CO-904/201/141

141

CLOSED
UNTIL
1994

1

Figgis D

250 S.
6142

F

Crime Special

18907 SECRET. 2

Sinn Fein Lecture by D. Figgis.

COUNTY MONAGHAN
R.I.C. Carrickmacross 2 April 18.

Submitted.

D. Figgis arrived here at 8.30 p.m. on 30th ult. and left at 8 a.m. on 1st Inst. for Dungannon. He was duly ciphered

D. Y. Rae 1D7

C.S.

Lecture by D. Figgis in the Catholic Hall Carrickmacross on 31/3/18. Easter Sunday.

Under Secretary

Submitted with Police report of this lecture which is not given in the "Dundalk Examiner" of the 6th inst. It is merely stated that it took place.

W.M. 8/4

U.S.

Submitted for information

J.E. Edwards

6.4.18

C1. [illegible]

Seen.

To C.S.

to see: together with minutes as to Valera & Griffith in this pouch.

W.P.B.

11.4.18

Placed with 10821/S [H.E.] [illegible]

W.B.

W.M. 18/5

3

Monaghan 25-3-181

Please retain for further report after 31st inst.

Hugh O'Neill

C. Insp.

D.I. Carrickmacross. 26.3.18

For compliance.

D.Y. Roe. 1.D.I.

Con Daly.

Carrickmacross 1.4.18.

I beg to report that a lecture was delivered in the Catholic Hall Carrickmacross on 31.3.18 by Darrell Figgis and was attended by 350 people. I was not present at the lecture but I am informed by a press representative who did attend, that the lecture dwelt mainly on the progress of Ireland under a Republic Government. Figgis quoted statements which he had in his possession regarding the Convention, which he said was a failure, as the Dublin Parliament would have no control over Customs, or Excise, The Post Office, or the Police in fact he stated The Irish people would have control over nothing. He also spoke regarding Conscription and asked the young men to joing the Sinn Feinn movement and if they were to fight, let them fight for an independent Ireland upon Irish soil. He also criticized the policy of the Irish Parliamentary party regarding their attitude in acting as recruiting agents for the British Army

Lecture

Suspect P. J. Burke also spoke ~~and~~ and advised all young men to join Sinn Feinn Clubs & any that would not for God sake to go out to France as the German Eagle had the British Lion by the throat and that Lion was bleeding fast and very badly required help.

Present on the platform were Dr Thos. A. Daly, Chairman, Peter Finnegan, P. J. Burke, & Wm Loughran.

Prominent persons who occupied seats in the body of the hall were the Rev. Father Meenan C.C Rev. Father Duffy both of Carrickmacross and Rev Father Hackett P.P. Killanny.

Patrick Daly Const 65-944

The D.I.

Crime Spl

County of Monaghan
Carrickmacross 23:1:18

"Sinn Feinn Lecture by
Darrell Figgis."

I beg to report that placards have been posted up throughout this sub district announcing that a lecture will be dilivered by Darrell Figgis in the Catholic Hall on Easter Sunday night the 31st ult. dealing with "Irish Independence" V "Imperialism." The placards also announce that a short variety concert will follow the lecture.

I am informed that Mrs Connolly Dublin widow of the late James Connolly who was executed in Dublin during the Rebellion in Easter week will take part as an artist in the concert.

I am of the opinion that the short Concert portion of this announcement is merely a draw as many persons who are share holders in this Hall object strongly to the Hall being given for this purpose. I am also informed that the Rev. Father Meenan has been instrumental in getting the Hall for this lecture as he is a strong Sinn Feinn supporter, and this lecture will be purely an indoor Sinn Feinn public meeting.

I attach a cutting from "Dundalk Examiner" of 23rd inst re this meeting as I was unable to procure any of the posters which are 2½ ft long by 2 ft. in breadth.

Patrick Daly Con 65944

The
D. I.

R.I.C.Carrickmacross 24 March 1918.

Submitted. This lecture will help to spread disloyalty and in a small way collect money to carry on Sinn Feinism.

D. Y. Rae 1DI

CI

over

Dundalk Examiner.
23rd March 1918.

Sinn Fein.

A LECTURE

ON

The Case for Irish Independence

Will be given by

MR. DARRELL FIGGIS

in the Catholic Hall, Carrickmacross, on Easter Sunday Night, at 8 o'clock, followed by a short Variety Concert, which will include several well-known artistes.

Admission: Body of Hall, 6d.; Gallery, 3d.

TELEGRAMS: "DAMP, DUBLIN."
TELEPHONE No. 22.

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.

98 S. 69
3580 6

Detective Department,

F.

28753

Secret

Dublin, 5th February, 19 20

Subject re/. DARREL FIGGIS".

I beg to submit the attached history re. above named as requested.

The Assistant Under Secretary,

Submitted.

P. Murphy Ch. Inspr.
for Superintendent.

C. L. Johnstone
CC 5/2/20

The Chief Commissioner.

WBL
7/2

DARREL FIGGIS.

Darrel Figgis is a son of, I think, the second son of the late Mr E. J. Figgis, Glen-na-Smoil, Upper Rathmines, and the Commercial Buildings, Dublin. Darrel Figgis was born in Calcutta where his father was in business. He was educated first in Calcutta and subsequently in England, and on the completion of his English education he returned to Calcutta where he joined his father in business. He was of a very obstinate disposition, self-willed and reluctant to fall in with his father's ideas as regards the carrying on of their business with a result that he parted from his father and returned to London, working his passage home . He came to Dublin on his arrival and was received by an uncle Mr E. J. Figgis, Hawthorne, Park Avenue, Sydney Parade, and 10 Fownes Street, Dublin, by whom he was assisted to seek alivelihood in London. He was accompanied by a lady as his wife, but of her antecedents his relations in Dublin either then nor since, had any knowledge.

He became a member of the Young Ireland Branch of the United Irish League whose meetings he attended regularly. He is a Journalist by profession and contributed articles to Magazines, Etc. and was associated with W. B. Yeates in producing Dramas at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin.

On 26th July, 1914, the date of the Howth gun-running he was seen motoring towards that place with Thomas J. Clarke and John McDermott, who were since executed in the 1916 Rebellion. Later, he was seen in conflict with the Police and Military on that day, at Clontarf where he was in command of a section of the Volunteers who were conveying the imported rifles into Dublin.

In the same year, 1914, when the split arose in the Volunteers, Figgis took sides with the extreme section.

After the Rebellion in April, 1916, he was arrested as

a suspect and deported to England. He was subsequently released.

On 22nd February, 1 917, he was arrested in Dublin by Order of G-O-C-in-C and on following day deported to a Special Area -Oxford.

On 4th May following he left the specified Area and returned to Ireland without permission. In consequence of the general releases on Amnesty shortly afterwards no notice was taken of his return.

He was afterwards actively engaged organising for Sinn Fein and at a Convention of that body held in the Mansion House, Dublin, he was elected one of the Hon. Secretaries of the Organisation.

On 17th May, 1918, he was arrested with others, by Order of Government and deported to England.

He has, since his release, been actively engaged as Secretary in connection with the Industrial Movement set up by Dail Eireann

He recently visited Cork in connection with this movement but the Sitting was prohibited.

D. M. Police Office, Memo.

9

Supt. G.

Please supply

required particulars at once

D. C. ... 5/2

Wt, 3667—5000 7-19 J.E. & Co.W.

No.

Chief Secretary's Office, Ireland.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION.

SUBJECT.	MINUTE.
	Chief Com.

Will you be so good as to have the attached note regarding Darrel Figgis completed so as to show his political activities in Dublin and elsewhere during recent years. The particulars as typed were given to me by Mr E.J. Figgis, 10 Fownes Street. This note is required at I.O. and must be sent over tonight.

W.H.
5/7/20

Mr. DARREL FIGGIS.

Darrel Figgis is a som of I think the second son of the late Mr. E. J. Figgis, Glen-na-Smoil, Upper Rathmines, and the Commercial Buildings, Dublin. Darrel Figgis was born in Calcutta where his father was in business. He was educated first in Calcutta and subsequently in England, and on the completion of his English education he returned to Calcutta where he joined his father in business. He was of a very obstinate disposition, self-willed, and reluctant to fall in with his father's ideas as regards the carrying on of their business with a result that he parted from his father and returned to London, working his passage home. He came to Dublin on his arrival and was received by an Uncle, Mr. E.J. Figgis, Hawthorne, Park Avenue, Sydney Parade, and 10 Fownes Street, Dublin, by whom he was assisted to seek a livelihood in London. He was accompanied by a lady as his wife, but of her antecedents his relations in Dublin neither then nor since had any knowledge.

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE MEMO.

23341/S

Prepare discharge order for Chief Secretary's signature

WM 6/3/19

Annexed. J.L. 6/3

12

Chief Secretary

Discharge order submitted for signature

I.G.

6/3/19

Signed

7/3/19

Forward Order D.H.O

WM 8/3

Done J.L. 10/3

Desps 11/3

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE 6066 - 5-MAR 1919

13

Message Received in Chief Secretary's Office.

2319 RECEIVED 3 1919

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE. D.DUBLIN CASTLE MR 5 19

Date 191

Handed in at the Office at

Received here at 1/10 pm JMcA

From Power.

To Under Secy.

The Chief Secy has decided that Darrel Figgis need not return to Durham Prison.

5930

m 23341 S

Mr Connolly.

I have informed Lord Mayor of Chief Secretary's decision. I understand Mr Figgis has returned to 24 Kildare Street.

WD 5/3/19.

Chief[?]

For information & to be returned. WH 5/3

Supt. G. divn

[signature]

Under Secretary

Asst Commr 6/3

Noted & returned

Noted and returned

Owen Brien

Supt. 7/3/19

[illegible] WH 7/3

Commr 6/3.

(2288.)Wt.2766—639.50Pads.7/18.A.T.&Co.,Ltd.

14

T2.44P
J.O.
[illegible]

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE T.O. DUBLIN CASTLE
MR 5
19

Doolin to Watt.

Mr MacMahon is laid up with a cold. The Lord Mayor has called and asked me if there is any decision as to extension of Darrell Figis parole. The Correspondence was sent over in last nights pouch. Possibly you could let me know by wire.

Any reply should be addressed to:—

THE UNDER SECRETARY,
DUBLIN CASTLE,

and the following number quoted:—

23341/S

15

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

DUBLIN CASTLE.

10th March 1919.

