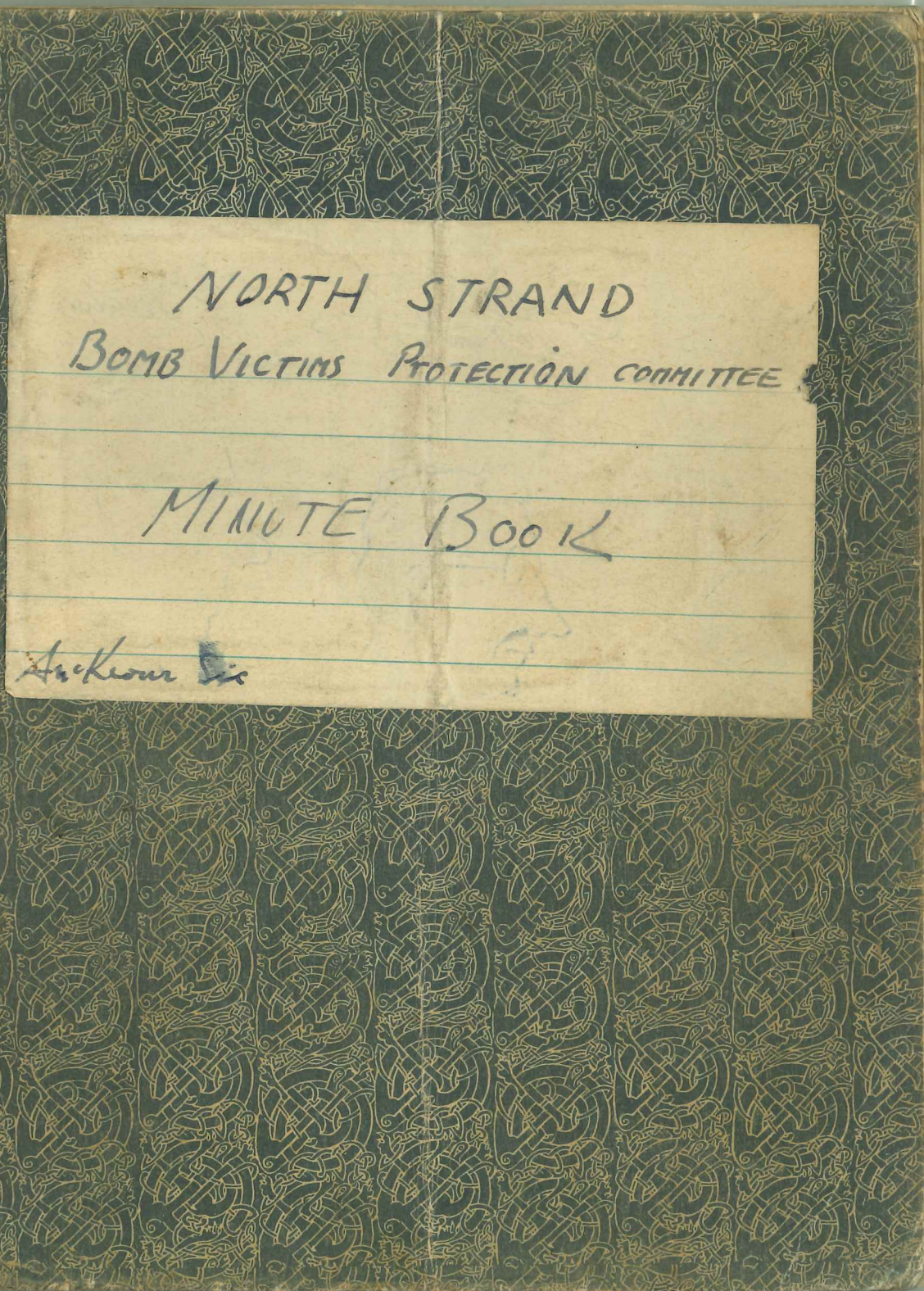


**"GERMAN BOMBS ON DUBLIN" IN THE NIGHT OF JUNE 1, 1941:
MINUTE BOOK OF THE
"NORTH STRAND BOMB VICTIMS PROTECTION COMMITTEE"**

June 1, 1941



The first meeting was held on July 24, 1941,
and regular meetings were reported until December 10, 1941.

