

Recollections of the Goods Yard

Bray Railway Station

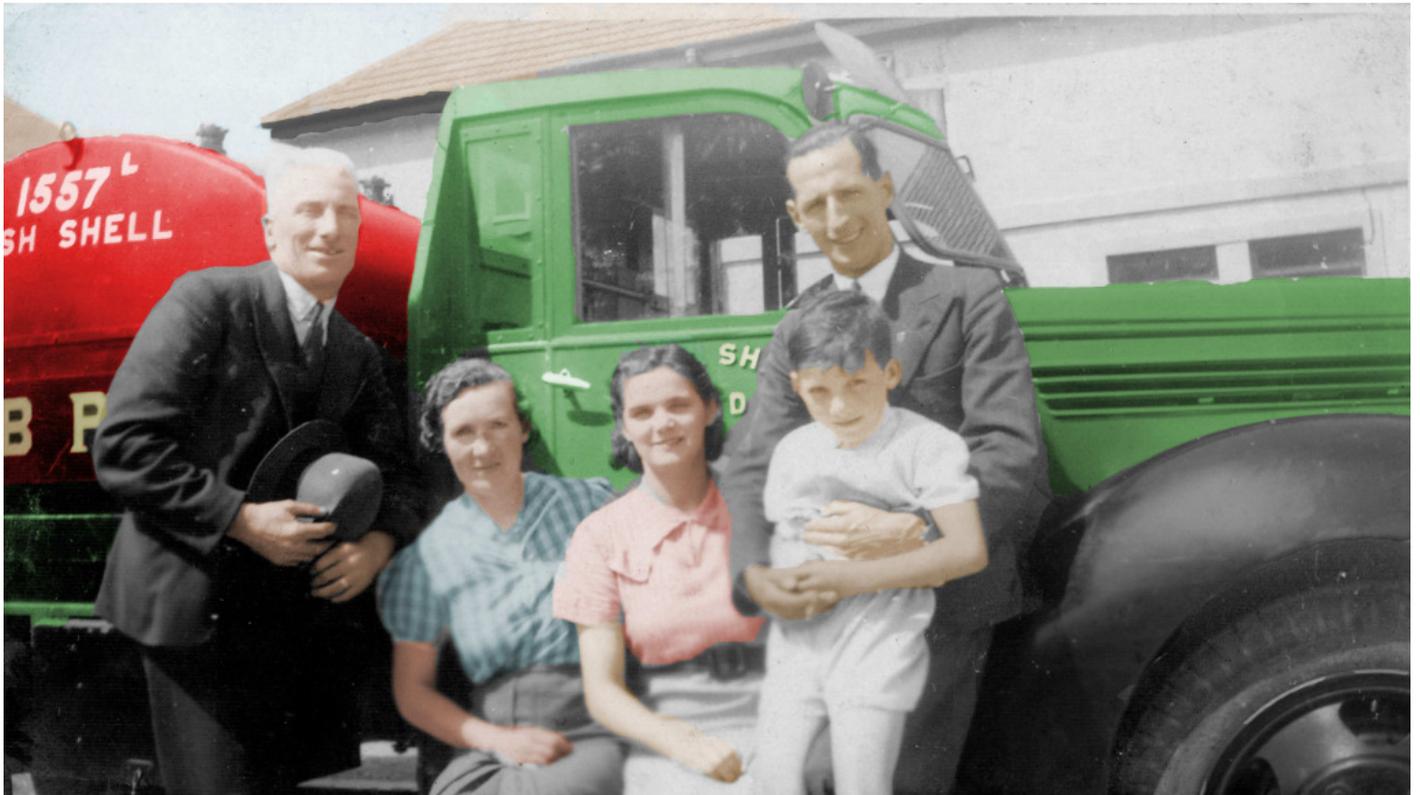
1943 / 1947



Bray Railway Yard, Tom McKenna(driver Esso), Mick Murphy(helper Esso), Patrick Murphy(driver Shell/BP)

My father **Patrick Murphy** (1900-1969) was a driver with **Irish Shell** based in the depot at the Goods Yard, Bray Railway Station in the forties. Esso also had a depot there. Tom McKenna and Mike Murphy were the Esso staff. The yard was a very busy place in those days. At least two goods trains would arrive in the sidings each day. They would contain goods for delivery around the town, which would be delivered by GSR horse drawn drays.

Most days, the goods train would include a rail car which was an oil tanker with fuel for the Irish Shell or Esso depots. During the war years Shell & Esso shared deliveries between them. One month, a Shell lorry would do joint deliveries with Esso and the following month an Esso lorry did joint deliveries with Shell. Esso had a garage, offices and an oil tank in the yard, Irish Shell, an office, a pump house and an oil tank. The Shell lorry was garaged in Church Terrace, later a glaziers.



