

# Fatal Accident at Rineanna

## Clareman's Death

Anthony Bourke, Mospola, Newmarket on Fergus, a member of the Fire Crew at Rineanna, was killed instantly when a fire tender on which he was travelling overturned on a runway about half a mile from the terminal building on Sunday. The tender was returning from a stand-by ordered when an American Overseas Air Line flagship was making an emergency landing on three engines after being six hours out over the Atlantic. The driver, Edward Whitney, of Carlow, was taken to Barrington's Hospital, Limerick, suffering from shock and minor injuries.

Bourke, who was aged 22, had been only five weeks a member of the fire service at the airport, and had previously been a corporal in Supply and Transport at the Southern Command Headquarters, Cork. There were 35 passengers on the plane for which the stand by was ordered. Five of them had got on at Rineanna.

## THE INQUEST.

Deputy Coroner J S McNeice, solr, with a jury, opened an inquest at Barrington's Hospital on Monday.

Dr Crowe, house surgeon, Barrington's Hospital, who performed a postmortem, said in his opinion death was due to shock and haemorrhage following injuries to the heart. The injuries would be consistent with compression of some heavy object on deceased's chest.

Kevin Bourke, brother of deceased, gave evidence of identification.

At this stage Inspector Maguire, Rineanna, who represented the Gardai, said that Edward Whitney, who was driving the fire tender which had overturned and who was still in hospital, would be unable to give evidence at the moment. Although not very seriously injured, Mr Whitney was not expected to be in a position to give evidence for about a fortnight.

The Coroner then decided to adjourn the hearing of further evidence pending Mr Whitney's recovery. He tendered sympathy on his own behalf and on behalf of the jury to the relatives of the deceased man.

Mr M J Walsh, State Solicitor, Ennis (representing the Minister for Industry and Commerce); Col Maher, Station Manager, Shannon Airport, and Inspector Maguire, also sympathised with the relatives of the deceased.