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CIA Deputy Dies On Tennis Court

Desmond FitzGerald, deputy director for plans of the Central Intelligence Agency, collapsed and died yesterday while playing tennis at his country home at The Plains, Va.

As the man in charge of all clandestine CIA operations, he was one of the most powerful—and anonymous—Government officials.

Mr. FitzGerald served behind the lines in Burma during World War II as an infantry officer and had a successful career as a lawyer before joining CIA in 1951.

CPYRGHT

Desmond FitzGerald Dies at 57; Chief of CIA Secret Operations

Desmond FitzGerald, who as deputy director for plans of the Central Intelligence Agency was one of the most powerful, and least publicized, of high Government officials in Washington, died yesterday at the age of 57.

Mr. FitzGerald was stricken, apparently with a heart attack, while playing tennis at his country home near The Plains, Va. He also maintained a home at 1671 34th st. nw., in Georgetown.

Characterized by friends as a brilliant attorney, he joined the CIA in January, 1951. After service as station chief in both the Philippine Islands and Japan, he became director of Latin American operations for the agency in 1961 in the shakeup that followed the Bay of Pigs operation.

A year ago, he succeeded Richard Helms—who was named CIA director—as the deputy director in charge of the operational side of the agency's work, including clandestine operations.

In that post, he was considered one of the half dozen most influential men in Government, although he was virtually unknown to the public.

Right Type for Job

Mr. FitzGerald, called "Dez" by his friends, was characterized yesterday by a close acquaintance as "dashing, handsome, with one of the sharpest



DESMOND FITZGERALD

minds in intelligence — just the kind of man you'd expect to have the job he did."

Like most of the diligently anonymous men who operate at the top of the American intelligence establishment, Mr. FitzGerald brought remarkable credentials into his Government post.

Born June 16, 1910, in New York City, he was the son of Harold FitzGerald, a stockbroker there. He attended St. Mark's School in Southboro, Mass., and Harvard College. In 1935, he received an LL.B. from Harvard Law School. Two years later, he became a

member of the New York State bar and joined the firm of Spence, Hopkins, Walser, Hotchkiss & Angell in New York.

Served Behind Lines

In 1942, Mr. FitzGerald enlisted as a private in the Army infantry. He was commissioned and served in the China-Burma-India theater of operations, often behind the enemy lines. He was a liaison officer for Chinese infantry troops, then for the Chinese new 6th Army in China and eventually operations officer for security for the Chinese Combat Command in Nanking.

He rose to the rank of major before leaving the Army in 1946. He was awarded the Bronze Star with cluster and the combat infantryman's badge. He also received several decorations from the Republic of China.

Mr. FitzGerald returned to the New York law firm in 1946 as a partner. Five years later, he resigned to join the CIA.

Word From Helms

Helms yesterday issued the following statement on hearing of Mr. FitzGerald's death: "In the untimely death of Desmond FitzGerald, the country has lost a professional intelligence officer of high integrity, special abilities and uncommon dedication.

"We in the Agency mourn the

passing of a true friend and salute the memory of a gentleman unafraid."

Joining in tribute was Walt W. Rostow, special assistant to President Johnson, who said:

"Dez FitzGerald was one of the handful of Americans who—year in and year out—looked after this Nation's vital interests with professionalism, sensibility and simple patriotism."

High Tributes

Former CIA Director Allen W. Dulles said: "I've worked with Desmond FitzGerald for many years and I have always considered him one of the ablest men in the field of intelligence with whom I've been associated. He was also a highly public-spirited citizen."

Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Nitze called Mr. FitzGerald "hardly replaceable. In him were combined a unique balance of dash, courage, care and wisdom."

He is survived by his wife, the former Barbara Green; two daughters, Frances and Joan; a son, Desmond Jr., and a stepdaughter, Barbara Mary Lawrence, all of the Georgetown address.

The family has asked that, in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the Childrens Hearing and Speech Center of Washington, D.C., affiliated with Children's Hospital.