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HISTORY

The Limerickman who altered the course of World War Two

by Tadhg Moloney
news@limerickpost.ie

THE fascinating story of a County Limerick man who altered the course of World War Two will be the subject of the latest lecture to be hosted by the Thomond Archaeological and Historical Society on Monday, March 2.

Abbeyfeale native Richard Hayes was the Director of the National Library of Ireland when the Second World War, or the Emergency, as it was called in Ireland, broke out.

Because of Ireland's declaration of neutrality, German diplomatic staff were allowed to remain in the country and because of its proximity to Britain, the Germans listened to their signals and transmitted them to Germany.

In order to circumvent this, Military Intelligence, or G2 as it was known, which was under the command of Colonel Dan Bryan, called upon Richard Hayes to lead a unit to attempt to break the traffic coming from the German Legation.

Hayes, who spoke several languages fluently, including Arabic, French, Irish, Italian and German, was also extremely proficient in mathematics and excellent at crossword puzzles which were all vital attributes for a master codebreaker, which Richard Hayes was.



Richard Hayes

'Richard Hayes, Codebreaker' is the title of the lecture that will be given by Marc McMenamin who is an author, documentary maker and teacher.

He holds an MA in History and a PGDE in Education from NUIG. He teaches

English, History and Politics in Oaklands Community College, Edenderry, Co. Offaly.

The lecture will start at 8pm in the Tara Building at Mary Immaculate College, South Circular Road.

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