

# THE TOLEDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## *A solemn obligation*



**Sergeant James Boyle**  
**E.O.W. May 5, 1908**

“The detection of Bechtel, with two companions, John Mack, 22 Jervis Street, and George Rogers, 877 Oak Street, in the act of burglarizing a car [boxcar] at the intersection of Lafayette and Ontario Streets and the Clover Leaf tracks, led to the tragedy.”

“Boyle and Patrolman Jackson were just rounding the corner when they saw the trio at work. At sight of the officers, Bechtel, Mack and Rogers started to run. Boyle instructed Patrolman Jackson to run down Ontario Street while he started down the track in the hope of cutting off the escape.”

The men were apprehended in the side doorway of Seyfang’s Bakery on Ontario Street, and while Sgt. Boyle was searching Bechtel, “a revolver was placed against the officer’s abdomen. . . Bechtel fired through his own coat, not having time to draw the weapon from his pocket.”

Officer Jackson fired four shots at Bechtel, wounding him as he ran away. One of Bechtel’s friends drove him to a relative’s house at 663 Avondale Avenue where he was later apprehended.

Boyle was 39 years old and left a wife and four children behind, the oldest being 17 and the youngest 6.

The announcement of Sgt. Boyle’s death from Chief of Police Perry D. Knapp states, in part, “He was held in high esteem by his associates and had the confidence of all who knew him. He was modest, intelligent and . . . embodied many of the good qualities which characterize a fair-minded officer and reputable citizen, and his career was marked by many acts of kindness as well as firm devotion to official duty.”

*James Boyle*

**TO PROTECT AND SERVE**