The last meeting was held on June 17, 1942.

The minutes were kept with newspaper clippings, photos and correspondence.

**"GERMAN BOMBS ON DUBLIN" IN THE NIGHT OF JUNE 1, 1941:
MINUTE BOOK OF THE
"NORTH STRAND BOMB VICTIMS PROTECTION COMMITTEE"**

June 1, 1941

Received from A.R.P. Department, Dublin Corporation
the following goods:-

Mattresses 2

Blankets 4

Tenant's Signature J McKenna

Address _____

Delivered by John W. King

Date 26.6.41 6

29 Lower Road



**NORTH STRAND BOMB
VICTIMS**
Aug 5th 1941
**Deputation's Call To
Lord Mayor**

A deputation to-day called on the Lord Mayor (Ald. P. S. Doyle, T.D.) to set out the position of traders in the North Strand bombed area. Among the matters discussed were the loss of property and trade, consequential loss, rents and rates and the investigation of claims, repairs and rebuilding.

General. R. Mulcahy, T.D., and Senator Michael Hayes were present.

The deputation consisted of:-
Messrs Corcoran, Michael Fegan, Joseph Speidel, Martin Crowe, Mrs. Roddy, all of North Strand, and Mr. C. E. Haddin, secy., Licensed Grocers' and Vintners' Association

(Advt.)

**NORTH STRAND BOMB
VICTIMS' APPEAL**

After a meeting of the committee of North Strand Bomb Victims a statement has been issued. This points out that little has been done to alleviate their distress, emphasising the hardships of livelihood, and business connections gone, lack of fuel, expense of travel from the new area at West Cabra, lack of food reserves, etc.

The public is reminded in the statement of the decision of the Red Cross authorities to refund subscriptions sent wholly for the relief of these bomb victims. It asks why cannot the Red Cross devote this money to the purpose for which it was subscribed.

The committee also asks for at least 100 tons of turf to tide the people in the new houses over the winter.

In conclusion the statement calls on Dail Deputies and other prominent persons to take up the cause of the bomb victims. It is pointed out that these people are not looking for charity but for something to which they consider themselves entitled.

28th Aug 1941

**"GERMAN BOMBS ON DUBLIN" IN THE NIGHT OF JUNE 1, 1941:
MINUTE BOOK OF THE
"NORTH STRAND BOMB VICTIMS PROTECTION COMMITTEE"**

June 1, 1941

4, Millmount Terrace,
Drumcondra,
Dublin.
28/8/41

The Secretary,
Irish Red Cross Society,
20, Merrion Square,
Dublin.

Dear Sir,

RE NORTH STRAND BOMB VICTIMS.

Not having heard from you regarding our proposed deputation on to-morrow August the 28th, Our Protection Committee have now decided to proceed to your head quarters proceeded by a procession of Victims carrying Sandwich-Board publishing their treatment We are placing a picket on your premises unless you receive a deputation at 3 o'clock to-morrow,

Yours faithfully,

T.F. O'DRISCOLL.

CHAIRMAN PROTECTION COMMITTEE.

**North Strand Victims'
Complaints**

The lack of concrete assistance and financial aid for the victims of the North Strand bombing was one of the points under discussion when a deputation from the North Strand Bomb Victims' Protection Committee called on the Red Cross Society at 20 Merrion Square yesterday.

Other points under discussion at the meeting were the lack of food and fuel and the difference in the rents being paid by the victims living in Cabra and what they used to pay in the North Strand. This difference, it was contended, should be met by the Red Cross Society. The society had not replaced the equipment of a single victim, it was stated. A protest was made at the harsh treatment, in fact, the complete negligence by the Society, by the Corporation and by the Government, of the people still living in the damaged houses in the North Strand. The deputation's statement will be submitted to the Red Cross General Council.

