**WM0832 Thomas Jack Murphy**

**SPEAKERS**

Thomas Jack Murphy, Una Walls

**Una Walls** 00:00

Tell me about you joining Home Guard what age were you?

**Thomas Jack Murphy** 00:07

That's interesting. My brother was in the Home Guard, he was much older than I was.

**Thomas Jack Murphy** 00:13

I was six years younger than my sister who was, my brother must have been seven or eight years older than me.

**Thomas Jack Murphy** 00:25

He was already in it and there was another farmer up the road who came in his car and picked him up.

**Thomas Jack Murphy** 00:33

And they went on to where we met.

**Una Walls** 00:38

And where did you meet?

**Thomas Jack Murphy** 00:40

 Ballyhosset, on a farm belonging to Mrs. Anderson.

**Thomas Jack Murphy** 00:47

 I used to be out bouncing a ball up against the gable of the wall while he was waiting for this man to come.

**Thomas Jack Murphy** 00:58

And this night he come down and he says to me "Hey boy, jump in and come here with us".

**Thomas Jack Murphy** 01:04

So I run in and told my mother I was away up to the Home Guard to watch them.

**Thomas Jack Murphy** 01:12

Well, they were all lined up and they were told to, but I sat on the farm, and after a while the Army come, they were training the Home Guard and they seen me sitting in my civilian clothes.

**Thomas Jack Murphy** 01:32

 I must have been fifteen and they went out into their truck and they brought in two uniforms and threw them at me and they said "Try them on- see which one fits you" (laughs).

**Thomas Jack Murphy** 01:45

That was me into the Home Guard (laughs).

**Thomas Jack Murphy** 01:48

The training in the Home Guard, involved route marches, sham fights... oh you could have marched from Ardglass to Seaforde. I remember staying the night in... Tullymurry, there was a camp there, an army camp, tin huts.

**Thomas Jack Murphy** 02:14

Well we were to stay there overnight in the tin huts and then you'd have marched back again.

**Thomas Jack Murphy** 02:22

It was just an ordinary army hut.

**Thomas Jack Murphy** 02:25

 Beds dotted down both sides and there would have been, uh, a canteen where you would've got your breakfast.

**Thomas Jack Murphy** 02:36

 We went to Ballykinlar for the shooting practice.

**Una Walls** 02:41

 Tell me about that.

**Thomas Jack Murphy** 02:47

The shooting in Ballykilner was a 303 rifle and you, you had to shoot from maybe a hundred yards, maybe two hundred yards and the uh, (laughs)...

**Thomas Jack Murphy** 03:07

The targets were in a concrete area with the people manning them, they were down at below ground level and they put the targets up and down depending on whether you were shooting.

**Thomas Jack Murphy** 03:25

If you weren't shooting the targets would go up and stay there for a few seconds and back down again.

**Thomas Jack Murphy** 03:32

And then when you did shoot the person below in the bunkers they would have put a stick up to show where you hit.

**Thomas Jack Murphy** 03:43

You actually aim for the bullseye but where the (laughs), and uh, a lot of snap shooting and there was just the normal shooting.

**Thomas Jack Murphy** 03:56

Snap shooting would be where the target would pop up and give you five seconds to fire and down again.

**Thomas Jack Murphy** 04:07

But often you missed it. But I did eventually get my marksman stripes, the crossed rifles which you were proud of (laughs).