining house which was also my property rented and occupied by a tenant was taken possession of by the Irish Republican Army in carrying out the ambush. Reprisals by the Crown Forces were carried out that night, and a couple of houses in the Village burned down. On the following night about 10-30 p.m. a party of Police and Soldiers arrived at and surrounded my house; the only occupants in the house at the time being another man and myself. My Mother and two sisters having left earlier in the day to a friends hous (sic) for safety. We heard the "hault" (sic) outside and the rattle of petrol cans as if leaving them down and placing the men on the road outside. An officer came to the door and knocked. I opened the door and was immediately covered with a revolver and yelled at "to come out". Seeing the attitude of the officer, the men at the ready on the road, with rifles and revolvers, I saw they were prepared to murder me. I made a dash out through them; they all fired at me. I received three bullet wounds together with my coat being holed in a couple of places by bullets which did not injure me. They pursued me about a quarter of a mile, firing at me as I went, but I succeeded in getting away.

They immediately set the house on fire and bombed it, shaking the walls to the foundation. I heard the explosions and saw the blaze in the distance, which consumed home, furniture and effects - everything we possessed with the exception of the clothing we wore. The adjoining house was next set on fire and brined (sic) to the ground. Both houses were fine two-storied buildings.

I made my way to the house of a friend some distance away, when medical aid was requisitioned. I was ordered by the Doctor to be removed to St. John's Hospital,

Limerick, for Medical treatment and had to undergo an operation, - my life being in danger for eight or nine days. I spent eight weeks in Hospital, and after my discharge had to "go on the run" for nine months, until the Truce; my Mother and sisters receiving shelter from neighbours.

There was a workman's cottage on the farm convenient to the burned out building, my sister took over the work of the Post Office there, in about a fortnight after, and was carrying on the work in this cottage for over a month. When she arrived there one morning to start work she found the place burned to the ground. Seeing it useless to try to live there they had to resign the post office appointment, and the P.O. Department had to provide premises and send out a Clerk to carry on the Postal work of the district. As a result I was deprived of the salaries of the office for twelve months which meant a loss of over £350. I had to pay Doctor's fees for operation and medical attendance, and pay Three Guineas per week while in Hospital. My farm of land was almost derelict for twelve months. Myself or any of the family could not safely go near the place. About the 24th. January 1921, two large ricks of hay were burned on the farm, so that I had to get my stock disposed of at a big loss, not having anything to feed them.

I applied some months ago on my return for a Loan and was granted £300. I have received £150 of this amount, and am making preparations to build a home.

My Mother and two sisters have since been living on the hospitality of our friends, which has been extended to us in that well known spirit of generosity for which the Irish race are noted.

In concluding I wish to express my profound gratitude to the American people and all sympathisers in America for the aid and sympathy they have rendered to the homeless and afflicted (sic) in this Country.

I am,
Yours sincerely,
Tom Moloney.

P.S.

The second occupant at the time of the reprisal - a Mr, M, Keating, was fired at on coming out of the house and wounded and left for dead on the roadside. He recovered some time afterwards and made his escape.

T.M.

[No. 78]

Copy/

Knickans,
Cloonminda,
Castlerea, Co. Galway,

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your letter of January 6th, I beg to make the following statement: I am a small farmer living at Knickans, near Glenmaddy. I have about 10 acres of land. On May 19th 1921, at about 1 p.m. (sic) my house was raided by armed men who broke in the door without waiting for it to be opened. They were dressed in overcoats and were evidently number of them Crown Forces. They demanded the whereabouts of my son who had resigned from the R.I.C. about nine months previously, and who had been on the run since then. The information being refused they put a revolver to my mouth and told me to pray. Then I was ordered out of the house along with my wife and two daughters who were only partly dressed as neither of us got time to dress. They shot a valuable sow that was suckling 11 Bonhoms then set the house to fire and all our outhouses, ass cart a part of mule cart, mule harness, ass harness, two stacks of unthrashed hay, about 14 cwt. hay, all furniture, all our clothes, two bicycles, 4 cwt. oat meal, 1½ cwt. flour, 2 cwt. Indian meal, 1 cwt. oilcake, 1 cwt. bran, left us nothing, - also £10. After they had gone we saved a corrugated barn which was burning, by throwing water on it. We had to get shelter from friends until I got that barn fixed up for shelter for the winter. Also a cowhouse which was burned down I got it up well. Since the 15th July 1921, I have been getting relief from the Irish White Cross at the rate of £2. a week. I also got one special instalment of £25 in December 1921. The Irish White Cross kindly agreed to give me a loan of £300 on very easy terms, to enable me to rebuild mt (sic) house - £150 of the Laon (sic) has been forwarded to me, and the remainder will be given in instalments as the work of building progresses. I have been unable to start building as yet, but intend to do so at the beginning of Spring.