The deputation consisted of:—Messrs. T. F. O'Driscoll, chairman; W. Cranny, A. McKeown, T. O'Connolly, Mrs. M. McLoughlin, and Mrs. F. McKeown.

Mr. O'Driscoll states that they are only concerned with the money subscribed for the relief of the victims, some £20,000. Surely a proportion of that money, at least, he asks, should be used for the purpose for which it was intended.

To Aid Bomb Victims

To-night Bohemia Amusements should have a greater appeal than ever for all who like to assist those in misfortune.

The total proceeds are being allotted to sufferers from last Saturday's tragic bombing—one of the most meritorious charities that could be undertaken at present.

Both the Shadows (with kind acknowledgement to the Irish Federation of Dance Musicians) and Peter Melia's Ceilidhe band are offering their services free on this special occasion.

A record attendance is expected. See advertising columns for full details.

**"GERMAN BOMBS ON DUBLIN" IN THE NIGHT OF JUNE 1, 1941:
MINUTE BOOK OF THE
"NORTH STRAND BOMB VICTIMS PROTECTION COMMITTEE"**

June 1, 1941

**BOMB VICTIMS'
PLIGHT
Red Cross Defends
Its Attitude**

MAIN allegations and complaints made in reference to the attitude of the Irish Red Cross towards victims of the North Strand bombing were brought to the notice of the secretary to-day by an *Evening Mail* representative, and discussed with him. It had been alleged that the Red Cross was well aware of the position which existed among the refugees in the North Strand since May last and that it "had done nothing" to alleviate the conditions. It was further stated that the Red Cross had ignored the needs of the victims until a protection committee was formed.

It was demanded that the Red Cross should hand over to a special committee the money subscribed through the newspapers which was intended for the purpose for which it was intended. Further demands included the provision of one hundred tons of turf immediately, the payment forthwith of all rent up to six months, and a sum not less than £100 per family to cover all expenses of the victims who, it was stated, had neither beds, fire, nor light, and very little food.

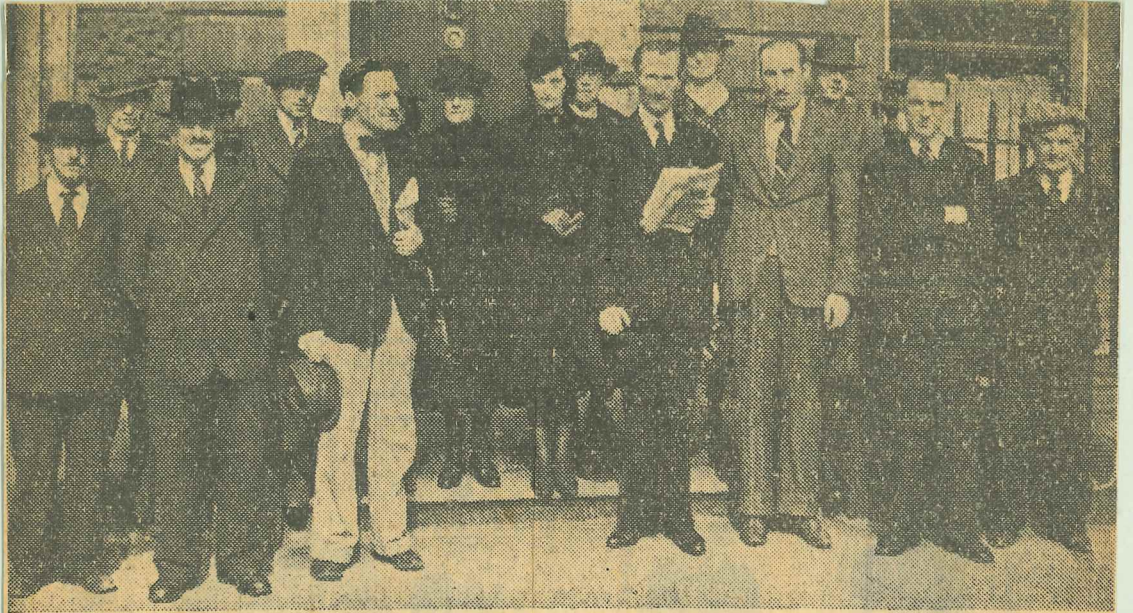
SECRETARY'S REPLY.