Sir,

I have to forward to you, for submission to the Secretary of State, the accompanying Order of the Chief Secretary revoking the Orders of Internment in the case of Darrell Figgis.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Jas. MacMahon

The Under Secretary of State,

Home Office,

London, S.W. 1.

WHEREAS on the recommendation of a Competent Military Authority appointed under the Defence of the Realm Regulations, and for securing the public safety and the Defence of the Realm, the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland made an Order on the 17th day of May, 1918, under Regulation 14 B. of the Defence of the Realm Regulations directing that DARRELL FIGGIS should be interned at Frongoch Internment Camp:

AND WHEREAS subsequently the Chief Secretary for Ireland ordered that the said DARRELL FIGGIS should be interned in His Majesty's Prison at Durham and should there be subject to all the regulations applying to persons therein interned and should remain there until further orders:

AND WHEREAS I am satisfied that the said Orders may now be revoked without injury to the public safety or the Defence of the Realm:

NOW I HEREBY REVOKE the said Orders directing that the said DARRELL FIGGIS should be interned.

Ian Macpherson.

CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND.

DUBLIN CASTLE,

6th day of March, 1919.

T.S.—148.

5930

TELEGRAM RECEIVED IN THE IRISH OFFICE. 17

Handed in at Dublin Castle. Received at ______ Date 5 Mar 1919.

From

Doolin
6066 Ch. Comr. D.M.P. 5/3/19

To

Watt

~~W.M.L. 6/3~~

Mr MacMahon is laid up with a cold The Lord Mayor has called and asked me if there is any decision as to extension of Darrel Figgis parole. The correspondence was sent over in last nights pouch. Possibly you could let me know by wire

Wired to C.S.
The Chief Secretary has decided that Darrell Figgis need not return to ~~[illegible]~~ Prison
S.M.P. 5/3.

(14646) Wt. 28619—SP1645. 30 Pads. 8/17. Sir J. C. & S. Gp. 155. Z530.
(20899) Wt. 7925—SP1134. 50 Pads. 5/18.

18

Mr Donaldson.

Pl. enter, attach pp as to release on parole and Send over to C.S. as to '2'

WD 8/3.

Phs.
5446 k
Dml. 3/3

cf

Lám dearg Éireann

Mansion House,
Dublin.

CHIEF SECRETARY'S
5930 - 4 - MAR 1919
OFFICE

1st. March, 1919.

My dear Mr. MacMahon,

Enclosed is a letter from Mr. Darrell Figis, who is at present on parole. He is anxious to have his parole extended. I wonder can it be done? If so, I would thank you very much if you would intercede for him.

Yours sincerely,

[signature]

LORD MAYOR.

James MacMahon, Esq.,

Under Secretary,

Dublin Castle.

1- Ackd.- recg attn.

2. Refer to CS who may be disposed to grant a further extension, as influenza has broken out in Durham prison.

[initials] 3/3/19

50 Lower Baggot St

1/iii/19

20

My dear Lord Mayor

I was glad to see you y'day, & to have all p news. I find this morning that answers to letters I had expected have not come, & I do not see how it will be possible for me to be able to get back to work, & have the business end of things pulled together in the square again, in the time allotted me. You cd, I think, from yr back-windows survey the tragic spectacle of my home. What, by the way, does one do to get an extension of one's parole? And cd you assist me at all in the matter? As far as I can at present see a fortnight's extension wd not — cd not — get me to the end of my tangle, especially as Mr Figis, tho' now up, will have to be carried for some time. If you cd let me know I wd be obliged to you.

Yours sincerely

Darrell Figis

PS. By the way, I see from this morning's papers that the Flue has now broken out at Durham, & 3 men are down with it. This makes the more reluctant, if it can be avoided, to leave my affairs unentangled, since it means also to go into a fever-zone. I wish something cd be done for the men, as I know from my experience here this week that we are all in a very weakened state.

DF.

pp DG 26/2

No. 1983
27 FEB 1919
METROPOLITAN POLICE
DUBLIN CASTLE

H. M. PRISON,
DURHAM.

CHIEF SECRETARY'S
5446 - 27.FEB.1919
OFFICE

25.2.19

21

5306
DMP
20/2

Sir,

Darrell Figgis

In confirmation of my telegram of this day I have the honour to report that the above-named Irish Internee left Durham at 1.13 p.m. to day.

Chief Comr
In continuation
WKL 27/2

Supt. G Divn
for Info. 27/2

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant.
[signature]
Governor

The Under Secretary
Dublin Castle

Noted.

Darrell Figgis arrived at Kingstown by mail Steamer on morning of 26th Inst.
Owen Brien
Supt. 28/2/19

The Chief Commr

The Under Secretary
Submitted.
[signature]
Asst. Commr 28/2.

Chief Com[illegible]

For report as to return of Feggis to Durham on expiration of the period of the release, 10 days.

W.H.C.
3/3

Insp. Genl

W.E.M. 3/3.

Under Secretary

Returned as requested.

Co. Lepworth – Johnston

W.E.M.

Comm 4/3

DUBLIN POLICE
1983
RECEIVED
26 2 1919

CHIEF SECRETARY'S
5306 - 25 FEB. 1919
OFFICE

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

Message Received in Chief Secretary's Office.

23

No of Telegram

Mcs 15

Office Stamp.
CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE DUBLIN CASTLE
FE 25 19

Service Instructions
Ostms

Handed in at Durham at 12·28 P M. Received here at 1.26 P M.

TO Under Secy Castle Dn

Darrell Figgis Irish interne
leaves Durham 1.13 pm today

Durham Prison

Chief Com
For information
WMcl 25/2

Dept Edin
Warn 26/2

10 [illegible] 3
[illegible]
22/2/19

5177

Memorandum.

24

Under Secretary.

Noted & returned

to Edgeworth-Johnstone

Commr 25/2/19.

Chief Comm

Returned with reference to 5306 sent to you on yesterday. [illegible]

Supt G.

Please attach to File 1983 sent to you yesterday

[illegible]

27.2.19.

CHIEF SECRETARY'S
5177 - 24 FEB 1919
OFFICE

DUBLIN POLICE
1948
HOME OFFICE
24.2.1919

25

21.2.19.

Under Secretary.
Please wire Chief Secretary's decision early to-morrow. S.M.P. 21/2.

Dear Power

Figgis.

Figgis is applying for leave on parole on the ground that his flat has been gutted by a fire & his wife is ill with tonsilitis, homeless & without means.

His presence in Ireland will not cure her tonsilitis or provide her with means.

Will you kindly let me know whether the Chief Secretary recommends the granting or refusal of this request?

Yours sincerely

C. A. Streatfeild

S. M. Power Esq
Irish Office

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE. T.O. DUBLIN CASTLE
FE 22 19

Chief Com. For information. DMC 24/2

I.S.T.P. -G.O.
[illegible]

Wire U.S. to Power. Urgent.
C.S. agrees to let Mr. D. Figgis out on parole for 10 days. H.O. to be infd. accordy. ([illegible] 22/2)

Cmptly div to note
[illegible] 24/2

Noted
Owen Brien
Supt 25/2/19

PRISON COMMISSION
20 FEB 1919

26

H. M. Prison, Durham 18/2 1919

MEMORANDUM.

D. Figgis. Irish Internee. Petition

I beg to enclose petition from the above, in reference to the attached telegram I received from his wife Mrs Clay.
He is willing to sign the same form of Parole as was signed by the other Internees released temporarily on Parole

Mrs Clay
Governor

Prison Commissioners

Mr. Hunt
RW 20/2/19

Parole for 10 days.
J.M.
22/2/19

No. 345
(7345—6-5-98)

Durham Jail
18/ii/19.

The English Secy of State

Sir/

I have just recd. a telegram stating that my flat has been gutted by a fire. This occurs while my wife is ill with tonsilitis, & involves a very serious state of affairs for me, inasmuch as my wife is homeless &, owing to my long detention here, absolutely without means. I wish therefore to apply for leave to return for a short time under parole, in order to put my affairs in order, & make arrangements for a home for my wife.

I write in some haste, & wd. be obliged for a prompt reply.

I am
faithfully

Darrell Figgis

[illegible]/2/19

C. or B.	Charges to pay		No. of Telegram 48
Recd. from M	s. d. 28	**POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.**	Sent .... M
			To ....
By M		This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.	By ....

Office Stamp: DURHAM 18 FE 19

Prefix	Handed in at	Office of Origin and Service Instructions	Words	Received here at
	10.44	Dublin O.	30	12.36

Gov Prison Dhm

Inform Figgis that our flat has been gutted by a fire spreading from Maples books and furniture quite safe I am quite safe & with Robinson

Figgis

B or C 3 (16594) Wt. 5648/184. 40,000,000. 5/18. E. & S. Ltd. (E 3116.)

(1690.)Wt.2020—629.2500.6/18.A.T.&Co.,Ltd.*
(3787.)Wt.7331—716,5000,12/18.

No. _____ 29

Chief Secretary's Office, Ireland.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION.

SUBJECT.	MINUTE.

(1126.)Wt 1907—126.23,000.6-17 A.T.&Co.,Ltd. (Sch. 129.)*

22465 SECRET. D.M.P. Form No ~~31~~. 8/44

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE. 30

B

Station Report,

College *Station,* B *Division.*

30th December 1918

Alleged raid at 24 Kildare St.

With reference to attached I beg to report, I made inquiry and ascertained that Sergt Barton 11 B and Consts 41 B and 199 B. in plain clothes were at 24 Kildare St on the night in question.

Sergt Barton received information from the Recruiting office. Kildare St, that a man had joined there on 12th November, who said he was after getting out of Cork Prison, where he was in custody for shooting a Policeman and had received the Kings pardon, and supposed to be the man McNellis, who had escaped from Cork Prison, some time previously.

Sergt Barton went to the recruiting office, between 12 and 1 am 13th ult. to search for this man. but found the recruiting office shut. He observed light

The Supt. B Division

U.S.

Submitted. The report fully explains the so called "raid"!

W. C. Newton
C.C. 30.12.18

Under Secretary
Submitted to see with reference to Mrs Figgis's letter of the 6th inst. WMC 31/12

[initials]

WMC

light in No 24, Kildare St., which is next door to the recruiting office, and believing it was in the caretakers office, entered the hall door which was open, and knocked at the room door where he observed the light. The Sergt. announced himself and his business, but left soon after when he found it was not the caretakers premises.

The house 24. Kildare St. is let in flats, and is owned by Miss Maples. and is close beside the door of the recruiting office. where he afterwards made inquiry but could find no trace of the man McNellis whom he was after. This was the only visit paid by the Police at the place mentioned.

