

WM0808 Tommy Murray

SPEAKERS

Tommy Murray, Una Walls, Nan Murray

Una Walls 00:00

There was a lot of smuggling went on all over, wasn't there? You know, a lot of smuggling of butter.

Nan Murray 00:06

Butter and stuff like that.

Una Walls 00:07

... tea, and you know from the South of Ireland.

Tommy Murray 00:10

Oh aye.

Nan Murray 00:10

Your daddy used to bring butter.

Tommy Murray 00:12

I'll tell you a good one about that one, my father you see, he was a security man at Mackies and he had lost his leg in the First World War.

Tommy Murray 00:24

So he wore an artificial leg and then he got the job on the on the railways.

Tommy Murray 00:33

Well the trains used to go right through the aircraft factory and everything and he packed his leg, so some boyo went and packed his leg, his wooden leg with butter.

Tommy Murray 00:45

And they asked him would he stand in the front in the engine, where the engine was and as he stood there the heat of the engine, melted all the butter (laughs).

Tommy Murray 00:58

So we stood, he was laughing when I think of him, my mother she was there when the butter hardened and all, she was scraping it with knives out of the wooden leg.

Una Walls 01:12

There are some stories about smuggling aren't there.

Nan Murray 01:14

Oh dear I know.

Tommy Murray 01:16

So that's how the butter was smuggled to us. He had an artificial leg, but he made a mistake standing near up with the engine driver.

Una Walls 01:24

It melted.

Tommy Murray 01:24

You see they knew him as Dick Murray. That was his name.

Tommy Murray 01:30

In fact, the part that you took off the foot of the artificial leg could come off separate and they took it out.

Tommy Murray 01:39

I don't know how they done it, but they used to set it up on the table- the foot and if you wanted butter you took the butter out of the foot.

Nan Murray 01:48

Oh jesus you'll make me sick (laughs).

Tommy Murray 01:49

It wasn't a butter dish, but that's what I'm saying they were using the foot as a butterdish.