I cannot express sufficiently my thanks to the kind friends of Ireland in America who so generously enabled the Irish White Cross to assist me and others like me in our distress. I don't know what I would have done without that assistance.

I am sorry I have no photo (sic) of the ruins of my home, only the blackened walls remain, and even they are so injured by the fire as to be unfit for roofing. It must be all built from the foundation.

Many thanks to the members of the White Cross and all of those who assisted them in carrying on their work of Charity.

My right address is:-

John McKnickans,
Cloonminda P.O.,
via Castlerea, Co. Galway.

Yours faithfully,
John McKnickans.

P.S. When my letter goes to Glenmaddy there is a delay.

[No. 79]

COPY/

Lisheenacannina,
January 22nd 1922.

Dear Sir,

I wish to give you a detail of the manner in which my premises were destroyed on the 10th day of November. Crown Forces came in lorries firing shots along the roads, we got so terror-stricken that we fled from our home. We were only one field away when our home was ablaze. We could not return until they were gone, when we came back there was nothing left but the four walls everything we had was in ashes, we had neither food, nor clothes nor shelter.

I received no assistance from the White Cross or from any place, but £75 from the loan and that would not free the expenditure of the temporary shelter I had to fix up for ourselves. I heard some people got money outside the loan, but I got none and can prove that I did not. I am a farmer and have to live in a room 14-ft by 15-ft. covered with corrugated iron. I had to suspend most of my business as I had no room nor means to carry it on, and had to buy clothes, food, and beds and everything wanted in a bare wreck.

I had no photo of my home taken; there are no photographers in our district, there are only very few in the country places, but if it is necessary I will oblige you to ask some one to take it now.

With kind regards to you.

I remain,

Sincerely yours,

(sd) Jerry D Meara.

Lisheenacannina.

To/ C. J. France, Esq.

[No. 80]

One night, the end of October, 1920, just having retired to bed, myself, my wife, and my three daughters were aroused by a terrible knocking (sic) at the shop door, which sounded to me like the butt end of rifles being used instead of the knocker. With as little delay as possible I opened the door, for I had seen from my bedroom window that it was the Military. Knowing their tactics in raiding, I knew it was most advisable if I wanted to keep the entrance of my house intact, to open it at once. Without the least notice my house was immediately surrounded by Military and Police. There seemed no end of them. They were in all quarters in a few minutes. By this time my daughters were up and dressed, not that it made much difference to my visitors how you managed to get up. They entered through the shop, which is a Tailor's Shop, where I have carried on business for the last 35 years continually working at the business to try and build it up, unless when the British Government considered a trip across to some jail or other might improve me. I am by no means a young or strong man, and being kept standing undressed for the length of the night watching my years of labour being ruthlessly torn asunder, would not certainly help to improve one's health. After taking possession of all the rooms, the Military proceeded to search. At this stage of the proceedings, my wife who had been in a delicate state of health for some time took seriously ill. The Doctor and Priest having been summoned, and considering her case rather serious, they remained during the raid.

A woman searcher then came on the scene and searched my daughters separately. Not being quite satisfied that she had not discovered anything of a rebellious nature on them she proceeded to search my wife, who, quite unconscious, did not know of this brutal happening. When the Doctor protested it was all in vain. Not having discovered anything concealed on her, the woman searcher with the aid of some police and Military continued to search the bedrooms. Their method of searching these departments was to turn the contents of trunks and boxes on the middle of the floor, taking what they wanted, leaving the rest of them there to serve as mats for their feet while they proceeded for arms and ammunition, at the back of pictures and wallpapers. During all this time I was standing in the shop under arrest. Searching here surpassed all I have ever read or seen. My shelves were all stocked with the best Irish manufactured material money could buy. At the end of the shop there are three large shelves that were kept for books, -valuable ones, Not with their hands but with their fixed bayonets the soldiers started to clear the curtains from the windows, and the contents of the shelves to the floor. All this time I was forced to look on and listen to the most brutal language I ever heard in my life, not from the Privates in particular, but the officer in Charge, a man called Anderson, -he seemed to have collected the worst possible for the occasion. Standing there, a man of my years, and watching my life's work and many a hard struggle being ruthlessly torn asunder by these hounds, given instructions by their officer in charge -"That they did not come from England for nothing, but to do their worst with the damned rebels". My rolls of tweed were torn asunder by their bayonets; one piece was thrown out by the open door to one of guards outside to make a bed for a little dog they had with them. Books were got by their covers and torn in shreds (sic). Then they brought in their picks and shovels and started to remove the boards from the shop floor. Then they went to the hall adjoining and dug and tore up, making it dangerous and impossible for anyone to use it