In reply to these statements, the secretary at Headquarters, 20 Merrion Square, Dublin, said that the appeal which was made originally was for the Irish Red Cross and the St. John Ambulance Association for general purposes. The appeal was not intended solely for the relief of the North Strand bombing victims. The Red Cross certainly helped them as their immediate needs were met, and several payments had been made over an extended period of time and long before he (the secretary) had heard any talk of a protection committee. As one of the primary functions of the Red Cross is to relieve the distress and suffering of victims of accidents such as had occurred in the North Strand. But it was not the duty of the Red Cross to look after them permanently. He understood that the provision of furniture, etc., was the duty of legislation, and that in relation to those matters the Corporation had a duty. He did not think that the money who donated the money would see it used to relieve the Corporation of its responsibilities.

As far as handing over to a special committee (such as that proposed) of the money subscribed, the secretary said that they had no intention of doing so.

WHAT SOCIETY WOULD DO.

As to what they would do however, if the money who subscribed so desired, would hand back to the donors a proportionate amount of their subscription, a proportion of it had already been spent on the North Strand victims. The donors could then take steps, if they wished to have it distributed amongst the victims of the North Strand bombing. He pointed out, however, that the Red Cross had taken the money originally with the intention of applying it where it was needed. What would happen, he said, if there were another bombing? Could the Red Cross be asked to contribute to the public again, asking them to subscribe, and saying: "We used all that money you gave in connection with those who were bombed out of the North Strand?"



Members of the North Strand Bombed Victims' Protection Committee who were received as a deputation by the Irish Red Cross Society and requested assistance for the victims of the bombing in May last. (*Evening Mail* Photo (1451))

**They Sought Aid for Victims
of Bombing**



Members of the North Strand Bombed Victims' Protection Committee, who visited the Irish Red Cross Society at their offices, 20 Merrion Sq., Dublin, and requested aid for victims of the bombing in North Strand area.

-Irish Independent Photo. (F.).

**"GERMAN BOMBS ON DUBLIN" IN THE NIGHT OF JUNE 1, 1941:
MINUTE BOOK OF THE
"NORTH STRAND BOMB VICTIMS PROTECTION COMMITTEE"**

June 1, 1941

12, 1941

**NORTH STRAND VICTIMS
IN SORRY PLIGHT
INSTANCES OF HARDSHIP**

DID a large number of people receive grants by way of relief from the Dublin Corporation, the Irish Red Cross Society and other bodies in connection with the bombing of the North Strand on May 31 who were not entitled to such grants. This question is being asked by bombed-out people who were evacuated to the West Cabra area from the North Strand area, and who contend that they are not being helped sufficiently to get over their difficulties.

Following the controversy concerning the giving or withholding of aid to or from the victims of the bombing an *Evening Mail* reporter visited the new homes of some of these people who have been evacuated to West Cabra.

There he found all to be in rather sorry circumstances, some without beds, others without fuel and all without anything approaching the standard of life they were accustomed to before the bombs fell.

Very few of the people there have received more than £5 by way of grants to assist them to provide necessaries, and this cannot be said, in most cases, to meet expenses incurred in the eight intervening weeks since their homes were destroyed.

Unemployment has been caused by the moving of the bomb victims from the North Strand area, for many of them had small businesses of their own and now suffer complete loss of customers and, in many cases, plant to carry on.

TYPICAL CASE

A typical case of the hardship engendered by the bombing and inadequate financial aid is that of Mrs. Kathleen Owens, of 62 Dingle Road, Cabra.