James Doran Insp.

Submitted. The report was delayed owing to absence of P.S. Barton on leave. Nothing is known of Police as to the alleged visit in November. The C. Comr. Dublin Castle 30/12/18

44 S

Telegrams: "DAMP, DUBLIN."
Telephone No. 22.

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Detective Department, 32

SECRET.

Dublin, 19th December, 1918.

Subject Alleged Police Raid at 24, Kildare Street.

Supt "B"
For enquiry & report –
W.E.J.
C.C. 19/12/18

Inspr Doran
For report
L.W. Dunlop[?] Supt
19/12/18

With reference to the attached I beg to state that I first made inquiries in Police circles but failed to get any information as to the alleged raid.

After calling four times at 24, Kildare Street, I at last succeeded in finding Mrs Figgis at her apartments on evening of 17th inst. when she informed me that three policemen in uniform called at her flat about 12.30 a.m. on 13th ult. She said they knocked at her door, announced themselves as Police, and told her not to be afraid. She was in bed and did not see them but a girl who was staying with Mrs Figgis at the time spoke to one of the men who told her his name was "Sergeant Barton" and that he was looking for an escaped prisoner.

Mrs Figgis has no reason to complain of the Police whose conduct on the occasion she says was above reproach.

The hall door of the house is not secured at night and any person can enter from the street by turning a handle.

Mrs Figgis complains about the conduct of a man who called to her flat with a letter from

The Superintendent,
Detective Department.

the Castle some time last month,(possibly one of the messengers from the Chief Secretary's Office), and who she says walked straight into her bedroom, where she was at the time, without knocking at the door.

W. McFeely.
Inspector.

Submitted,

No member of the Detective Branch was concerned in this.

I beg to suggest that the File may be transmitted to Supt. B. Division, as some of his men may know something of the visit complained of

Owen Brien
Superintendent.

The Chief Commissioner.

(3459.) Wt.6369—550.2000.12/17.A.T.&Co.,Ltd.
(1417.) Wt.1644—621.2000.5/18.

No. 22193/S

S. 44 D.M.P.

Chief Secretary's Office, Ireland.

JUDICIAL DIVISION. 34

SUBJECT.	MINUTE.
Dublin Mrs Darrel Figgis	Chief Commissioner D.M.P. Mrs Darrel Figgis alleges that a raid was made on her flat at 24 Kildare St by three policemen on night of 12th. Ultimo, ostensibly for the purpose of searching for an escaped prisoner — Will you kindly furnish a report as to this — 10. XII. 18.

Supt. G. Div.
For enquiry and report.

J. Quinn
Assist. Comm. 10/12/18

22193/S

35

"Evening Herald"
11.12.18.

THE RESPONSIBILITY.

To the Editor "Evening Herald."

Sir—The announcement of Richard Coleman's death will come as a painful shock to the Irish public. There are others suffering from the influenza scourge, and unless something is immediately done we shall probably have further victims.

These men are in English prisons because they did their part in organising the country against conscription. Are we going to let them die without a vigorous united protest against their continued detention?

On Oct. 25th I wrote to the Prison Commissions suggesting that in view of the rapid course of the all-prevading scourge, that each Governor be informed that any prisoner showing symptoms of 'flu be immediately isolated and their relatives informed.

On 30th Oct. I wrote to the English Secretary for Ireland as follows:—"According to alteration in 14 B D.O.R. Reg. made April last, I understand that you are responsible for the conditions of internment of the Irish deported prisoners. I would, therefore, point out to you the grave responsibility which rests upon you particularly in regard to this plague crisis, which, given suitable conditions, frequently terminates fatally in comparatively few hours.

"I suggest that with 6 months' under-feeding, with close unhealthy confinement, and consequent lowered vitality of these men little resistance would be offered to this infection were it introduced. If these men suffer in health, as would appear inevitable from such conditions, I wish to warn you of your responsibility in this matter." Neither of these letters received a reply.

The Irish people, in a few days, will be given an opportunity of expressing their abhorrence of the English Government's treatment of Irishmen whose crime is love of their country. Let this expression be clear and unmistakable!

M. DARRELL FIGGIS (Dublin, Dec. 10, 1918).

Under Secretary
Submitted to
see. The Chief Secretary
gave no orders as
regards a reply to
letter of 31st Oct.
WPC 12/12

(3459.) Wt.6369—550.2000.12/17. A.T.&Co.,Ltd.
(1417.) Wt.1644—621.2000.5/18.

No. ~~22193~~/18

Chief Secretary's Office, Ireland.

36

JUDICIAL DIVISION.

SUBJECT.	MINUTE.
Letter from Mrs Darrel Figgis.	Under Secretary Submitted with a report from Sackville, the messenger, as to the delivery of the letter on the 1st Nov. The Chief Secretary has dealt with Dr Barry's certificate — I know nothing about the alleged Police raid. WPC 9/12
T done 10/12 Dsp 10/12	I Ask C.C. as to alleged raid: I presume the letter del. to Mrs Figgis made it clear that her husband wd. be temporarily released on usual condns. provided satisfactory medical proof of her illness becoming critical, reached the Chief Secretary? [illegible] 9/12

24 Kildare St
Dublin

Dec: 6th 1918.

22193 SECRET

37

The English Secretary for Ireland

Sir,

In a letter sent to you on Nov: 4th to which I have not had the courtesy of a reply - I mentioned a matter which would demand attention at a subsequent date.

3275

21903/S

A state of ill-health has prevented me from raising the question earlier, & I do so now placing the whole facts before you, to learn whether these outrages upon public decency are perpetrated at your orders.

On the 8th Nov: last I wrote to you stating that I had contracted influenza from a malignant source & that in the event of pneumonia developing I wanted to know whether my husband, Dancie Figgis, would be released on parole. I pointed out that the rapid course of this disease made my request one of great urgency. This was followed the next day by a medical report in order that my letter should not be dismissed as frivolous.

On the 11th inst. Congestion of the lungs becoming manifest a wire was sent drawing your attention to the urgency of the matters placed before you. It was not before 14th Nov: (exactly a week later), that I received an answer.

In the interim I learn that your Secret Service men visited my doctor endeavouring to extract information as to my condition. This was followed by a raid upon my flat by three of the police - ostensibly to search for an escaped prisoner - at midnight! Two days later (14th inst.) the answer from your office was delivered here by a man, who in the temporary absence of my nurse - without even knocking - walked straight into my bedroom.

I would ask you whether you would like your wife subjected to such an indignity?

The other point I wish to raise, is that the report furnished by my medical attendant stated that I was suffering from influenza & permanent cardiac lesion, which even those most ignorant of medical matters would understand, could scarcely be improved by such happenings as I have described.

As on previous occasions you may not deign to reply, but in any case you will not be able to claim ignorance of these matters if I decide subsequently to raise this in a more public way.

Yours truly

Michael Higgis

21978

SECRET.

6.991.
J.O.
18

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE. T.O. DUBLIN CASTLE
NO 23
18

1. Telegraph to Irish Office.

Send following message to Mr Walker Home Office. (cypher). The medical evidence hitherto furnished has not been sufficient to show the necessity of the temporary release of Figgis. Wade

2. U.S.

[signature] 23/11/18.

W.H. 25/11

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS. 21978

40

Message Received in Chief Secretary's Office.

Date NO 23 18 191

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE T.O. DUBLIN CASTLE

Handed in at the Office at

Received here at 6 P

B/

From	To
	Watt.
	Urgent

Following phoned from Waller H.O.
"Reference case of Darell Figgis
and your minute of 19th saying
that permission for temporary release
will be given when Dublin Castle
authorities are satisfied that Mrs
Figgis is dangerously ill stop
Figgis has been informed and
states that the medical evidence
required was sent to Dublin Castle
a week ago. Figgis requests to
be allowed to go to see her
immediately. Please telegraph
Chief Secy's wishes"

U.S.

[initials]
23/11/18

[signature]

(2288.) Wt.2766—639.50 Pads.7/18. A.T.&Co.,Ltd.*

(3459.) Wt.6369—550.2000.12/17.A.T.&Co.,Ltd.
(1417.) Wt.1644—621.2000.5/18.

No. 21952 SECRET.

Chief Secretary's Office, Ireland.

41

JUDICIAL DIVISION.

SUBJECT.	MINUTE.
Illness of Mrs Darrell Figgis.	WHG 22/11
Dr. Alice Barry, 127 Lr. Baggot Street, furnishes a certificate that Mrs Darrell Figgis is suffering from Influenza and is not making satisfactory progress, and that owing to an old cardiac lesion the disease may take a grave form.	

21952

Returned by

42

127 Lr. Baggot St.

18th Nov. 1918

22/11/18

This is to certify that Mr. Darrell Figgis is suffering from Influenza & is not making satisfactory progress — owing to an old Cardiac lesion the disease may take a grave form.

Alice Barry
L.R.C.P.I. & L.M.

Secret

21903 Chief Secretary's Office
Dublin Castle

On the 17th inst. I received a letter from Mr Connolly for delivery to Mr Darrel Figgis 21 Kildare St.

Arriving at 21 Kildare St. I found the front door open, failing to get any attention I proceeded up the landing to the second floor. Knocking repeatedly at doors — receiving no answer, I tried the handle of a door — it opened — entering saw a female resting on a sofa, I asked if Mrs Darrel Figgis was in she said No — I further asked if she would kindly accept a letter for Mr Darrel Figgis, she said yes — it would be all right —

Consequently I left the letter & came away.

Henry McNackville.
18. 11. 18

Asst Under Secretary
As a complaint was made to me that the messenger went into Mrs Figgis's bedroom, I thought it well to obtain this report at once in case any question hereafter arose —
W.N.
19/11

I.G. 19/11
J.M.C.

30379 16/11

Kildare St
Dublin

Oct 14th 1918

CHIEF SECRETARY'S ... OFFICE

No 29998

44

The Chief Secretary for Ireland

Sir,

I wrote to you on the 8th inst on a matter of a most urgent nature. This letter was followed by a telegram & phone message directing your attention to the urgency of the matters placed before you

Today I received a letter by hand the manner of delivery of which will demand attention at a subsequent date, signed by J. I. Taylor. I have not the slightest doubt that this person is thoroughly estimable but I want to know whether the communication so signed, has the authority of any responsible official (if there are any such), behind it, because in view of the matters placed before you – the document proves most interesting

The general contents would suggest that it had not, but I would be glad to have your assurance on the matter

Yours truly

Darrell Figgis

US

R 16/11/18

Do not acknowledge
This letter deserves no notice.
W.H.L. 18/11

✓ J.E.S. 18/11

CHIEF SECRETARY'S
30329 - 16 NOV 1918
OFFICE

HOME OFFICE,
WHITEHALL,
S.W.1.

