

# THE TOLEDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## *A solemn obligation*



Many photos of early Toledo Police Motorcycle Units exist, but most have no captions to the identity of its members. It is quite possible we are looking at the face of George Zapf. It is hoped that a family member may one day be found or further research may reveal a photo of him.

**Patrolman George Zapf**  
**E.O.W. September 23, 1919**  
**No photo available**

Officer George Zapf, assigned to the motorcycle unit, was working with Officer Roll Ramus. According to a Sergeant's Report filed by Officer Pittman, these are the details of the incident: "Motor Patrolman Zapf was hit by a Summit Street Owl Car at Superior Street and Madison Avenue at 3 a.m. this morning. Car No. 620 hit him. The car was going up Superior Street to Jefferson Avenue and Zapf was going down Madison Avenue to Summit Street when the accident occurred."

" . . . Mr. Herman Heminger saw the accident and said the car made no safety stop at the corner of Superior Street and Madison Avenue and that he skidded about 12 feet before he stopped his car. . . . and on the south side of Madison Avenue and Superior Street, in between the trolley wires, there is a big sign that reads Safety Stop."

According to Zapf's riding partner that evening, Zapf turned to avoid hitting the car. His clothes caught on the side of the car and pulled him underneath it. Officer Zapf's legs were severely injured and he had some head injuries, but he was conscious at the scene. He was taken to St. Vincent Hospital where a Dr. Wilson came to care for him. His wife was brought to the hospital by another police crew.

At 6:30 a.m., St. Vincent's Hospital personnel phoned the Toledo Police Department and informed Lieutenant G.M. Mead that Officer Zapf had died at 6:20 a.m.

Officer Zapf resided at 1023 Western Avenue and had been an officer for just over two years.

*George Zapf*

**TO PROTECT AND SERVE**