She was formerly resident at 8 Synnott street, North Strand, which was condemned by the Corporation following the bombing. Mrs. Owens, who is a widow, works herself, and her two eldest daughters also work. It would, therefore, seem as if she were comfortably situated and, indeed, so she was told by an official of the Red Cross. But when her position is examined it belies its surface security.

Her furniture was almost all gone when she arrived at Cabra—she had only one bed in the house. Yesterday she still had only that one single bed to serve for her family; the rest of the sleeping accommodation consists of mattresses laid on the bare floor. The floors are all bare

and so are the walls. There are few chairs in the house, and few of the comforts with which Mrs. Owens was formerly surrounded. She showed our reporter her coal-hole—it was empty. Mrs. Owens has received no monetary relief except from the Corporation. She has also received some clothing, most of it secondhand.

BLAST INJURIES.

Another lady, a dressmaker, deprived of her livelihood, and with weakened eyes as a result of blast injuries, received, in addition to grants for deplh, etc., the sum of £2.

The difficulty of getting fuel is experienced by all the evacuees for they were registered with coal-merchants in the vicinity, of the North Strand—they cannot expect these dealers to undertake the long journey to the outskirts of Cabra, and they cannot get coal from the nearer merchants because they are not registered with them.

Our reporter was told that the Corporation had made a grant in some cases in the last week of £15 but that any back rent owing on the new houses was stopped out of this. Everyone he interviewed said that the grants made by the various organisations were inadequate.

INADEQUATE ALLOWANCE.

The figure of £5 which was rarely even reached could not be expected to pay the bills of families that had been left with hardly anything through the wrecking of their homes.

Two other cases that may be mentioned are those of Mr. A. McKeown, 29 Inver Road, and Mr. W. Kellett, 83 Dingle Road. Mr. McKeown is a commercial photographer and Mr. Kellett a tailor. Both had their businesses wrecked and their connections severed by the bombing. The grants they have received will not even pay for the necessities of the past eight weeks and the future seems almost hopeless.

The position with regard to the bombing victims might be summed up as follows. People who have received grants have not received enough in the vast majority of cases. Some people have not received any money but have received clothing, most of it secondhand. No fuel has been supplied and little is available.

Some beds have been supplied, but not nearly enough.

**PLIGHT OF DUBLIN
BOMB VICTIMS**

Investigating the position of the people who lost their homes in the North Strand bombing, and who are now resident in Cabra, an *Irish Independent* special representative heard stories of unemployment and the lack of means to furnish the new homes or provide sufficient clothing and food for children.

One young woman said that her husband earns 33/- a week. Rent (as in all the houses costs 10/9), light 1/2, his bus fare, to the North Strand amounts to at least 2/6, and the remainder must feed and clothe them and their three children.

In another of the new homes an unemployed husband, who draws about 25/- a week and rations, said that his four children loved Cabra, and were getting good health in it, "but," he said, showing me his passport, "there is no hope of work in the building trade. Maybe next week I will get to England. Maybe then there will be money for winter shoes."

WIDOW'S GRATITUDE

In Ratoath Road lives a widow with six children. The eldest earns eight shillings a week and she draws a widow's pension. That leaves six shillings for six people to live on for seven days. She was deeply grateful for the few pounds which Alderman A. Byrne, T.D., and members of the Bombed Victims' Protection Association had given her last week.

All wondered why the Red Cross was so slow to open its purse strings, why only £250 in cash, about £1 to each family, has been distributed from a collection that brought forth over £19,000. Some people, who had hoped for a few pounds more with which to buy beds and chairs, had to borrow from the Corporation.

JAMES RICE'S CONDITION

On inquiry at the Meath Hospital, Dublin, last night, it was learned that the condition of James Rice, who was shot at Rathmines on September 8, was "slightly improved."