afterwards. All this time- from 11 o'clock to 4 a.m. the next morning I was under arrest, no charge being made against me, -Just five hours of absolute torture to me watching and listening to their insults and not knowing how the rest of my family were fareing (sic). At last when all was over and they were preparing to leave, -womanseracher (sic), police and military, and I their prisoner, my wife dying, my house and property destroyed, the D.I. appeared and told me I could remain at home for the night, but not to stir as they would call for me later. They went that night. Every week after that they visited the house, making my chances of living next to impossible. People were afraid to leave their clothes to be made considering the condition the Military left them in when finished raiding.

Not being a wealthy man, and having spent my money in stocking my shop, by which means I found the most profitable investment, these raids cost me very dearly.

In February 1921 they murdered my son, and my other son outlawed. During all this time I asked nor received no assistance from any any (sic) Society, until the "Free State" was sanctioned by the Dail. Then seeing that things were looking more hopeful for our country, I asked and received the Loan of £200 from the White Cross. This Loan meant a lot to me, as it has enabled me to put my house in repair, and will help me to restore my stock.

A Cara:

I hope the above is what you require.

William Moran,

Church Street,

Enniscorthy.

(Undated)

[No. 81]

Copy/

Church Street,
Listowel, Co. Kerry.
January 10th, 1922.

C.J. France, Esq.,
Standard Hotel,
Harcourt Street,
Dublin.

Dear Sir,

I wish to express my yhanks (sic) to the Irish White Cross for the sum of One Hundred Pounds which they have just sent me for the purpose of enabling me to repair the damage done to my premises by the Military Forces of the British Government.

This damage was done on the 27th April 1921, On that day the adjoining house of Mr. D.H. Flavin was destroyed by the Forces of the British Government by way of "Official Reprisals" for the death of a man who had been shot some time previously at a place about five miles from here. The destruction of Mr. Flavin's house was carried out in such a negligent manner that my house was cracked from top to bottom. The damage to my house was so great that it became unfit for habitation and was a danger to the public, with the result that I had to close my shop and stop my business as Butcher. I need not tell you that this was a terrible loss to my family and myself as my trade of Butcher is our sole means of livelihood.

Though these facts are well known to the Military Authorities they never made any effort to repair the damage done by them nor have they paid one penny compensation for the loss sustained by my family and myself.

The £100.0.0. which the White Cross have given me will help to start to restore my premises to their original condition and when this is done I will again be able to carry on the business of Victualler. Where (sic) it not for the assistance which I have received from the Irish White Cross, I really do not know when I would be in a position to make good the damage done by the Crown Forces; and my sincere thanks are due to the Irish White Cross for their assistance towards enabling me to rebuild my house and premises and so resume my business as Victualler and save myself and my family from starvation.

Yours faithfully,
Denis Murphy.

H.

[No. 82]

Copy/

Ballybeg, Killeenterna,
Farranfore,
Co. Kerry, 18,1,22.

C.J. France, Esq.,

Dear Sir :-

On the 4th. December, 1920, the Military destroyed 40 tons of Hay, 20 tons Straw, Hayshed, etc, etc, in my haggard.

In May 1921 the Military burned (sic) by (sic) two-story (sic) house and everything in it, except some foodstuffs which they gave me a half hour to remove.

The House, furniture, etc. were worth over £1000, at the lowest.

Barbarous, savage, vindictive, aggressive and insulting are the only adjectives that could describe their actions on the above occasions.

Even on last occasion they set fire to my outhouses and some hay which kind neighbours had sent me. Part of the outhouses were saved after their departure, and in one of the (sic) 12ft. square I had to live until just before Christmas.

My family consists of three sons and a servant, besides my wife who will never again be the same in health.

In this outhouse myself got ill and had to have a doctor in regular attendance for a month at a cost of over £30.

I got £50 from the White Cross Committee and £250 to rebuild my house, for which I am exceedingly grateful.

Sorry I have no picture of my premises.

I am, Sir,
Yours ever gratefully,
Humphrey Murphy.

[No. 83]

COPY.

Old Road House,
Rathmore.
CO. KERRY.
Jany 16th, 1922.

