

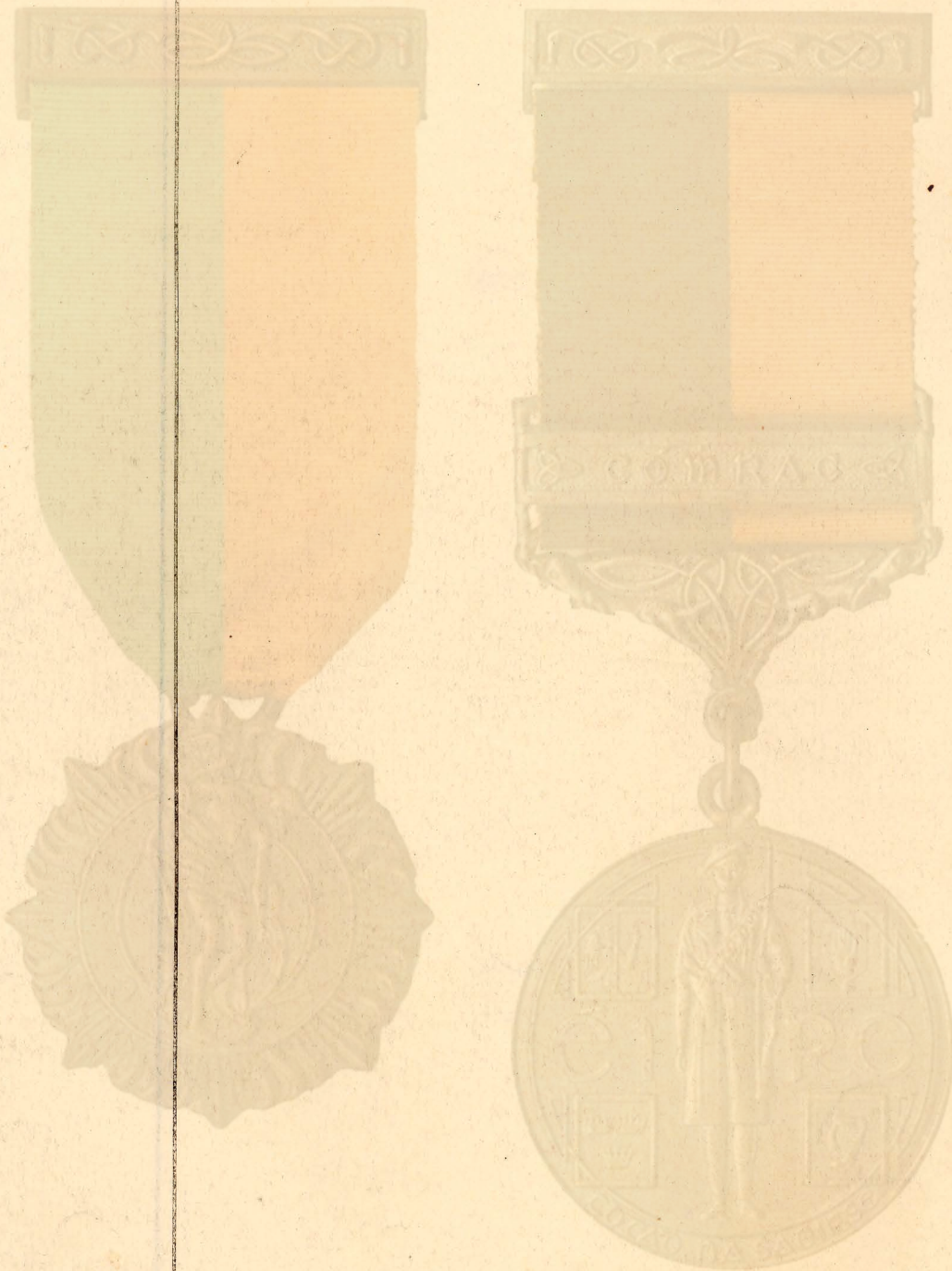
MINUTE SHEET.

(Argumist).

Reference.....

Defence File 2/2015 used 18/1/26

Military Archives



Military Service
Pensions Collection

Military Archives

4th September, 6.

Dear Mr. O'Neill,

I should be obliged for the return of the under-mentioned Army Pension files, if you have now finished with them:-

<u>Ref.</u>	<u>Name and Address.</u>	<u>Date Sent.</u>
1/D/458 ...	Mrs. Bridget Treacy, Soloheadbeg, Donohill, Co. Tipperary.	2/2/'26.
1/D/467 ...	Mrs. Annie Dalton, 12, Lelia Street, Limerick.	21/4/'26.
2/D/214 ...	Miss Jessie Douglas, 38, Fraser Street, Bridgeton, Glasgow.	7/4/'25.

Yours sincerely,

JGH

E. O'Neill, Esq.,
Department of Finance,
Upper Merrion Street,
DUBLIN.

Military Service
Pensions Collection

Military Archives

14th October, 1926.

Dear Mr. O'Neill,

I wrote to you on the 4th ultimo, asking if you were in a position to return the undermentioned files, but you have not yet said whether your Department has finished with them. The files have been with your Department for some time now, and we should be obliged if they could be returned at an early date.

<u>Ref. No.</u>	<u>Name and Address.</u>	<u>Date sent.</u>
1/D/458.	Mrs. Bridget Treacy, Soloheadbeg, Donohill, Co. Tipperary.	2/2/1926.
1/D/467.	Mrs. Annie Dalton, 12, Lelia Street, Limerick.	21/4/1926.