**"GERMAN BOMBS ON DUBLIN" IN THE NIGHT OF JUNE 1, 1941:
MINUTE BOOK OF THE
"NORTH STRAND BOMB VICTIMS PROTECTION COMMITTEE"**

June 1, 1941

**NTH. STRAND
VICTIMS**

**Heated Debate At
Dublin Board**

THE matter of the living conditions of the victims of the North Strand bombing who were transferred to Cabra and Crumlin caused a heated discussion at to-day's meeting of the Dublin Board of Assistance.

A letter was read from the City Manager, Mr. P. J. Hernon, in which he referred to Councillor R. Holland's remarks made at last week's meeting "that these people had no beds to sleep in or delph to eat out of." The position was that 350 families had been supplied with blankets and mattresses together with cash allowances with which to buy delph.

Mr. Corway, Superintendent Relieving Officer, in a letter to the City Manager, said that he had been incorrectly reported as having agreed with Councillor Holland, that persons had been left sleeping on the floor and had no household utensils. Actually, he had agreed with Councillor Coughlan that he had no knowledge of anyone having been left in such a condition.

Dr. Hannigan, T.D., said that he could definitely remember the remarks made. He believed that the report in the evening papers was accurate.

Councillor J. J. O'Hara agreed. Dr. Hannigan—There are still people without bedsteads.

HOW WAS MONEY SPENT.

Cr. Coughlan said the statements should have been made at the last meeting. When such statements were made proof should have been produced. The matter should not have been allowed last week. It was irrelevant.

Cr. Holland said that he had no complaint to make against the Board or the Corporation.

What he wanted to know was how the money collected by the Red Cross was being spent.

Dr. Hannigan—There is no use whitewashing these things.

Cr. Holland said he had no fault to find with Mr. Conway's carrying out of his work; but was the position so bad that Mr. Healy, the other relief superintendent, had to "take on" this area himself?

Ald. P. S. Doyle, T.D., Lord Mayor, chairman, said the matter should be left where it was. Several hundred cases had to be dealt with. If there were neglected cases and attention was drawn to them, they would be attended to.

Dr. Hannigan—There is serious neglect of these people by someone.

Cr. Coughlan—By whom?

Dr. Hannigan—By the Corporation.

Cr. Coughlan—Has any application been made to it for bedding?

Mr. Conway—No, we had nothing to do with them.

Cr. M. Byrne—If people are still sleeping on the floor, then someone is at fault.

**PLIGHT OF BOMBED
HOUSEHOLDERS**

**DESIRE TO GET BACK
TO NORTH STRAND**

July 5th 1941
LACK of concrete assistance, financial and otherwise; a drastic shortage of beds, tables, chairs and delph long, expensive journeys to the city, and a hostile attitude among the local shopkeepers, who regard them as strangers—these are but a few of the difficulties facing the hundreds of families rendered homeless by the bombing of the North Strand road, and at present residing in Corporation houses in Cabra.

Yesterday an *Irish Times* reporter visited them in their empty little homes, with gardens full of transplanted cabbages, and, although each of them had a different story to tell, all expressed the desire to return to their old area if their houses should be rebuilt.

Typical of the many interviewed was Mrs. Elizabeth Doyle, 22 Dingle road, Cabra, who, before the bombing, resided at 168 North Strand road.

"We were living in a furnished flat, and consequently, as we had nothing of our own to salvage, we were left without any furniture," she said.

"Although the Corporation have given us blankets and mattresses, we have no beds to put them on, and the whole family—my husband, my daughter, Peggy, and myself—have been sleeping on the floor since we moved in on June 25th."

Mr. Doyle, a motor trimmer, who makes upholstery, and is at present unemployed, lost tools to the value of £5. Because of this he has found it hard to get work. He has spent his spare time in making furniture for the home.

Asked whether she preferred her present home to that in North Strand road, Mrs. Doyle shook her head.

"For one thing, the rent is higher," she said. "Here we have to pay 10s. 9d. and 1s. 2d. for light, which is a great deal when it is taken out of 19s. 3d., which is my husband's pension from the British Army, and which is the only thing that is keeping us going now. Sometimes he has to walk to Clontarf to collect this if he has not got twopence for the 'bus fare.' Mrs. Doyle mentioned, in addition, the distance they were from the shops, which, she said, were "all around" them in the North Strand road.