14th November, 1918.

45

Dear Watt,

In reply to your note of November 1st. to Waller, about the health of the Irish prisoners at Durham, I enclose copies of reports made which we have received from the Governor, and his medical officer, and return herewith Mrs. Figgis' letterto the Chief Secretary.

Yours sincerely,

C. A. Hunt

US
15/11/18

S. Watt, Esquire.
Irish Office.
36 & 38, Old Queens Street.
LONDON.
S W . 1.

await reply from Mrs Figgis
15/11

24 Kildare St
Dublin

Oct 31st 1918.

46

The English Secretary for Ireland

Sir,

According to alteration made April last in 1413. D.O.R. Reg.
I understand that you are responsible for the conditions of
internment of the Irish Deported Prisoners.

I would therefore, point out to you the very grave responsibility
which rests upon you particularly in regard to this plague crisis
which, given suitable conditions frequently terminates fatally
in comparatively few hours.

I suggest that ~~five~~ six months underfeeding, with close unhealthy
confinement & consequent lowered vitality of these men, little
resistance would be offered to infection were it introduced

I write particularly in regard to my husband, Darrell Figgis,
a prisoner in Durham Prison.

According to your amending order this prison may be termed
a Camp for the purpose of the Act. In this prison there are
twelve young men & an armed guard & the prisoners are
compelled to move about in a solid body, with that guard.

The "Camp" (for the purpose of the Act), exercise yard is roughly
30 yards by 15. surrounded by high walls. Until recently these men
were allowed to exercise morning & evening in the women's
yard for about 40 minutes but quite recently, I understand this

has been dug up, thus restricting still more the accommodation for from 18 to 24 men.

I suggest these conditions strain to breaking point even those powers conferred upon you

If these men suffer in health as would appear to be inevitable from such conditions I wish to warn you of your responsibilities

Yours truly

William Figgis

G.R.

COPY. H.M.PRISON. 48

DURHAM.

Nov: 5th. 1918.

IRISH INTERNEES HEALTH EXERCISE etc.REPORT.

With reference to the above and the enclosed complaints of Mrs Figgis these prisoners get close on one hour in the morning but most of them are too lazy to turn out for it FIGGIS IN PARTICULAR, they have this exercise on the top ground near the hospital it is dryer larger and more open for them besides they get all the view of the town and Cathedral from here. THEY ASKED FOR THIS CHANGE and they are ALL most grateful for the change and do not want to give it up.
In the Afternoon at THEIR OWN REQUEST they are allowed to go in the female exercise ground where they play a sort of modified Rounders. I do not restrict them to time here and let then stay out over the hour if they so wish, and the ground is not wanted for any other purpose, when they do return to their own association room, they still have the debtors yard to play fives in, which they do every day. A. small part of the female grounds have been dug up but it will be a long time before it interferes with their games and it will never interfere with their exercise there.

No Military /

No Military Guard has been in this prison for some time now. The prisoners are in the best of health and spirits as far as I can judge. BUT FIGGIS IS NO LONGER THEIR HEAD OR CAPTAIN, and from what I can learn is not very popular with the rest. I certainly think the association room is far too small for the numbers here but there is no other. The heat and stuffiness in that room is to me often unbearable, but of course an Irishman can stand more of this sort of living than an Englishman, in fact he does not case for too fresh air etc. etc. To vary their monotony they are exercised on three different yards during the week, they cna walk as they like and with whom they like and ONLY ONE OFFICER IS OUT WITH THEM. FIGGIS is quite one of the worst for turning out at th morning exercise and he has only himself to blame if he does not get enough.

(SIGNED). W.H.WINDER.

Governor.

Prison Commissioners.

COPY.

November 5th, 1918.

I beg to report that the internees generally are in a state of good health with the exception of Daniel McCARTHY, who is receiving every medical attention and whose case is under consideration as regards further treatment.

I am of the opinion that Darrell FIGGIS in particular is in a state of very good health.

(SIGNED).

ROBERT STUART.

M. O.

The Governor.

29995
18

No. 29995. 14th November, 1918.

Madam,

With reference to your letter of the 8th instant, I have to inform you that, if unfortunately you should bedome dangerously ill, the Chief Secretary will sanction the temporary release of your husband Mr. Darrell Figgis on his signing an undertaking if released from custody to take no part in politics either directly or indirectly and not to leave the area of the Dublin Metropolitan Police District.

I am to add that the report received from your Doctor would not justify your husband's release at present.

I am,

Madam,

Your obedient Servant,

(S) J. J. Taylor.

desp by hand
WH

Mrs Darrell Figgis,

24 ~~25~~ Kildare Street,

Dublin.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

52

Message Received in Chief Secretary's Office.

Date _____ 191__

Handed in at the _____ Office at _____ Received here at _____

From	To
Watt	M.S.

The Chief Secy agrees with your minute regarding Darrell Figgis. Your minute is as follows:— "I assume that if Mrs D Figgis becomes dangerously ill her husband may be released temporarily on signing an undertaking similar to that required from Dr K. Lynn Meanwhile subject to your sanction I propose to answer Mrs D Figgis to the foregoing effect & to say that at present her doctors report does not justify release"

No. 12938

13 NOV. 1918
METROPOLITAN POLICE
DUBLIN CAST

CHIEF SECRETARY'S
29995 - 13 NOV 1918
OFFICE

53

Telegrams: "DAMP, DUBLIN."
Telephone No. 22.

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Detective Department.

Dublin, 13th November, 1918.

Subject ILLNESS OF MRS DARRELL FIGGIS, 24 KILDARE STREET.

With reference to attached, I beg to state that I called to the residence of Dr. Alice Barry, 127 Lower Baggot Street, shortly after 6 p.m. 12th instant, and was informed that the Dr. left Amiens Street Station by the 3 p.m. train for Belfast on same day en route to Aberdeen, and that she will not return till Saturday or Monday next.

The Servant in the house informed me that Dr. Barry had not appointed any substitute during her absence.

Mrs Weddall is a Nurse in the Meath Hospital; she belongs to Achill, and is a personal friend of Mrs Figgis. It is said that this Nurse holds extreme views.

M. Ahern

Sergeant
14. G.

The Supt.,
G. Division.

Under Secretary
Submitted
W. E. Johnstone
C Commr. 13/11

The Chief Commr
Submitted
Owen O'Brien
Supt. 13/11/18

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

DUBLIN POLICE 12938 RECEIVED

Message Received in Chief Secretary's Office.

No of Telegram — 54

Office Stamp. CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE. T.O. DUBLIN CASTLE NO 12 18

Service Instructions

Handed in at } Dublin P. at 1.20 pM. Received here at } 2.32 pM.

TO { Chief Secretary For Ireland
Dublin Castle

I wish to draw your attention to the urgency of the matter placed before you in regard to Mrs Darrell Figgis

Weddall Nurse

Under Secretary

Submitted. The file was sent this morning to the Chief Secretary & it will not reach him until tomorrow. Meantime the Dublin Police may perhaps again see Dr Barry & ascertain what is the condition of Mrs Figgis. W.J.W. 12/11

Yes. ask DMP to enquire from Dr. Barry at once if Mrs. Figgis is in a dangerous or critical state of health. If Dr. B. will so certify inform [illegible] 12/11

Chief Comr W.J.W. 12/11

Supt. G Div [illegible] 12/11

Wired 1-18p

1. Wire to U.S.

The Chief Secretary agrees with your minute regarding Darrell Figgis.
Your minute is as follows:- quote minute. A-B.

2. U.S.

Watt

R
13/11/18

IMMEDIATE

Telegrams: "DAMP, DUBLIN."
Telephone No. 22.

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.

S
9822

Detective Department,

56

Dublin, 11th November, 1918.

SECRET.

Subject ILLNESS OF MRS. DARREL FIGGIS, 24 KILDARE STREET.

The Under Secretary,
Submitted.

to Edgeworth-Johnstone

C. Commr 11/11/18

I beg to state that between 1 and 2 p.m. 11th inst. I called on Dr. Alice Barry 127 Lower Baggot Street, and she informed me that she is attending Mrs. Figgis at 24 Kildare Street since the 4th inst., that she is confined to bed there and suffering from influenza.

The Doctor expressed the opinion that she is not in danger of death at present, but that she may develop serious symptoms later.

M. Ahern.
Sergeant 14 G.

The Supt., G. Division.

The Chief Commr
Submitted.
Owen Brien
Supt. 11/11/18

C.S:
Submitted: A I assume that if Mrs Figgis becomes dangerously ill, her husband may be released temporarily on signing an undertaking similar to that required from Dr. Kathleen Lynn: Meanwhile subject to yr. sanction I propose to answer Mrs Figgis to the foregoing effect & to say that at present her doctor's report does not justify release. B. [illegible] 11/11

I agree E.B. 13-11-18

[illegible] [illegible]

(3459.)Wt.6369—550.2000.12/17.A.T.&Co.,Ltd.
(4719) Wt.8137—586.2000.2/18.

No. 21804/S

S.
9824
D.M.P.
57

Chief Secretary's Office, Ireland.

JUDICIAL DIVISION.

SUBJECT.	MINUTE.
Mrs Darrell Figgis, 25 Kildare St. Dublin, states she is suffering from Influenza with some congestion and there may be speedy development. She accordingly desires the release on parole of her husband Darrell Figgis, interned in Durham Prison, in the event of pneumonia developing.	Immediate Ask C.C. DMP to Enquire from Dr. Barry as to the state of health of Mrs. Figgis & whether in the doctor's opinion her condition may be regarded as critical or likely to become so. [signature] 11/11 [signature] For a report not later than 2.30 pm today WHE 11/11 Supt. G. Divn., W.J. C. Commr 11/11/18

~~19177~~

21804 SECRET.

24 Kildare St
Dublin Oct 8th 1918

58

The Chief Secretary for Ireland

Sir,

I have influenza contracted through assisting a rather malignant case on Sunday last.

20885 S

my husband is a prisoner in Durham & in the event of pneumonia developing I would want to see him.

I write to both my husband & the Governor saying that I have a normal cold & whatever may be decided upon I do not wish him to know anything to the contrary

P.S.