Issued.....14/10/26.....
Initials.....jm.....

Yours sincerely,

E. O'Neill Esqr.,
Department of Finance,
Upper Merrion Street,
DUBLIN.

Military Service
Pensions Collection

1/D/458.

9th March,

7.

Military Archives

The Secretary,
Department of Finance,
Upper Merrion Street,
DUBLIN.



With reference to previous correspondence (S.82/369/25), in connection with the claim of Mrs. Bridget Treacy for an award under the Army Pensions Act, 1923, I am directed by the Minister for Defence to state that a further appeal has been made to him for re-consideration of the case on the grounds that Mrs. Treacy was totally dependent on her son at the time of his death.

The report received from the Garda Síochána, as shown in the forms A.P.21 previously rendered to you, indicate that the late Sean Treacy worked the family holding since the death of his father, and that the widow being an old and feeble woman was totally dependent on his working of the holding for a livelihood.

General O'Duffy has since personally investigated the circumstances of the case, and I attach, for your information, copy of his report. You will observe from the tenor of the report that since the death of Sean Treacy, the once comfortable home is now derelict, and that the holding, which was good productive land, is now through want of attention little better than a swamp. Mrs. Treacy is in very bad circumstances, and it is fairly evident that she is in debt.

The Minister for Defence considers that in the light of the further information received from General O'Duffy, Mrs. Treacy must be regarded as totally dependent on her son at the time of his death.

In the circumstances, he proposes, with the consent of the Minister for Finance, to grant Mrs. Treacy an allowance of £1 per week as from the first of April, 1922.

In the event of your Minister consenting, this grant is to be regarded as cancelling the grant of £150 - which has not been accepted - as sanctioned in your Minute of the 16th December, 1925.

As this matter is one of urgency, I should be glad if you could arrange to give it immediate consideration.

ARMY FINANCE OFFICER.

2974

9th March, 1927.

The Secretary,
Department of Finance,
Upper Merrion Street,
D U B L I N.

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(Sd) *Thos. Swann*

Army Finance Officer.

Copy.

Mrs. Treacy, Soloheadbeg, Co. Tipperary.

When on inspection recently in Tipperary District I called to see Mrs. Treacy - the mother of Sean Treacy, who was killed in action in Dublin in October, 1920.

This unfortunate woman is in very bad circumstances and I am of opinion something should be done for her as a matter of urgency. What once was a comfortable home is now derelict. The residence has fallen into disrepair and the farm, from want of cultivation and attention to drainage, etc., is little better than a swamp. The holding consists of 14 Irish acres and was once good productive land, and the residence shows evidence of being at one time a first class farmer's place.

There is no doubt that Sean, through his work on the farm from the death of his father until 1918, was Mrs. Treacy's sole means of support. She informed me he was a very careful and prudent boy, and able to do a man's work from the age of 17 until he was forced to leave home in 1918 at the age of 22, and that had he lived the family would be in fairly good circumstances. Without a husband or a son to look after it, the place deteriorated very considerably and Mrs. Treacy, of course could not afford to keep a servant man, nor would her condition bear the strain of the responsibility to run the little farm.

Mrs. Treacy considers the farm is worth £500, but in my opinion this is only a sentimental value. It certainly was worth this at one time, but I do not think the place would realise more than £300 presently. It is almost half a mile from the road, and is entered by an old laneway passing through two other farms and through the streets of two other residences. On the day I called it was impossible to walk on this laneway which presented the appearance of a river bed. The rent is £13 per annum, poor law valuation £18. The farm is let in grazing and meadow since Sean became an active Volunteer eight years ago, and is taken by Mrs. Treacy's brother who lives some distance away, over the mountains. I gathered that he pays the rent and rates, and supplies Mrs. Treacy with vegetables, etc., and has the use of the land in return. She keeps one cow for milk and butter, and some fowl.

I believe Mrs. Treacy is in debt, but she would not admit it. She, and her aged Sister, who lives with her, have been under Doctor's care, suffering from neuritis, for a considerable time past. She would only admit that the Doctor and other friends in Tipperary Town "were not hard on her."

The poor woman has a certain amount of pride, and I had much difficulty in getting any particulars of her financial position. She preferred rather to talk of her son, who was her only child, to show me his photographs as a child, as an altar boy, and later on as a Volunteer in uniform, and she cherishes a copy-book in which he wrote extracts from the speeches of Emmett, Tone and Mitchell, when yet a boy, and to talk of his love and sufferings for Ireland, and of his life-long comrade Commandant Sean O'Duffy, who was killed by the British nearby Treacy's house. She is the ideal Irish mother and entertains no bitterness against anyone. She feels very keenly, however, that the offer of £150 from the Government belittled her son of whose bravery and patriotism she is so proud. She broke down when she said "others who are yet alive and well got large amounts because they looked for it. I thought the Government would do something decent for me,

- but

but they didn't mind the poor helpless widow who sacrificed her darling son."

I am quite satisfied Mrs. Treacy will never accept £150 and taking all the circumstances into consideration, and after satisfying myself that if the farms were sold now and the debts paid the interest on the residue would be infinitesimal, I strongly recommend that the case be regarded as one of total dependency.

(Sgd.) Eoin Ua Dubhthaigh.

4.3.'26.

Military Service
Pensions Collection