**SLEEPING ON THE
FLOOR**

Even less fortunate is the Clinton family, at present living at Swilly road, Cabra. They lived formerly in 18 Clarence street, off the North Strand road. All their furniture was damaged, most of it beyond repair, and at present the two boys are sleeping on the floor. Apart from a rickety bed, the only furniture in the house is a couple of chairs which have been lent to Mrs. Clinton by her sister. She has applied for a transfer from her new home, because of the high rent. "When we were in Clarence street, we were only paying 4s. 6d. a week; we have to pay 10s. 9d. now," she said.

Her husband, who is a casual labourer, and often obtains work at the quays, complains of the heavy 'bus fares which he has to pay, and sometimes when he is on a late shift he has to walk home. Two of his children are little better off—Mary, aged 11, having to go to school in Marlborough street, while Tom, aged 13, is a pupil at St. Mary's, East Wall road.

At 23 Dingle road our reporter spoke to Miss May Quinn, formerly of 159 North Strand road, who was severely injured while saving her two younger sisters from their tumbling home. Her mother, who is just out of hospital, after receiving serious leg injuries, owned a large apartment house in the North Strand, containing five bedroom suites, and out of this only two pieces of furniture were recovered.

"I would really prefer the North Strand to Cabra," she said, "but the kids love it here."

A friend of Miss Quinn's, Miss Margaret O'Connor, who lived at the corner of Charleville Mall and North Strand road, and who also had her house destroyed, expressed the desire to return to her old district, if her home should be rebuilt. Her father lives in the city, and finds it very inconvenient.

An elderly woman, Mrs. Browne, of 20 Swilly road, said that, although she had hoped to spend the remainder of her life at 15 North Strand road, she was glad to have a house at all. The rent was cheaper also, as previously she was paying £1 2s. 6d. The one thing that she and her daughter missed, however, was the regular 'bus service, which passed their doorstep. She had not a sound article left after the bombing, and had not received any help from the Red Cross, because, as she said, "I had not time to apply." Mrs. Browne used to do all her own housework and shopping, but she has suffered so severely from shock that she is not allowed to exert herself in any way.

**"GERMAN BOMBS ON DUBLIN" IN THE NIGHT OF JUNE 1, 1941:
MINUTE BOOK OF THE
"NORTH STRAND BOMB VICTIMS PROTECTION COMMITTEE"**

June 1, 1941

**NORTH STRAND
BOMBING
HOW SUFFERERS HAVE
BEEN HELPED**

CHEQUES from the Red Cross Society were received yesterday by a number of people whose homes were destroyed in the North Strand bombing and who at present are living in Corporation houses in Cabra.

It is also learned that cheques to cover losses of furniture and household utensils will be issued to-day by the Dublin Corporation.

For six weeks after the North Strand bombing the Red Cross supplied 400 people with sleeping accommodation, three meals a day, and clothing — a task which must have cost thousands of pounds—an *Irish Times* reporter learned in an interview with Mr. Martin MacNamara, Secretary of the Irish Red Cross Society, yesterday.

Mr. MacNamara was commenting upon the attitude of a Protective Committee which has been set up in the Cabra district—where most of those rendered homeless by the bombing are staying—for the purpose of protecting the interests of these people, and of ensuring that the £15,000, which, it claims was collected specially for the benefit of the North Strand victims, shall be used to the best advantage.

"Actually, this money was collected, following a joint appeal by the St. John Ambulance and ourselves, and, although many of the donors expressed the wish that their contributions should be used for the benefit of this particular community, not all of it is for this purpose," explained Mr. MacNamara, who asked what would happen if the funds had been completely distributed and another bomb fell to-morrow.