I append my doctor's address in [illegible]

"Dr Barry"

"127 Lower Baggot Str"

At the moment I have some congestion; these things speed up in development as I have occasion to know having worked amongst it for the past three weeks

I want to know whether he will be allowed to come to me on parole

Yours truly

Michael Figgis

DUBLIN
NOV 9
1 30 AM
1918

The Chief Secretary for Ireland

Dublin Castle — 60

21538/S

61

HOME OFFICE,
WHITEHALL,
S.W.1.

15th October, 1918.

Dear Watt,

--------The enclosed, which I have received from the Postal Censors Department, may interest the Chief Secretary.

Yours very truly,

J. L. Waller.

S. Watt, Esquire.
Irish Office.
36 & 38, Old Queens Street.
LONDON.
S.W.1.

Under Secretary
Submitted to Sec. WMc 17/10

1. Seen by C.S.
2. U.S.
16/10/18

57812 (M.I.9a)

Strand House,
Carey St.,
W.C.2.

11th Oct., 1918.

62

Dear Waller,

I think you will find the enclosed slip dealing with a letter to Darrell Figgis of some interest.

Yours sincerely,

W. M. Marsden
(for Capt Barker)

To Mr Watt.

M.L.Waller, Esq., C.B.,
Home Office.

COPY.

21538 S

RECEIVED BY 6 OCT 1918 M.I.9.

W3399 253 20,000 7/18 DSG(52334)

Directorate of Military Intelligence.

Letter described below submitted to M.I.9.a. Capt. Barber, for H.O. 63

by M.I.9.c. on 5.10.18.

No. A/B.I.P. 227. 3.10.18.

From	To
Millie (Figgis) (24 Kildare St. Dublin).	Darrell Figgis, Durham Prison.

Date of letter 26.9.18.

16-10-'18

COMMENT.

The following extracts may be considered of interest.

Extracts:-

"I visited W today and he doesn't know how he stands having to face the racket of seizures all over the country. He says about 3 doz copies of your statement which had been delivered about two hours were seized last raid. He pointed out that these publications of Maunsel's were all subjected to censorship before publication and suggested that they should be returned to the publisher but they took them off. This ought to make Decies a proud man because he personally censored your thing; but apparently Major Price thinks little of his capacity for his job! The object I understand was to prevent enlightenment of American air-men and soldiers who appeared to have a particular taste for that special pamphlet. Your S.F.C. was asked for by a Belgian Priest who said he caught a glimpse of it in the trenches and so much wanted to read it. He came with an introduction to W. and got it, much to his delight. I got another similar sum as before from the same source, so apparently it will be a usual thing ..... Rumours pour in think and fast and somehow I get them all - when I settle for the evening then comes that band which is awful I found today that Hegarty had left an inscribed copy of his recent book for you on my doorstep which is a pity in one way, since I had already sent you it. However, I think they will be of value. I forgot to ask for Griffith's Hungary pamphlet but I will go again, my wits go wool gathering."

"The decision re the visits is unanimous I read a letter from Art, which was an echo of yours which I read out afterwards - Relatives prisoners and friends all say the same ... that it was put forward in bad faith. Art says that on a card in his cell it states that untried prisoners, are allowed twenty minutes visit of friends every fortnight. Convicted prisoners, after a certain period, being well conducted once

P.T.O.

a month. Even Miss Del, though her sister is extremely ill will not accept. As she points out that if she found her sister dying she would have signed away her freedom to mention it. Mrs Tom Clarke is equally firm in regard to the matter, though they are badly off in the matter of correspondence. It is certainly instructive to see the unamimity in rejecting the proposal on principle no matter what suffering it entails. Madame Conne Mc Bride not being a Sinn Feiner is more or less free and Sean being only 14 years old signed it as his mother was so very ill."

"Tomorrow we are going to have a prisoners meeting in the Mansion House. It will be interesting to see whether it will be banned by the Police. Possibly not as the Dominion Press men are still here. It is well-timed, as we score either way. If it is shut down it will give an example of the liberty we enjoy - and if not it will demonstrate the enthusiasm a great mass has for the prisoners."

"I think you will find that G.K.C. spoke truly in at least one part of his speech reported in todays paper, in spite of the present outlook being so black."

Letter condemned.

L.W.
5.10.18.

G.M.G. 481
3.10.18.

(34 Wt.6369—550.2000.12/17.A.T.&Co.,Ltd.
(47 Vt.8137—586.2000.2/18.

No. 20885/S

Chief Secretary's Office, Ireland.

JUDICIAL DIVISION. — 65

SUBJECT.	MINUTE.
DARRELL FIGGIS	Under Secretary Submitted loose. W.H. 26/8/18. [illegible]
The Home Office forwards letter (stopped by the Censor) written by Mr. DARRELL FIGGIS, Durham Prison, to Messrs Maunsell & Co., publishers, 50 Lower Baggot Street, Dublin.	Return original letter as requested W.H. 6/9 Done J.L. 6/9 Despd J.D. 6/9

66

20884-85/S

6th September 1918

Sir,

I am directed by the Lord Lieutenant to return herewith, as requested, the original letters written by the Irish prisoners Arthur GRIFFITH and Darrell FIGGIS, respectively, which were forwarded with your letter of the 20th ultimo (362,269).

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J J Taylor

The Under Secretary of State,

Home Office,

London, S.W. 1.

HOME OFFICE,
WHITEHALL,
S.W. 1.

362269.

20th. August 1918.

67

Dear Mr. Martin-Jones,

I send you a couple of letters, written by the Irish prisoners Arthur GRIFFITH and Darrell FIGGIS respectively, which have been forwarded to me by the Censor, together with the Censor's notes. These may be of interest to you. I gather that the Censor has stopped the letters. Will you return me the original letters when done with?

Mr. Connolly.
[illegible]
22-VIII-18

Yours very truly,

M. L. Waller.

C. M. Martin-Jones Esq.,
Chief Secretary's Office,
The Castle,
Dublin.

COPY

Directorate of Military Intelligence.
Letter described below submitted to M.I.9a for Home Office, by M.I.9.c(2) on 31.7.18.

20885

No. P/W.I 59 22.7.18.

From

Darrell Figgis, No.413,
Durham Prison.

To

Messrs. Maunsel & Co.,
50, Lower Baggot Street
Dublin,
Ireland.

Date of letter 5.7.18.

68

Comment.

Writer instructs his publisher to open up a correspondence with the Daily News, Manchester Guardian and Literary Supplement, in order to spread the sale of his books "on this side - As an advertisement for one entitled the "Historic Case", he recommends "some striking headlines" based on his present position and the political situation.

Reference is also made to a contemporary publication the "Squinting Windows".

Extract:- "I hear the "Squinting Windows" are giving you trouble. Ireland is a difficult place for that kind of action at present, tho' one feels inclined to tell them all to be damned. The author made one bad mistake. I noticed it while reading. He used the word "Meat". He shd have invented a word, and made a new geography - as I know another author did".

Letter attached.

E.J.
29.7.18.

G.M.G. 5392
22.7.18.

H. Sturgis,
Major.

Copy

20015

SECRET.

DUBLIN CASTLE.

14th June, 1918.

69

Sir,

I am instructed by the Chief Secretary to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, and to say that your complaints with regard to letters, newspapers and books will be inquired into.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd.) A.P.M.

Darrel Figgis, Esq.,
Durham Jail.

Under Secy
The Chief Secy.
will be glad if you will communicate officially with the Home Office & ask that enquiry may be made into these complaints.

Done JHD 19/6.

A.P.M.
14/6.

No. 20015. 19th June, 1918.

Sir,

The Chief Secretary desires me to forward to you, to be laid before the Secretary of State, the attached copy of a letter from Darrel Figgis, at present interned in H. M. Prison at Durham, and to ask that inquiry may be made regarding the complaints contained therein.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. P. J. Connolly.

The Under Secretary of State,

Home Office,

London. S.W.1.

20015

71

Durham Jail

19/vi/18

E. Shortt Esqr.

Sir

I notice in today's papers that you say: "Some of the Sinn Feiners who have been arrested . . . have not availed themselves of the opportunity which was given to them of making their place of internment known to their friends."

Last Saturday week, June 1st, we were informed for the first time that we might write letters to our relations & friends, but that such letters must pass thro' the Censor. On that date we all wrote. I also sent a telegram to my wife — for which I was of course charged at the usual telegraphic rates. Up to last Saturday, to judge from the fact that telegrams of Enquiry were recd by the Govr of this Prison, neither letters nor telegram ~~had~~ been recd in Ireland. It appears, therefore, that what was granted belatedly, with much solicitude, thro' one Department, was with great care muffled in another Department. Hence the statement, quoted above, was dexterous rather than accurate.

Moreover, we were informed that we were at liberty to purchase Irish papers. We did so. We ordered them thro' the Govr from Dublin. Then, when they arrived, we were informed that they were to be sent to the Censor (having already of course been censored in Ireland). This was ten days ago. The result is that the Censor has purloined them without a word in reply. Again what was granted with one

hand, the other hand took care to cancel.

Finally we were told that we were at liberty to receive books for purposes of study & recreation. When certain books arrived (an Irish Dictionary, an European History, & two works, one a novel, by my own pen) I was again told that it wd., according to definite orders recd., be necessary to send them to the Censor. Presumably he was to search for potential or constructive treason in a Dictionary!

In 1916 we discovered that books sent to the Censor frequently left his hand indeed — but not to return to us. As we are in a position to prove, some of these were afterwards purchased on secondhand bookstalls in Charing Cross Road. Several books of mine, including one of considerable value, were lost in this way. To put plain words upon it, they were stolen for profit. Thus once more one of our plain rights is, by careful administration ex in *mala fide*, cancelled in the very act of its being granted. For I certainly refuse to put my books in the way of their being stolen.

Therefore we demand: —

1. Letters. That the guarantee we recd. during 1916 be now ~~renewed~~: that our letters be not delayed in the Censor's office more than 24 hours.

2. Papers. That Irish papers purchased by us or sent to us be recd. by us at once.

3. Books. That books for study or recreation purchased

by or sent to us be recd. by us at once.

Further, we demand the following rights as Alien Internees under Regulation 14 B of the D.O.R. Act:—

4. Visits. Weekly visits; visitors from Ireland to be accorded the necessary passport & other facilities; & the visits to take place in a room.

5. Association. That all meals be taken in association.

6. Letters. That all outgoing letters be franked.

7. Parcels Outward. That parcels of books or clothing, for which we have no further use, be sent home direct: parole to be taken, or, if necessary, inspection by the Govt.

