

THE TOLEDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

A solemn obligation



Patrolman Edward Obriest
E.O.W. May 19, 1931

Officer Edward Obriest was working as a decoy for the Vice Squad on May 16, 1931. The Squad was focusing on the 300 block of Illinois Street near Division Street after they had received several complaints of prostitution, gambling and other vice activity.

Officer Obriest came upon a male with a jug of whiskey. He confronted the man, pulling up his sweater to identify himself as a police officer. A scuffle ensued, catching the attention of the man's 19-year-old stepson, Theodore Henderson. "I saw a man grab my stepfather and my stepfather hollered. I went back to my house at 358 Illinois Street and got my gun."

Ten minutes later, Henderson found Officer Obriest and shot him, as Officer Obriest kicked at him. "Officer Obriest had no chance to defend himself from Henderson's gun. He was unarmed and dressed in rough clothing, a disguise he had affected in order to get evidence for the Vice Squad."

In an interview Henderson stated, "I kept firing at the officer until the gun was empty. . . the officer stumbled and fell then got up and ran down the street towards the fire department. . ." Officer Obriest unexpectedly died from his wounds on May 19. He had been a police officer for five years.

Five years earlier, Officer Obriest had shot and killed a suspect at Erie Street near Monroe Street as he attempted to apprehend him. The suspect was in the process of stealing a vehicle.

Edward Obriest

TO PROTECT AND SERVE