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bear mes. meguits.

Uncle Bernard recd your welcome letter doday, but havrit deme do world do you himself until later owing do all we experienced threo' the reprisal which caused the tragio murder of my cousen may Harley R. J. P. Lam now going do quie you the full aproper account which uncle Betnath wishes you do send to the Elasgow bbservos. The ambiech which requelled in the derrible represals occurred in the seen mitcharles on Luesday Fely 22 about the middle of the day the result being the death of bonstable Satchwell a former policeman of mitchas, and the wounding

strangers. One of the men doyed to throw dupan over a wall but they escaped in their neght attire with bullet flying around them. The language they were using was Donething awful askey would not give them dime do get even as blanket. Their house deverything they possessed in this world was bretnt do the ground but chants God they got their lives with them They came out both to kill and burn. The next house they attack was uncle Bernardo. They heros in the door of smashed the windows threw petrol in thro the rooms & on the stairs. Pour may sumped from her bed Called do Unele Bernard do fly for his life, the house was on fire. After down the the flames in the middle of them three ofther were in

the hallway at the sime. They of course had themselves disquised They must have followed may as she was shot just outside at the gate in the exact in range with the stained glass window in the Rallway. Unele Bernard called do her do come into his room but poor some flew on down the dairs so they surely paw her dohot her not accidently either. Uncle Bernard Routed dozundo them do quie him dime do get his eife with him. The only answer he got was a volley of shoto sent up caro the ceiling do Rice him. He excuped thro his bedroom window on do a feat cement roof over the Ritchen afrom thence do the ground. He cannot explainages how he reached the governd but he hunt his side a is ladly phaken. He looked down the

Theme Six: The War of Independence

DOCUMENT-NO.12

Jour Shat Lam wondering

out here when they read the refoorts

## Account of the killing of Mary (May) Harley, Mountcharles

29th February 1921

Courtesy of Peadar MacRory and the McGuire Family, Glasgow

This is an extract from a letter which provides a full account of the events leading up to the death of Mary (May) Harley in Mountcharles. The letter may be consulted in full by making an appointment with Donegal County Archives Service.

Mountcharles.

Monday
Feby 29th. 21

Dear Mr McGuire,

Uncle Bernard rec'd your welcome letter today, but hasn't time to write to you himself until later owing to all we experienced thro the reprisal which caused the tragic murder of my cousin May Harley RIP. I am now going to give you the full & proper account which Uncle Bernard wishes you to send to the Glasgow Observer. The ambush which resulted in the terrible reprisal occurred in the Glen Mtcharles on Tuesday Feby 22nd about the middle of the day. The result being the death of Constable Satchwell, a former policeman of M'tcha's and the wounding

р5

strangers. One of the men tryed to throw Susan over a wall but they escaped in their night attire with bullets flying around them. The language they were using was something awful & they would not give them time to get even a blanket. Their house & everything they possessed in the world was burnt to the ground but thank God they got their lives with them. They came out both to kill and burn. The next house they attack was Uncle Bernards. They burst in the door & smashed the windows threw petrol in thro the rooms & on the stairs. Poor May jumped from her bed called to Uncle Bernard to fly for his life, the house was on fire & flew down thro the flames in the middle of them three of them were in

р6

the hallway at the time. They of course had themselves disguised. They must have followed May as she was shot just outside at the gate in the yard in range with the stained glass window in the hallway. Uncle Bernard called to her to come into his room but poor soul flew on down the stairs so they surely saw her & shot her not accidently either. Uncle Bernard shouted down to them to give him time to get his life with him. The only answer he got was a volley of shots sent up thro the ceiling to kill him. He escaped thro his bedroom window on to a flat cement roof over the kitchen & from thence to the ground. He cannot explain yet how he reached the ground but he hurt his side & is badly shaken. He looked down the

## Exercises:

- 1. Provide two details about the ambush on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February.
- 2. How did the attackers enter Uncle Bernard's house?
- 3. Where was May shot?
- 4. Was their house the only house attacked that evening? In your opinion, do you think there was a reason for attacking their house?
- 5. What do you think the family hoped to gain by asking Mr McGuire to send this letter to the Glasgow Observer?

name of your ship among shim. So I guess you are still afterst Last letter from late Division Quarter master Sean Larkin First Northern Division J. R. a to his mother executed at Drumboe Castle Co Wonefal March 14 1923,