I may add that all the above rights were admitted while we were interned in 1916. We therefore only require what have already been accorded to us as Internees under Regulation 14 B. of D.O.R. Act.

I am,

yours &c

Darrell Figgis

DURHAM
6. 30 PM
11 JUN 18

Personal

DURHAM
6. 30 PM
11 JUN

74

E. Shortt Esq M.P., K.C.

Chief Secy. for Ireland.

~~House of Commons~~

Westminster

London. S.W. 1

Irish Office
S.W.

Write A-D
his cousin has
Papers

CHIEF SECRETARY'S
20743 - -2 AUG 1918
OFFICE

313,895/2

Under Secretary
S.M.P.
1/8/18

HOME OFFICE,
WHITEHALL,
S.W. 1.

31st July, 1918.

75

Dear Power,

I enclose another complaint from Durham about the delay of letters, and the damaged condition in which parcels are received.

As regards the latter point the Governor reports:-

> "Some of these parcels do arrive by post badly damaged: that is evidently the fault of the packer, but the contents are invariably unharmed except sometimes the bread is a little broken and when butter has been enclosed it has sometimes got pressed flat. It is a gross exaggeration to say all the contents had to be consigned to the ash pit".

The petition does not appear to require an answer.

Yours sincerely,

C. D. Carew Robinson

S. M. Power, Esq., C.B.

With file of previous complaints. WHL 2/8

HOME OFFICE
20 JUL 1918
RECEIVED

Durham Jail
July 18th

76

To English Chief Sec for Ireland

On the 23rd June you gave a promise that letters sent to Irish Men in English Jails re alleged German Plot, would not be detained more than 24 hours in censers office.

To day I received a letter posted on June 30th at Killarney Kerry Ireland.

Re Parcels

On the 21rst of June a parcel was sent me by a Friend of mine named Miss O Connor. up to the present that parcel have not been received by me.

It is noticeable that all parcels arriving here for the last nine or ten days most of which were inclosed in strong card board boxes are rendered useless and nearly all the contents had to be consined to the ash pit.

I have not the least doubt that the breaking up of Parcels was wilful and malictous. contrast our treatment with that given to prisoners taken by the German's on the retreat from Mon's several of which were friends of mine and I can prove beyond doubt that parcels sent by their friends were safely received by them

Yours
Michael Spillane

CHIEF SECRETARY'S
20676 - -2 AUG 1918
OFFICE

29/7/18

77

Dear Mr Cameron Robinson.

Perhaps you would like to see the Chief. Sec's decision.

Yours sincerely

Perhaps you will send on enclosed

Many thanks. acks sent on as requested & Sir [Jame]'s envelope returned to him - see bottom letter. CR. 30/7/18

362,269/84

HOME OFFICE,
WHITEHALL,
S.W. 1.

25th July, 1918.

78

Dear Watt,

I enclose another batch of letters addressed to the Chief Secretary all of which contain complaints about the delay of their correspondence. This delay, as I explained in my note of the 23rd instant, was largely due to the special examination put in force in the early part of this month and complaints were anticipated when the instructions were given. In some cases, however, it is accounted for by the fact that the internees insist on referring to prohibited topics and we have found it necessary to issue a general warning on the subject, of which I enclose a copy. This makes it clear that the A remedy to some extent lies in their own hands, and a reply to these individual representations, at any rate beyond an acknowledgment, seems unnecessary. The "undertaking" referred to did not of course apply to letters it was found necessary to stop.

Yours sincerely,

G. D. Carew Robinson.

S. Watt, Esq.

A. Jayne
E.S.
27.7.'18

Copy

To the Governor,
Mn. Prison,

The Under Secretary of State requests that the Irish interned prisoners in your custody may be informed as follows:-

"The Secretary of State has asked that you may be reminded that letters are allowed for the purpose of communicating with your relations and friends on domestic matters and matters of business in which you are personally interested. They must not be used for the discussion of public events or for complaints about your internment or treatment: any such complaints should be made to the Secretary of State.

Communications which offend against these rules will be stopped by the Censor.

Arrangements have been made to deal with all letters as quickly as possible, but any which obtain obscure expressions, abbreviations and indirect references to prohibited subjects are liable to delay, and may have to be stopped.

If your correspondents understand English you are recommended to write to them in that language."

PRISON COMMISSIONS
17 JUL 1918

HOME OFFICE
18 JUL 1918
RECEIVED

80

H.M.PRISON. DURHAM JULY 17th

DARRELL FIGGIS PETITION

Refe rence to above this prisoner was clearly informed of the passages objected to in the letter which was returned to him

Winden.

Governor

Prison Commissioners

Forwarded to the Secretary of State.

17/7/18

Durham Jail
16/vii/18

81

Ackd.
Ry 29/7/18

E. Shortt. Esq.
English Chief Secy. for Ireland.

Sir

On the 23rd ultimo you gave us yr. "Pledge", thro' the Govr. of this Jail, that letters from & to us wd. not be delayed more than 24 hours in the Censor's office.

On the 27th ultimo I wrote a letter to my mother in London. Today, the 16th July, I receive it back without indication of any passage objected to.

Also today I receive a telegram from Dublin (sent to the Govr.) informing me that the operation on my wife had been successful. I know nothing of any operation. Manifestly a letter had been sent giving me particulars in advance, which the Censor, regarding Pledges at their traditional value in the affairs of yr Nation, has placed in his pocket.

I ask no favours from you. I just wish to draw yr attention to the value of yr. word.

I am,
Yours faithfully
Darrell Figgis

Durham Jail 82

9th July 1918

Ackd [illegible] 29/7/18

E. Shortt Esq
English Chief Secy. for Ireland

Sir

On the 23rd June a pledge from you was communicated to me from the Govr. of this Prison that letters from or to us ~~would~~ wd. not be delayed in the Censor's office more than 24 hours. Today the Govr. of this Prison received a wire from my wife asking if I am ill as no letters have been recd. since the 28th ult. Since that date I have written twice to my wife, on the 1st & 5th July, both of which letters she shd. have recd.

Further I am in a position to state that other letters of mine, duly recorded in this office, have not been recd.

That is to say, the pledge, given & recorded, proves in the result to be a common deception. The deceit proves also to be a fraud, inasmuch as we are defrauded of 1½d. per letter in stamps. Am I to understand that you & the staff are as utterly destitute of honour in little things as you prove to be in greater matters?

I have also to draw the attention to the fact that my last letter, with regard to Visits, remains yet without an answer.

answer des today 11/7

I am
yours truly

Darrell Figgis

PRISON COMMISSION
11 JUL. 1918

Ans 29/7/18

Durham. Prison
10th July 1918.

83

English Chief Sec. for Ireland.

Sir.

Would you please inform me, if the undertaking given to me by you through the governor of this internment Camp was only meant to deceive me and my friends.

On the 23rd June the governor here, read out a document which he stated had come from you in which document it was stated that, letters to & from me would not be delayed more than twenty-four hours. Now I hold a letter in my hand which was posted in Ireland on the 28th June and handed to me to-day 10th July by the governor here. Surely that is a long twenty-four hours.

On the other hand I've reason to beleive that some of my letters never pass the censors office.

So please let me know if you meant what you said or as I have ~~as~~ before stated only meant to deceive

Yours.
Ml. Fleming.

Acd 29/7/18

PRISON COMMISSION
11 JUL. 1918

Durham Prison..
England...
July 10th 1918.

84

To English Chief Sec. for Ireland.

Sir —

Yesterday I addressed a letter to you informing you that my letters were being delayed longer than the 24 hours you promised should be the maximum delay in the Censor's Office. I have today heard that letters written by me and posted on July 1st. were again delayed longer than the 24 hours you mention. The same holds true of letters written to me. I may mention the fact that only one letter of mine, since you gave us your promise to allow them thro' without excessive delay — only one letter of mine has received the benefit ~~of~~ implied in your promise. I should like to believe that this is due to inadvertance but I am regretfully obliged to inform you that I doubt seriously that you ever intended that our letters should receive any but the most tardy and dilatory treatment.

Four parcels sent to me during the week ending June 29th. have not yet been delivered to me. They were posted from Cahersiveen and Dingle. They have either been stolen in the Post or stopped by your authority and in collusion with the post office authorities. Would you be so kind as to set my mind at rest as to ~~who~~ which is the guilty party.

Mise

P. O Siochon.

ackd
[illegible] 27/7/18

PRISON COMMISSION
10 JUL. 1918

Durham Prison
July 9th 1918.

85

To English Chief Secretary for ~~Ireland~~

Sir,

You have expressly stated that letters from us [internees] would not be delayed for more than 24 hours in the Censors office. This pledge was communicated to us by the Governor of this prison on June 23rd. We have checked by careful reference that (1) letters sent from us do not reach their destination, (2) some also are returned and (3) some detained in the censor's office for three or four days. In reference to (1) and (2) I shall communicate details in a day or two, but in reference to (3) I desire to know whether the censor has a veto over your arrangements and promises, or whether your guarantee to us is only official camouflage. A letter of mine directed to my brother, ~~a~~ and which left here on June 24th, did not reach him till six days later.

~~Furthermore~~ I have definite information that letters, have been lately directed to me, thro' the Censor's office, have not been delivered to me. Also three parcels posted direct here more than ten days ago have not yet reached me. Please let me know if these things are due to official action

I should also like that you would inform me whose business it is to censor our letters — ours, the writers or the Censor's. The latter seems to think that the duty devolves upon us as he has returned some of our letters but has not indicated which parts we should delete.

Mise P. O Siochain.

Sugrue

PRISON COMMISSION
12 JUL 1918

H.M.PrisonDurham Julyllth

Two petitions from Irish Interned prisoners forwarded, report is attached to one . I have no comment to make on the other as the matter does not concern this office .

86

Governor

Prison Commissioners .

Forwarded to the Secretary of State.
PW 12/7/18

PRISON COMMISSION
12 JUL 1918

Clerk
25/7/18

Durham Jail
11-7-18

87

To the English Chief Sec. for Ireland
House of Commons.
Westminster
London.

Sir,

On Monday 10th June I addressed a letter to you, in which I stated that certain ~~of~~ articles of my property were stolen by the police at Gort Co., Galway. That a typewritter belonging ~~to~~ my sister was stolen by the police who burglarously entered my step-fathers premises at a time (31st March) when there was no one in the house except a young girl under-age, the other members of the family attending divine service. A specific charge which you have not attempted to controvert or deny. I received your sterotyped acknowledgement and thus the matter dropped as between you and me but I now inform you that failing the immediate return of the machine with my articles of property. I am having the case investigated in parliament.