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

Dear Sir,

In answer to your letter of the 10th inst, my dwelling house was completely burned by Crown Forces, - an official reprisal, on the 2nd May, 1921. It was almost a mile distant from the scene of the ambush. It was recently built by myself, and was well furnished for a farmer's dwelling. Every article it contained, together with beds and bedding (sic), were totally destroyed. My estimate of the damage would very near amount to £1500. I need not tell you that it was a great draw-back in my business. My family and myself had to take shelter in a barn up to Christmas. God Almighty favoured us with an exceptionally fine year, and we were well contented with our lot. My three boys were "on the run" for months, and would only pay us flying visits. At first the neighbours were very kind to us, and gave us accomodation (sic), then a friend provided me with a few beds, and we tried to get along as best we could.

The Loan I received of £200 enabled me to rebuild the home. It was satisfactory to me and my family that we were able to live in it for the Christmas, and it was the first of the inclement weather. I am delighted to have it fixed up again and that the family are well after their experience. We never grumble as the sacrifices should be made for the freedom of the country. Houses can be rebuilt but lives cannot be restored. I am enclosing you photo, - it is only the back of the house. It is the only one I have. I would like that you would use your influence and get me some Grant to purchase a little furniture. You can use my name.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
(Sd). Tim T . Moynihan.

[No. 84]

COPY.

Rathmore, Co. Kerry.
January 23rd, 1922.

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

Dear Sir:-

As one whose dwelling and furniture were completely destroyed by Crown Forces on the 15th May last, I hereby state that this was openly done by means of bombs and petrol.

As a result of the burning, my wife, family and myself, had to sleep and otherwise live in cow-stalls for some months, - until the receipt of a loan from your Committee. Amount of Loan received to date is £80.0.0., - the major part of which has been expended in repairing part of the burned dwelling as a temporary residence, together with purchasing some beds, as there was nothing saved from the burning.

Enclosed is a picture of the ruins after the fire.

My family and I wish to thank our American friends for their kindness in giving us such substantial help, which I must say was very badly needed. You are welcome to publish this note over my name, as indeed our dear friends across the water deserve this small token of our gratitude.

I am, Sir,
Gratefully yours,
(Sd). Garrett Nagle.

[No. 85]

Copy/

Maulregan,
Rosscarbery,
Co. Cork.

Sir:-

I can never express my thanks sufficiently to the White Cross for their assistance in my hour of need. On last April my dwelling house and all effects, also outoffices were burned to the ground by a party of English Soldiers, thereby rendering myself and my family homeless, - having also two of my sons on the run; so that I was in a very bad position financially and otherwise so that I was not in a position to start to rebuild were it not for the timely assistance of the White Cross, which was so kind as to present me with £150.

The White Cross Reconstruction Committee have also granted me a loan of £200, which will enable me to continue about my dwelling house, which is a great blessing to me as we can live in the house now and carry on our farming operations as of yore.

I am very sorry I have not a picture of my house, as it would enable you to see the contents of the damage.

I don't mind if you use my name or not.

I remain,
Yours sincerely,
Mary Murray

[No. 86]

Copy/

Conmore,
Rear Cross,
Newport, Co. Tipperary.
13-1-22.

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

Dear Sir:

My place was destroyed by "Black & Tans". In February 1920 this County was under martial law and fairs were prohibited in the district. They arrested me in connection with a (sic) local fair and my son got a month in jail for the same offence. In April of the same year they arrested two of my sons in connection with the shooting of police in the district. They were liberated after undergoing a hunger strike in Cork Jail. We were repeatedly visited by Police and Military up to November of the same year. Everytime (sic) they visited the place they committed acts of robbery and destruction, - fowl, delph, furniture and clothes being among the property taken and destroyed. In November they burned my hay and shot some of my cattle. During the same month they repeatedly fired into the house and we had some miraculous escapes from being shot. Up to that time my wife, daughter and I were carrying on business as best we could. My sons were "on the run". We then left the place and went to some friends. In January 1921 the house was partially burned, and we scarcely everycould (sic) return to the farm until the truce was called.

I wish to thank the "White Cross" for relieving us from a very critical situation. We were left to face the winter of 1921 to 1922 with only a kitchen and bedroom for ten in family. However, the White Cross came to our assistance and encouraged me to repair the destroyed portion of my house.

We had three visitors from the White Cross - inspectors, after which I received two successive loans, - one of £50, the other of £70.

These Grants enabled me to put my house in a habitable condition again.

Gratefully yours,
Thomas Caplis.

P.S. You may use my name as you (sic) wish in connection with this letter. T.C.