

Hidden gems and Forgotten People

COUNTY ROSCOMMON ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Frank Eivers(1932 – 1961)

The death, in a plane crash on September 18th 1961 of Dag Hammarskjold, the then Secretary General of the United Nations made world headlines.

Hammarskjold was in route from Leopoldville to Ndola to hold peace talks with Moise Tsombe, the President of the Congo's breakaway Katanga province. There was strong international opposition to the peace talks. While a missile strike was one suspected cause of the crash, it is likely that the full facts surrounding this tragedy may never be known.

While the crash had significance on the world political stage it was tragic for one Co Roscommon family with the death of its only son and brother. Frank Eivers, who had eight sisters, was the personal security guard to Dag Hammarskjold.

Eivers was born in Ballybay, Kiltoom, Athlone in 1932. Following his education at Ballybay N.S. and the Marist College, Athlone, he joined the Garda Siochana in 1953. He served most of his time in Kevin Street station in Dublin and by 1956, when he volunteered for U N duty he had attained the rank of Sergeant. His first posting was to Jerusalem with his last one to the Congo. He was a very good swimmer, popular with and highly regarded by his colleagues. He had married a mere month prior to his death.

On 21st November 2002 Frank Eiver's bravery was remembered at the Garda Training College in Templemore when his family received his posthumous award of the Dag Hammarskjold Peace Medal.