I further direct your attention to the following statment of facts.

(1) I received a letter this morning posted July 4th Seven days in transit.

(2) ~~Two~~ letters and one parcel addressed to me by P. J. Piggott Gort Co. Galway. Have not been received by me.

(3.) A letter addressed to me on June 21st by B. Gibbs Fort Co Galway. Has not been received by me.

(4) A letter forwarded by me on July 2nd was returned by Censor on July 6th for me to Censor.

I reserve comment on the above. but I ask you is it your desire to allow us the liberties you took such pains to ventilate in the press? Are we subject to all the prejudices and exempted for all the benefits of English Law. Or are you also incapable of justice to the "mere Irish"? Is the law "the judgement pronounced by profound reason and intellect, thinking and legislating for the public good — or for a favoured few? Can you answer why you have me imprisoned here, one whom you dont know a shred of evidence against you can't produce, guided as you are, by the caprices of a vindictive Head Constable or a spiteful Policeman.

Yours obediently
M. V. Trayers.

(Copy).

PRISON COMMISSION
12 JUL 1918

H. M. Prison Durham 89

July 11th 1918

PETITION DARRELL FIGGIS IRISH INTERNED PRISONER

With reference to the enclosed petition of the above, a pamphlet arrived for him to day called "The Plot German or English " it was in English , but because it was printed and publishedby the same offices as " New Ireland "one of the prohibited newspapers I thought it only right and reasonable that I should first of all obtain the sanction of the Postal Censor first, especially as I had no proof or knowledge of it having been submitted to or having passed the Censor in Ireland .

Winden.

Governor

Prison Commissioners

PRISON COMMISSION
12 JUL 1918

Durham Jail
11/vii/18

90

The English Chief Secy. for Ireland,
E. Shortt Esq. K.C.

Sir

In the conditions communicated to you on the 23rd ult. we were informed that we might receive all books in English, but that books in Irish w. need to be sent to the Censor. I take this to mean that books published in Ireland that have not been banned by the Censor may be rec.d by us here. It is one thing to treat us as "Prisoners"; but I suggest that it is unnecessary from any point of view to treat us as children deficient of common understanding. Nevertheless a pamphlet sent to me yesterday was withheld from me altho' it was submitted to & passed the Censor in Ireland.

I am,

Yours faithfully

Darrell Figgis

362269/87

In replying to this letter, please write on the envelope:—

Number _____ Name _____

HOME OFFICE
22 JUL 1918
RECEIVED

Usk Prison

19th July 1918.

91

The Right Hon.
The Chief Secretary for Ireland
House of Commons
London

ACK
27/7/18

Sir

We wish to draw your attention to the serious inconvenience caused by the holding up of telegrams and letters addressed to Irish interned prisoners here, in the office of the Chief Postal Censor London, for periods of from five days to three weeks, and to request that effect may be given to your promise in the House of Commons that not more than twenty-four hours delay would take place in the handling of our correspondence by the Censors' department.

On 17th inst we wired Chief Postal Censor London as follows:— "Only one letter arrived since 13th Serious inconvenience caused in consequence explain." Up to time of writing no acknowledgment of this telegram has been received here, but on yesterday as if the outcome of it, twenty-two letters were delivered from, some dated 1st July and others 15th July with a few of intervening dates.

A telegram sent from Roscommon to George Geraghty

No. 24.

(8253—20-4-00)

Special testing ended about 14th July.
GR.

Geraghty ~~Co~~ ~~Ch~~, Usk, Prison c/o Chief Postal Censor London, on 13th inst, only came to hand today having been detained for six days by Censor.

92

As many of our letters are of an important business nature requiring immediate attention, these delays which are of usual occurrence cause great dislocation of such business and in some instances resulted in serious financial loss to the addressees, we now demand that you as the responsible Minister for our imprisonment, will make good your public statement that our letters shall be delivered at least in the ~~sh~~ time specified by you.

Unless this matter is righted at once we shall be obliged to take such steps as will publicly expose this outrageous delay -

On behalf of the interned prisoners in Usk

J. R. O'Reilly

Durham jail
Thursday
July 18th.

To English Chief Sec. for Ireland.

On ~~July~~ June 23rd. You very generously informed us that our letters would not be delayed for more than 24 hours in Censors Office. On today (July 18th) the letter of which I enclose the envelope was delivered to me. The letter was posted on July 1st. May I look on this as an indication of the value of your promise.

Furthermore I know that several letters of mine are at present in the censor's office and have been there for more than a week. I am forced to think, regretfully of course, that you did not intend to have our letters released quickly from the censor when you ~~you~~ spoke your useless promise. You have had time to correct any prejudiced interpretation of it that the magnanimous gentry in Strandhouse might have given to it in their Zeal for the welfare of little nations. Of course the esplanation may be simple enough i.e. your own absentmindedness with regard to ever having given any such promise. It was not an unknown trait in mediaeval Kings and Potentates, and Ireland is rather oldfashioned in the ~~matter~~ manner of its governance.

I am
Yours Sceptically
P. Ó Siochfhradha
Prióſúnach ꝗ Ċogaiḋ Ġall.

Please to return enclosed envelope. ret^d

Copy

15677

CHIEF SECRETARY'S
19132 - 15 JUL 1918
OFFICE

13th July, 1918.

94

Dear Mr. Carew-Robinson,

With reference to your letter of the 12th instant regarding the application of Darrell Figgis, the Chief Secretary quite agrees with what you have already written to him, and he does not propose to send any separate reply.

18551
JD 9/7

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) S.W.

U.S.

C. D. Carew-Robinson, Esq.,
Home Office,
Whitehall, S.W. 1.

13/7/18

WOH 16/7

318733/34

HOME OFFICE,
WHITEHALL,
S.W. 1.

12th July, 1918.

95

Dear Power,

I enclose another letter addressed to the Chief Secretary by Darrell Figgis. He has already petitioned the Secretary of State in similar terms and has been told that he cannot be permitted to send books home, but that they can be stored in the prison if he does not wish to retain them in his cell. Probably the Chief Secretary will not think it necessary to send a separate reply.

A

Yours sincerely,

G. Cecil Robinson

S. M. Power, Esq.

~~G. Cecil Robinson~~.

The Chief Secretary quite agrees with "A"

Shaw

12/7/18

PRISON COMMISSION
11 JUL. 1918

Durham Jail
10/vii/18

96

The English Chief Secy. for Ireland.

Sir,

A good many books, chiefly of study, have arrived for me, & are accumulating. I foresee that when I come to leave here (whenever that be) a considerable difficulty will arise as to their removal. I therefore desire to send them home in threes or fours as I finish with them. I am willing either to send them on parole, or to submit them to examination & search by the Govt. here.

I am,

Yours faithfully

Darrell Figgis

Ref. No.
3,37,833

CHIEF SECRETARY'S
18551 - 9 - JUL. 1918
OFFICE

HOME OFFICE,
WHITEHALL,
S.W. 1.

1st July, 1918.

97

Dear Power,

I enclose a letter addressed to the Chief Secretary by Darrell Figgis, one of the Irish internees in which he misquotes the answer given by Mr. Shortt to a Question by Joseph King on the 20th June.

If the Chief Secretary agrees, we would suggest that the answer to this letter should be sent through the Home Office and should be to the effect that the statement in the "Irish Independent" is incorrect: & that the Chief Secretary stated, in reply to an inquiry in how many cases visits had been allowed, that there had been three such cases.

Yours sincerely,

C. D. Carew Robinson

Under Secretary
Submitted with an extract from the "Independent" of the 21st ult referred to by Figgis, also the Chief Secretary's reply taken from Hansard.
May a letter be written to Figgis as suggested?
[illegible]

Yes
E. S.

G. M. Power, Esq.
IRISH OFFICE.

Done [illegible] 10/7
desps 10/7

98

18551

10th July 1918.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 26th ultimo in which you quote a report in the "Irish Daily Independent" newspaper of 21st June giving as a reply in Parliament by the Chief Secretary "that two visits from legal advisers and one from relatives would be allowed per week to the interned prisoners," I have to inform you that this report was inaccurate. Mr. Shortt, in his reply, stated that three visits had been allowed—two in the case of legal advisers and one under special conditions.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. P. Honnolly

Mr. Darrell Figgis,

H. M. Prison,

Durham.

Durham Jail
26/vi/18

E. Shortt Esq. K.C.
English Chief Secy. for Ireland.

Sir

I notice in the Irish Independent of Friday the 21st inst. (page 2., col. 6.) yr. statement, in reply to a question in the English Parliament, that "two visits from legal advisers & one from relatives will be allowed per week to the interned prisoners."

I desire to inform you that the Govr. of this Jail has not yet been made aware of this decision. He shd. be informed at once.

As our relatives reside in Ireland they will require passport & other facilities, otherwise yr. words will only be a deception. I wish to know what arrangements you have ordered to be made in this regard.

Yours

[illegible]

Darrell Figgis

100

IRISH INDEPENDENT.

21. 6. 18.

IRISH DEPORTEES.

NO PROSECUTIONS FOR TREASON.

Mr. Outhwaite asked Mr. Shortt in Parliament yesterday if he had now secured sufficient reason to enable a prosecution for treason to be brought against the Irish men and women who had been deported.

Mr. Shortt replied—**There is sufficient evidence, but no prosecutions for treason are considered either necessary or advisable.**

Mr. Outhwaite asked Mr. Shortt to give the reason why he does not proceed against these persons, particularly in view of the belief in Ireland that this action was simply taken to suppress the political movement, and that the whole charge was faked up "I should think," said Mr. Shortt, "that the reasons were obvious. Certainly no such views are held widely." "Is the reason that the evidence is mostly collected by agents-provocateurs?" Mr. King asked. Mr. Shortt—"No, certainly not."

CASE OF MRS. CLARKE.

Mr. Brace told Mr. King that Mrs. Clarke is in Holloway Prison, where she refused to be medically examined. Though not strong, her health did not seem to suffer since her internment. She is allowed to communicate with her children if she wishes. She had written to and received replies from them. Permission to visit her was not allowed. Mr. Shortt informed Mr. King that 2 visits from legal advisers and one from relatives would be allowed per week to the interned prisoners. No interned man gave notice of appeal inside the time allowed. Prisoners sometimes did not avail of concessions, and then it was rumoured that such were not allowed.

