



**OFFICER JOHN BISKUPSKI**

b. March 7, 1885; d. November 18, 1949

Appointed to Toledo Police Department: April 16, 1913

Retired: December 17, 1942

Officer John Biskupski served on the Toledo Police Department for 39 years. He was partnered with Officer George Zientara on the day he was killed. Biskupski spent his entire career working the streets of Toledo.

On June 9, 1921, Officer Biskupski and Harold Mossbrugger were detailed to #3 patrol from the Lagrange Street Police Station (between Huron and Erie Streets). They were sent to 611 Walnut Street on a complaint from a landlady that her roomer refused to pay his rent. When the roomer, James Kelly, saw the patrol wagon stop in front of his house, he ran upstairs and barricaded himself in the attic with guns and plenty of ammunition. He told the policemen outright that he would kill the first one that entered the attic.

The stairway was very narrow and steep, and the officers called for more help. Mossbrugger figured that the best way to get his man was to drop through the sky-light-window from the roof, but when he did, he was shot and killed instantly. Kelly could see all the movements on the street from the attic window, as the reinforcements were coming. Officer Harry Dowell was sent to the scene by Lt. Swindeman and, as was standing along the side of his horse, Kelly took a shot through the attic window, hitting Dowell and killing him instantly.

June 12, 1931, Biskupski was on detail assignment at the Interban Station at Jackson and Superior Streets. The union workers from the Auto-Lite Company were on strike at that time. Richard Gosser, head of the union, was leading a naked man down the middle of Erie Street with a rope tied around his neck. Officer Biskupski, seeing this man, stopped Gosser and his mob, took the rope from the man's neck, and placed his police coat over the naked man with it. He took the man into the Interban Station and no one of the mob dared to raise their hand to injure the policeman. He called for a patrol wagon to take the man to safety and disperse Gosser's mob.

At 10:00 p.m. on November 18, 1949, Biskupski died in his home from a heart attack. He is buried in Calvary Cemetery.