Beloved mother - What a contrast the contents of this letter are to the one I wrote you last night. What a change 24 hours can bring. But, niother, surely this is the last news it would be possible for you to hear of me. I go tomorrow morning at 7 oclock to meet my Redeemer and my Judge. "Through the infinite mercy of Almighty, God I hope to four my dear falter + hermot + all my deceased relatives+ friends in theaven. Yes, mother, my hour has come, and I must obey the eall. But mother, I want you not to worsy about me + I lope you will respect my wishes. You know that this is god's well + what further proof of this mercy could we have, in that he has given me such an opportunity of preparing my soul for Eternity yes I have a lot to be thankful to almighte God for, when we consider the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death and the suddeness with which so many young Irishmen are being

called away. We had ample time to prepare. We were notified of our execution on tomorrow, at four oclock this evening + we had a long talk with the priest, "fr. I'm mullan after which he heard our confession + in the marning will say mass here +. Give is Holy Communion before we are executed, So you see me will be well prepared; better perhaps than we would ever be again. I know this must come as a great shock to you all after all the assurances for James got Now, Inother I hope you mont worse too much over this, but fust think of the crown of glare Thope to receive his the morning. I know it will be a great blow to you all, but for the sake of the passion + peath of Christ hear it patiently + Almighty God will surely reward you for this + for all you have suffered for my Bake. you have been a model mother to Ine + to all I us + I know you would share your last breath with any of your children + ever since Fallers death it has been my one desire to make you happy, but now I am to have a real opportunity for James. I have some religious articles but I making you + all the rest of my brothers and listers as happy as it is the will of God you should be by my prayers in your behalf in company

with all the Saints and Angels in heaven. Thank God I am happy and resigned to the Holy will of God + who knows but that our death may be the means of bringing to an end this hovible and unfortunes was. If the happens then our sacrifice will not have seen made. in vain. I am having a few llasses paid with the money you sent 42. + I suppose you will able to have some said as well. I have nothing to say but praise for our treatment from the solvemen who are in charge of us from the policemen who are in charge of us. I am sending my things home. There are two pipes one for Fr. James and the other for Low. carved the small one myself + You can keep it as a Souvenir; my rayor + brush is for low. There is a small silver ring which I attempted, to make + tried to scrotch Cisse's initials on it you can give it to her. There is a photo in my Spocket book for yourself and another souvener intend wearing them when being executed+ I will try and make a rangements with its memullar to have them sent on to you & you can divide them comongst the family as souveniss.

Theme Eight: The Civil War DOCUMENT NO.16 for that I am wondering

out here when they read the refoots that the Blooming English

## Letter from Sean Larkin to his mother before his execution at Drumboe Castle

14th March 1923

© Donegal County Archives Service

This is an extract from the last letter of Sean Larkin to his mother. The letter may be consulted in full by making an appointment with Donegal County Archives Service.

Last letter from late Division Quarter Master Sean Larkin First Northern Division I.R.A. to his Mother executed at Drumboe Castle Co. Donegal March 14<sup>th</sup> 1923.

Beloved Mother – What a contrast the contents of this letter are to the one I wrote you last night. What a change 24 hours can bring. But, Mother, surely this is the last news it would be possible for you to hear of me. I go tomorrow morning at 7 o'clock to meet my Redeemer and my Judge. Through the infinite mercy of Almighty God I hope to join my dear father + Dermot + all my deceased relatives + friends in Heaven. Yes, Mother, my hour has come, and I must obey the call. But, Mother, I want you not to worry about me + I hope you will respect my wishes. You know that this is God's will + what further proof of His Mercy could we have in that he has given me such an opportunity of preparing my soul for Eternity. Yes I have a lot to be thankful to Almighty God for, when we consider the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death and the suddenness with which so many young Irishmen are being

called away. We had ample time to prepare. We were notified of our execution on tomorrow, at four oclock this evening + we had a long talk with the priest, Fr. McMullan after which he heard our confession + in the morning will say Mass here + give us Holy Communion before we are executed, so you see we will be well prepared; better perhaps than we would ever be again. I know this must come as a great shock to you all after all the assurances Fr. James got. Now, Mother I hope you won't worry too much over this, but just think of the crown of glory I hope to receive in the morning. I know it will be a great blow to you all, but for the sake of the passion + Death of Christ bear it patiently + Almighty God will surely reward you for this + for all you have suffered for my sake. You have been a model mother to me + to all of us + I know you would share your last breath with any of your children + ever since Father's death it has been my one desire to make you happy but now I am to have a real opportunity of making you + all the rest of my brothers and sisters as happy as it is the will of God you should be, by my prayers on your behalf in company

with all the Saints and Angels in heaven. Thank God I am happy and resigned to the Holy will of God and who knows but that our death may be the means of bringing to an end this horrible and unfortunate war. If this happens then our sacrifice will not have been made in vain. I am having a few Masses said with the money you sent me + I suppose you will be able to have some said as well. I have nothing to say but praise for our treatment from the policemen who are in charge of us. I am sending my things home. There are two pipes one for Fr James and the other for Tom. I carved the small one myself + Tom can keep it as a souvenir; my razor + brush is for Tom. There is a small silver ring which I attempted to make + tried to scratch Cissie's initials on it. You can give it to her. There is a photo in my pocket book for yourself and another souvenir for James. I have some religious articles but I intend wearing them when being executed + I will try and make arrangements with Fr McMullan to have them sent on to you + you can divide them amongst the family as souvenirs.

## Exercises:

- 1. What was Sean Larkin's full title in the IRA?
- 2. What time did he say his execution would take place?
- 3. What did he hope his death would achieve? Do you think it played a part in achieving this aim? Why?
- 4. How did Sean describe the prisoners' treatment in Drumboe Castle?
- 5. What title has been given to this letter? Do you think this is the original letter? Give one reason for your answer.