

Pseudonym	Dialect Zone	Provenance	Sex	Age	Educational Level	Religion	Ch.7 Text No.
Ollie Corr (OC)	MUE	Armagh City, Co. Armagh	M	72	Left school at 15	C	7.2.9

OC **OC** And the last time I was talking to him, [*coughs*], he was down at Lisburn, they built a big factory beside, beside – what do you call it? – the, the, the place where they burn the horses. Burnhouses.

KPC Burnhouses, yes.

OC There was a big factory built there.

KPC Uh-huh.

OC And I was down doing wee odds and ends, you know, redding her up.

KPC I know.

OC Job was done.

KPC Yes.

OC And this man, Billy walked in, Billy McAlister, you called him. And I had kind of looked twice to see was it him, you know? Says I, ‘Sam, what are you doing today?’ ‘Ah,’ he says, ‘I’m just down here,’ he says, ‘there’s a few boys didn’t work too well on this job, and I’m having a, I want to look at the work that they done.’

KPC Oh, dear.

OC ‘But the foreman’s to blame,’ he says, ‘at the end of the day’. Say I, ‘Well, I didn’t notice much.’ I did, but I didn’t say nothing, nor wouldn’t.

KPC I know.

OC *[coughs]*. I says, 'If you must, but I'm redding it up now, Billy, odds and ends.' 'That's good,' he says. But he was talking very hoarse.

KPC Yeah.

OC Says I, 'Have you the cold, Billy?'

KPC Uh-huh.

OC 'No,' he says, 'Ollie, I've cancer, and I've three weeks to live.'

KPC Oh, God!

OC And says I, 'What are you down here worrying about this for?'

KPC Yeah.

OC I says, 'Don't be annoying yourself over this, no matter what's wrong with it.'

KPC Exactly.

OC 'No,' he says. 'I will'.

KPC He wanted everything just right.

OC 'Yes I will,' he says.

KPC Mm.

OC And he took me up the town and he bought me a pint of beer, and he took, he was a terrible man for brandy.

KPC Yeah.

OC He smoked... he drunk two... two or three bottles of brandy a day, and smoked 100 cigarettes a day, and that's what killed him.

KPC I was just going to say, that must have been throat cancer...

OC Oh, that was what killed him.

KPC ... don't you think?

OC Big man, he wouldn't have got through that door there.

KPC *[tuts]*

OC But he was good to me, anyway.

KPC Yeah.

OC And he put me in with some queer contacts.

KPC Because that's what it is about, really, isn't it? It's just getting a network of people...

OC Getting into...

KPC ... who's going to say, 'Oh, Ollie Corr's your man.'

OC Ah, but he wa...

KPC 'He'll do it for you'.

OC ... he was the boss. He run the show, he run the industry .

KPC Mm, mm.

OC But h... h... his word was law in it.

KPC Mm.

OC I never had any trouble. Nev... never a bit of bother.

KPC Did you ever do a job that just didn't go right from start to finish, for whatever reason?

OC No, never really. It might be things would happen, but nothing to worry about.

KPC Yeah.

OC Nothing you couldn't sort out brave and quick.