

**WM0818 Danny Cunningham**

**SPEAKERS**

Danny Cunningham, Una Walls

**Danny Cunningham 00:00**

I was coming from gathering winkles when I met a brother of mine, he was working for a farmer.

**Danny Cunningham 00:08**

He says to me, "Did you hear the news?" I says, "How could I hear the news- Me at the shore." He says "War has broke out this morning".

**Danny Cunningham 00:17**

And he started to cry because there were that many people shot and killed, you know.

**Danny Cunningham 00:24**

And it was awful.

**Danny Cunningham 00:27**

But as I say I didn't hear the news.

**Danny Cunningham 00:28**

I was boating and boating and boating. Never left the boats.

**Una Walls 00:33**

And what did you do on the boats?

**Danny Cunningham 00:35**

Fished lobsters

**Una Walls 00:36**

And when you were fishing lobsters, where would you have gone you know to get those?

**Danny Cunningham 00:40**

Way out round the lighthouse and out round Cranfield, round the Free State shore.

**Una Walls 00:48**

And was there much of a market for lobster like?

**Danny Cunningham 00:49**

Well at that time they weren't... they weren't very dear.

**Una Walls** 00:52

What about the smuggling?

**Danny Cunningham** 00:54

Oh.

**Una Walls** 00:55

Can you tell me more about that?

**Danny Cunningham** 00:56

Did a lot of that alright.

**Danny Cunningham** 00:58

Twenty four cases at a time on a boat.

**Danny Cunningham** 01:01

land on the beach and you can reverse the jeep out and you load it and away.

**Danny Cunningham** 01:07

We'd some time with the customs.

**Danny Cunningham** 01:09

Getting that stuff into a boat on the other side, and getting it out here on this side.

**Una Walls** 01:14

Where did you get it? Over in Omeath?

**Danny Cunningham** 01:16

Carlingford.

**Una Walls** 01:17

Carlingford sorry, so the customs would be waiting on you?

**Danny Cunningham** 01:22

Aye well they weren't this time, but it was leaving the customs on the other side was the worst- getting stuff out. We were never caught like.

**Una Walls** 01:31

And how did you manage?

**Danny Cunningham** 01:34

Had to be dark, had to be a dark night.

**Danny Cunningham** 01:37

So we got away alright, them's the good old days.

**Danny Cunningham** 01:42

Them's the hard old days.

**Una Walls** 01:44

So obviously from what you were saying, there was good and bad?

**Danny Cunningham** 01:46

There was good and bad yes.

**Una Walls** 01:50

So what all did you smuggle?

**Danny Cunningham** 01:52

Oh just whiskey, that's all they wanted was whiskey.

**Una Walls** 01:56

And what about local people, did they smuggle much, just for themselves you know?

**Danny Cunningham** 02:00

Oh they smuggled bread.

**Danny Cunningham** 02:02

There was brown bread here and white bread over there.

**Danny Cunningham** 02:08

You took the brown bread from here and swapped it with them. That's how it was done.

**Danny Cunningham** 02:15

And there was no sugar, there was no sugar here.

**Danny Cunningham** 02:19

It was all rationed, tea and everything.

**Danny Cunningham** 02:22

So we took that out of whichever port.

**Danny Cunningham** 02:26

Nobody knew what weather.

**Una Walls** 02:28

Where all the boats doing it?

**Danny Cunningham** 02:30

Yes, most of them.

**Danny Cunningham** 02:32

There was only three boats in Greencastle at that time.

**Danny Cunningham** 02:35

The three were busy.

**Danny Cunningham** 02:38

There was some bad nights too.

**Una Walls** 02:40

What do you remember, you were saying about bad nights- like tell me about that?

**Danny Cunningham** 02:44

Well you'd put twenty four cases of whiskey on a boat and it started to blow a gale of wind, you'd take a chance.

**Danny Cunningham** 02:57

We got there alright, but it never happened again, for you can't depend on the weather, terrible bad.

**Una Walls** 03:06

How many people were on the boat?

**Danny Cunningham** 03:08

Just the two of us.

**Una Walls** 03:11

You were glad to see home that night.

**Danny Cunningham** 03:12

Oh aye, I was glad to see home a whole lot of nights, that's about all I can tell you.