



**OFFICER GEORGE C. ZIENTARA**

b. April 18, 1893; d. April 16, 1928; Age 34 at time of death.

George C. Zientara was born on April 18, 1893. He was of Polish ancestry. His immediate family included three brothers and a sister. Zientara joined the Army during WWI, serving in France. He was assigned to Battery F of the Third Regular Field Artillery.<sup>84</sup> Because of this service, he was buried with full military honors after his murder.

He was married to his wife, Evelyn G., who was apparently addressed as Eva. Together they had three young sons: Eugene, 4, Richard, 3, and George, Jr., seven months. The family lived at 1042 Tecumseh Street. The house had been built by Zientara and his wife and was less than a year old.<sup>85</sup> It would be hard to say anything other than the future looked bright for the young family.

George Zientara was appointed to the Toledo Police Department on December 18, 1920, at the age of 27. His older brother, Louis, was already on the force. As was typical, George was assigned to work with experienced officers for his first three nights with the department. He was then assigned to a foot beat. He was assigned to No. 4 Station at Bancroft and Monroe Streets on June 1, 1927.<sup>86</sup> Zientara had an unblemished record with the department and had recently received a promotion to driver, meaning that he was allowed to operate the agency's vehicles. He was also the catcher on the department's baseball team.<sup>87</sup> He had a little more than seven years of service with the department at the time of his death.<sup>88</sup> After his murder, his wife lamented that he had just purchased a new uniform, but would now be unable to wear it.<sup>89</sup>

The TPD photo of Officer Zientara on the preceding page shows him wearing the department's old badge and hat plate. New badges and hat plates were issued to patrolmen on March 23, 1926.<sup>90</sup> The photo on this page shows Zientara, wearing the new badge and hat plate, while seated in the passenger seat of a Willys-Knight touring car, along with two other officers. This photo was taken in the Safety Building Garage (Barn). Zientara was wearing the new badge and hat plate at the time of his death.



Although his gravestone indicates that the officer was 35 at the time of his death, Officer Zientara was actually murdered two days before his 35th birthday.