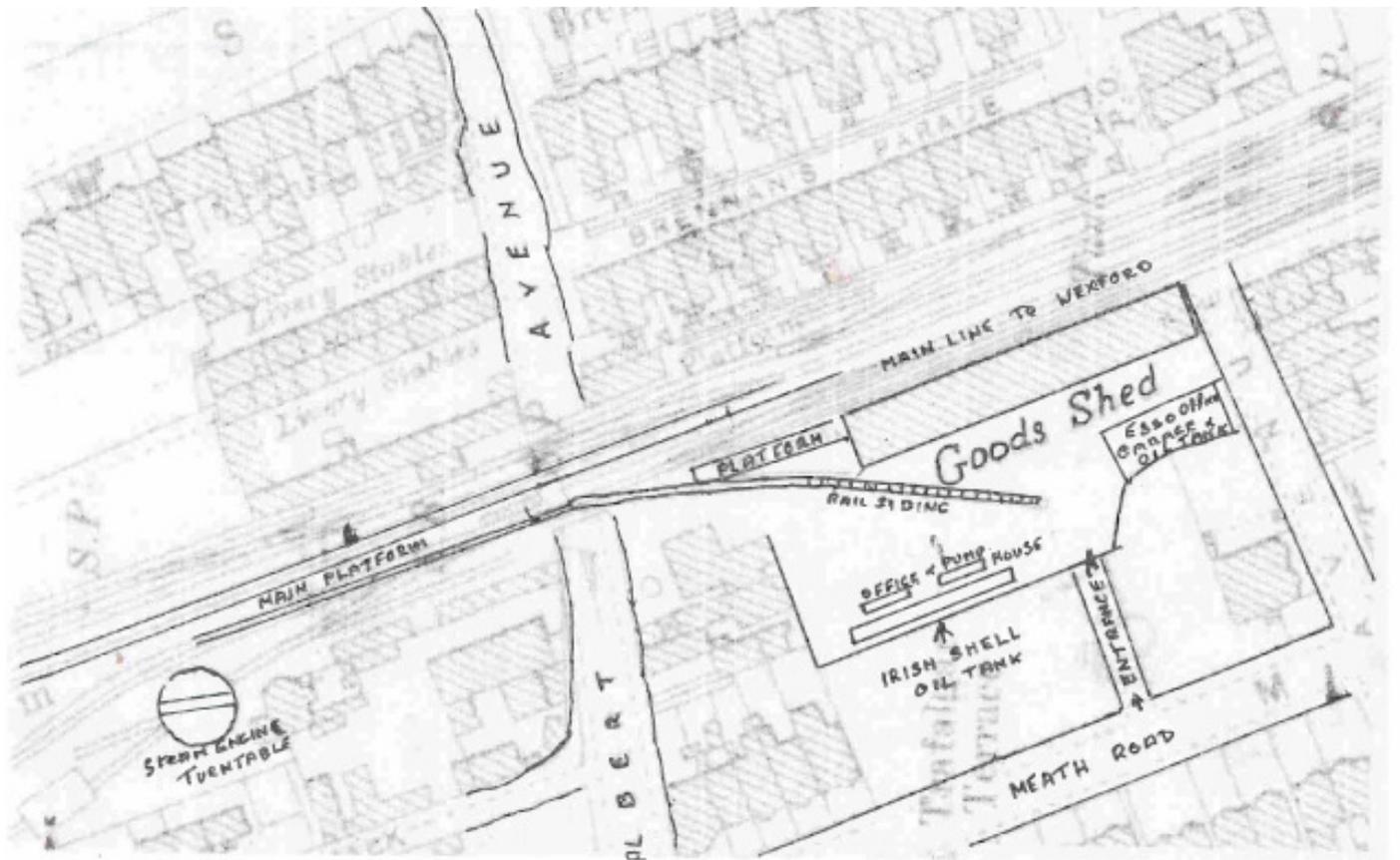
(L to R) Patrick Murphy, Margaret Murphy, Celia Keely & Mick Glover, Patrick (Jr). (Wolfe Tone Square c 1940)

The goods shed was busy all day with staff loading and unloading goods. I recall coffins from Colliers, who were coffin makers and undertakers based in Castle Street at the time, being loaded on the goods train for distribution around the country.

At the end of the forties Shell and Esso withdrew from the yard and Shell set up a subsidiary in Bray, the South Eastern Oil Company. Fuel was then sent directly from Alexandra Road Depot in Dublin for delivery around Wicklow and South County Dublin. Mervyn X. Doyle was the Director of this company and lived on the Putland Road. The office was in a shop opposite Bray Town Hall on the Main Street, which is now a barbershop.



Patrick (Paddy) Murphy (Junior) 2017



Paddy's memory of the railway yard at Bray Station c1948 (an apartment block now stands on this location).



Patrick took up duties at the office opposite the Town Hall, Bray in his later years. Also some Shell/BP cap badges.