Asked whether it was true that some people had been advised to draw poor relief when they applied for aid from the Red Cross, he replied that, while this might be done by a few individual officers, it was completely contrary to the policy of the Red Cross Society.

Mr. MacNamara said that it was the obligation of the Corporation to supply these people with furniture. "We cannot be expected to extend charity in this direction, when it is the duty of the authorities," he insisted.

COMMITTEE'S OBJECT

Mr. V. McKeown, Secretary of the Protective Committee, told our reporter that, not only would the Committee look after the interests of the bomb victims, but it would also try to secure a supply of fuel to last them through the winter, and to help them in any way possible, on much the same lines as those of a Parish Council.

**DUBLIN BOARD OF
ASSISTANCE**

The bedding and delph for victims of the bombing in the North Strand were again discussed at yesterday's meeting of the Dublin Board of Assistance. A letter from the City Manager protested that previous allegations of neglect of these people by the Corporation were wrong, and that 350 families had been given blankets, mattresses, and money to buy delph, and that all cases requiring the attention of his department had got it.

The people have been housed at Cabra.

The Lord Mayor, as chairman, ruled that Mr. Holland, who had raised the matter at a previous meeting, had the right to discuss it again.

Mr. Holland said that he wanted to know how the money collected was being spent, how much had been given out, and in whose charge it was. He had no fault to find with the Board, the Corporation, or the Relief Superintendent, Mr. Corway.

The Lord Mayor said that the matter ought to be left as it was.

Dr. Hannigan, T.D., repeated that there had been neglect of these people by the Corporation, and Mr. M. Byrne said that some of the people were still sleeping on the floor.

**1941 (1941)
Bomb Victims**

**RED CROSS
POSITION**

location of a further sum of £2,000 towards the relief of the victims of the North Strand bombing. The Irish Red Cross Society has accepted, under a meeting of the Bombed Victims Association on Monday last, a copy of which has been forwarded to the *Irish Independent*. The Red Cross Society, states that the £2,000 would be distributed through the Dublin Branch of the Red Cross Society, and points out that a percentage would obviously not be a method of distribution, as the loss of some was greater than others.

It has always been understood that moneys could not be spent on the replacement of property or on the payment of rents.

It has always been understood that moneys could not be spent on the replacement of property or on the payment of rents.

GENERAL APPEAL.

Regarding the position generally, the Red Cross Society states that the public appeal for funds was issued to be solely for the relief of the North Strand bomb victims, and was a request for funds from the Red Cross and St. John Ambulance Societies to carry out the work.

Work which had been done in connection with the bombing at the North Strand, the Society had not been sufficiently

£8,000 meals were supplied to the victims; 893 persons were supplied with bedding and blankets at Mespil Road and other places from May 31 to July 10; arrangements were supplied to the victims, excluding those who were injured in the bombing. Many of the grants were donated by the public, but over £1,000 was expended on the purchase of other grants of £717 had been received for 352 persons.

Overnight's holiday was granted in August for 60 boys who were victims at Avoca.

OVER £5,000 SPENT.

In all upwards of £5,000 had been expended in direct relief and the entire organisation and personnel of the Society freely gave voluntary service for many weeks relieving the distress.

The amount which the Society received from the appeal, excluding payment of £3,000 from the August sweepstake and the surplus of £4,704 from the "Irish Times" fund for Belfast refugees, was £8,959. The bulk of this amount was not earmarked in any way for the victims of the North Strand bombing, but was a contribution to general funds.

The position was that prior to the bombing the Society's funds were practically exhausted. The £4,000 which was received from the appeal was being expended in the provision of ambulances, field kitchens, medical supplies, and the training of new first-aid detachments. If the Society were to expend the balance of the funds by way of grants amongst the North Strand victims future activities would be curtailed.

Replying to suggestions put forward by a deputation from the Victims' Association to the Red Cross Society, the letter points out that it was not the function of the Society to pay rents or provide furniture and clothes, or to make pecuniary grants, unless in the case of illness, once the initial period of disaster was over. The provision of food and fuel came under the same category.