

THE TOLEDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

A solemn obligation



Patrolman George Zientara
E.O.W. April 16, 1928

“Two women were being grilled by police Monday afternoon as suspected accomplices of a gang of five machine gun bandits who slew a city patrolman after seizing an American Express Co. truck and carrying off two safes believed to contain hundreds of thousands of dollars.”

Officer George Zientara had been struck in the head by a bullet shot from a bedroom window after he and his partner, John Biskupski, surprised the suspects in their home at 2304 Upton Avenue shortly after the robbery. George had lived at 1042 Tecumseh Street and was married with three small children under the age of four.

The robbery had been described as a “bold and perfectly planned holdup.” One of the suspects had approached the truck from the front and put a gun to the driver’s head. Four other suspects proceeded to the rear of the truck and took three guards hostage with rifles and sawed-off shotguns. The gang bound and gagged the employees and stole two safes from the truck, each weighing approximately 400 pounds.

A witness tip foiled the robbery and Officers Zientara and Biskupski sped to the Upton Street address where the suspects had reached their rented garage. After killing Zientara and spraying machine gun fire at Biskupski, the suspects fled in the officers’ Whippet police car. The vehicle was later found on 13th Street, and though a thorough search was made, the suspects could not be found. The house on Upton Avenue had been well stocked with weapons and ammunition.

George Zientara

TO PROTECT AND SERVE