The prisoners at Gloucester have decided to receive no food supplies from Ireland, and to stick to prison fare.

Further public meetings which have protested against the deportations, and called for the speedy release or early trial by Irish jurymen of the prisoners were held at—**Glendalough**, Rev. M. Butler, D.D., P.P., presiding; **Caltra**, Ballinasloe, the speakers being Rev. L. Mac Branain, Mr. D. J Kelly, Co.C., and Prof. O'Brian, Galway; and by S. Fein Clubs at Ballymahon, Cree, Co. Clare, and Ardee.

Extract - page 484.
Mr. Shortt : Three visits have been allowed, two in the case of legal advisers, and one under special conditions. No interned person gave notice of appeal to the Advisory Committee within the time allowed.

101

Any communication on the subject of this letter should be addressed to—

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
HOME OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W., 1.

and the following number quoted:—

313,733/29.

HOME OFFICE,

WHITEHALL.

2nd July, 1918.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 19th June (20015/S) enclosing a copy of a letter from Darrell Figgis containing complaints as to the conditions of his internment, I am directed by the Secretary of State to say, for the information of the Chief Secretary, that similar representations received direct from the prisoner have been the subject of inquiry and a reply has been sent to him, a copy of which is enclosed. The Governor has also been instructed that parcels containing clothing which the prisoners wish to send to their friends need not be submitted for censorship if he is able to satisfy himself that they contain no messages of any kind: but in accordance with the wishes of the Chief Secretary they will not be allowed to send books.

As regards the remaining point, association at meals, the Governor reports that owing to shortage of staff the prisoners are only allowed to have their supper together, and that they seem satisfied with this arrangement; but he has been asked to endeavour to allow them to associate at the midday meal also.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Edward Troup.

The Chief Clerk,

IRISH OFFICE.

CR.

G. R.

COPY.

DARRELL FIGGIS.

The Under Secretary of State requests that the above prisoner may be informed as follows:-

"The Secretary of State has considered your petition of the 8th June and has authorised the supply of books and newspapers, subject to the approval of the Governor, without their being submitted to the Censor. There will be no avoidable delay in the transmission of letters and they will not be delayed more than 24 hours by the Censor. The Secretary of State cannot grant your request for visits, or that letters may be sent without the postage being prepaid."

The Governor,

H. M. Prison, DURHAM.

26th June,1918.

103

Dear Robinson,

With reference to your letters of the 20th and 22nd inst, forwarding communications from Darrell Figgis, Durham Prison, the Chief Secretary desires me to inform you that he has nothing to say with regard to the letter which accompanied yours of the 20th inst, and he agrees that an answer to the letter which accompanied yours of the 22nd inst, is unnecessary.

Yours sincerely,

E. Ward.

C. D. Carew-Robinson, Esq.,
Home Office,
Whitehall, S. W. 1.

No answer

104

HOME OFFICE,
WHITEHALL,
S.W. 1.

22nd June, 1918.

Dear Martin Jones,

I enclose another letter addressed to the Chief Secretary by Darrell Figgis.

In view of the fresh arrangements made as to newspapers and books (see copy of instructions to Governors enclosed) and the reply sent to Figgis' petition (copy also enclosed), the Chief Secretary will probably not think it necessary to answer this letter.

Yours sincerely,

C. D. Cameron Robinson

C. M. Martin Jones, Esq.

Spoke to the C.S. who does not consider answer necessary at pn.
24/6.

G.R.

Copy

213733/28

22nd June, 1918.

105

DARRELL FIGGIS.

The Under Secretary of State requests that the above prisoner may be informed as follows:-

"The Secretary of State has considered your petition of the 8th June and has authorised the supply of books and newspapers, subject to the approval of the Governor, without their being submitted to the Censor. There will be no avoidable delay in the transmission of letters and they will not be delayed more than 24 hours by the Censor. The Secretary of State cannot grant your request for visits, or that letters may be sent without the postage being prepaid."

The Governor,

H. M. Prison, DURHAM.

No. ....

Prison Commission.
Home Office,
Whitehall, S.W.1

106

22nd June, 1918. ~~191~~ .

The Governor,

.... Prison.

(1) Newspapers.

~~Please~~ note that it has been decided that the interned Irish prisoners in your custody may be allowed to have any newspapers except:-

"The Catholic Bulletin". (Dublin) "Clare Champion" (Ennis, Co. Clare.)
"Irishman". (Dublin.)
"Nationality". (Dublin.) "New Ireland". (Dublin.)
"Young Ireland". (Dublin.)

If they are purchased through you or ordered from a newsagent by the ~~interned~~ prisoners they need not be submitted to the Censor, but they should be examined by you to see that they do not contain any written message.

(2) Books.

Any books, pamphlets, etc. written in English which are addressed direct to the Prison may be delivered to the addressee and need not be submitted for Censorship unless they are clearly of an undesirable or revolutionary character. Dictionaries need not be Censored.

(3) Parcels.

All parcels sent out by the prisoners must be submitted to the Censor, unless you can satisfy yourself by inspection that they contain no message of any sort.

In order to minimise the risk of messages being passed out surreptitiously, the Chief Constable is being asked to assist you by keeping a look out for any friends of the prisoners or Sinn Fein agents who might loiter in the neighbourhood of the Prison

(6777--31-7-96)

Prison in the hope of getting into communication with them (e.g. by means of a letter thrown over the Prison wall.) You should consult with the Police as to the best arrangements that can be made for this purpose. They will not of course be able to detach men for this purpose.

No books, newspapers or other printed matter which has been sent ~~in~~ to a prisoner may be returned by him.

Secretary.

E. Shatt Esq. K.C.

House of Commons

Westminster

London S.W.

108

Durham Jail
25/vi/18 — 109

E. Shortt Esq. K.C.
English Chief Secy. for Ireland.

Sir,

I wd. be obliged for replies to my communications of the 10th & 15th inst. There is a pile of books & papers for me here awaiting Delivery. Also clothes to be sent home. These are all in the Govt. hands, & I hold receipts for them. The position is thus becoming somewhat complicated. Ten days have elapsed since my first letter.

Yours
Darrell Figgis

110

HOME OFFICE,
WHITEHALL,
S.W. 1.

20th June, 1918.

Dear Martin Jones,

I am sending you herewith a letter addressed to the Chief Secretary by Darrell Figgis from Durham Prison. In view of the impossibility of ensuring that nothing goes out without being censored we are proposing to instruct Governors that everything must be sent to Strand House for examination. I think this is preferable to having parcels examined by the Governors and other postal matter by the Censor.

1. Nothing to say.

2. Might be shown

Yours sincerely,

E. Carson

C. M. Martin Jones, Esq.

111

E. Short Esq. K.C., M.P.
English Chief Secy. for Ireland
House of Commons
Westminster
London
W.C.

Durham Jail
Saturday: 15/vi/18

E. Shortt Esq. K.C.
English Chief Secy. for Ireland.

Sir

I w. be glad to have a reply to my communication of the 18th inst. Article 7. of the demands at the end of that communication has now become of intense interest.

Being desirous of sending home certain winter pants & pyjamas for which I have no use at present, I asked permission of the Jov.r of this Jail to do so. I offered to be taken on parole that no communications were enclosed, or to submit the articles to his inspection. He said he w. have to refer the matter to the Censor. Today he informs us of the solemn & weighty decision that pants & pyjamas must be censored!

Now I cd. in a state of delirium conceive the necessity of censoring Irish newspapers that have already been censored fairly ruthlessly in Ireland by Lord Decies & his staff. In an even wilder delirium I cd. conceive the necessity of censoring Dictionaries, Grammars, & historical & philosophical works, which, being published by English firms, might be supposed to be exportable. But in no state of delirium, however wild, can I conceive the necessity of censoring pyjamas & pants. Perhaps you will explain.

I am,
respectfully
Darrell Figgis

24 Kildare St
Dublin

June 9th 1918

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CHIEF SECRETARY'S
15677 - 10 JUN 1918
OFFICE

15221

The Chief Secretary for Ireland

Sir,

I thank you for your communication received June 6th stating where my husband, Darrell Figgis, is imprisoned, & I should be glad to learn as to the conditions under which he is "interned", in regard to the following:-

I What facilities are given for religious observances & for visits of clergy.
2 visits
3 Correspondence
4 newspapers
5 Hours of association with other Irish interned ~~Irish~~ Prisoners
6 Possibilities of continuing study,
7 Of receiving books
8 Facilities for purchase of necessaries from a Canteen in the prison.
9 Restrictions (if any) of receiving food & clothing parcels

In a letter, received this morning, dated June 4th from Darrell Figgis he asks for things which I posted in food parcels sent a fortnight ago, & which presumably has not been received by him. Also in the same letter he states that no letters have reached him .. these having been posted three weeks ago some of them in regard to urgent business matters.

Irish newspapers which have been sent from May 18th (& in duplicate up to June 3rd), have not been received

Whether at the present moment he is in solitary confinement at Durham?

Yours truly
Millie Figgis

Under Secretary
Submitted.
Mrs Figgis has been informed where her husband is at present confined. If the regulations as to the internees be published, they will answer her queries.
WM 11/6

Yes: bring up again — if necessary — on Monday.
[illegible]

Under Secretary
Resubmitted as directed. I have not yet seen any publication of the regulations
WM 17/6
[illegible]

26 Kildare St
Dublin

CHIEF SECRETARY'S
15227 - -5 JUN. 1918
OFFICE

June 4th 1918

114
END

Mr Shortt

Re Darrell Figgis

The Secretary

Sir,

I am writing for particulars of the whereabouts of my husband who was arrested on May 17th last when he was deported to Hollyhead Rest Camp thence to Gloucester Prison.

I learnt on Thursday last that Darrell Figgis was transferred from Gloucester Prison elsewhere on May 25th last.

We learnt through the press that these men were to be interned under Section 14 B. D.O.R.A which, couched vaguely though it is, does not cover internment in a secret place

Therefore I should be glad to learn officially under which Section D.O.R.A these prisoners are interned, & if under 14 B. D.O.R.A. why we are kept in ignorance of their place of internment.

Yours truly,

Millie Darrell Figgis

Reply that Mr Darrel Figgis is in Durham Prison & that letters should be addressed to him to Durham Prison c/o Chief Postal Censor, Strand House, Portugal St London, W.C.2

WMc
5/6

Done JLS 5/6

DESP'D. & REG'D.
-5 JUN. 1918