

TOLEDO AREA POLICE MEMORIAL SERVICE

A solemn obligation



Patrolman William Kress
E.O.W. August 1, 1921

“Auto patrolmen Carl Melms and Fred Reaser, Monday, voluntarily gave their blood to save the life of Kress, if possible. The transfusions were performed and while they revived the injured patrolman temporarily, they probably will not save his life, it was said at the hospital.”

Officer Kress and his partner, Officer John Hodges, were informed by a witness that a man with a gun was threatening people on State Street. Kress and Hodges drove to State Street and Speilbusch Avenue where they left the car. The suspect, Arthur Harding, noticed the officers approaching and began to run. He suddenly turned and fired a volley of shots at Officer Kress, striking him in the left thigh and severing an artery. A taxi proprietor who witnessed the shooting arranged to speed Kress to St. Vincent’s Hospital.

Hodges continued to pursue the fleeing suspect, emptying his revolver at him. “After chasing him through a yard on State Street, he captured him after a fierce struggle.”

At 3:45 p.m., William Kress died from his wounds. Officers Emmanuel Cavender and James Laughlin had remained at the hospital all day, ready to give blood had it been needed.

Officer Kress left behind a wife and a six year-old daughter, Harriet. The family resided at 317 Marion Street. He was killed on his third year anniversary of his appointment to the department.

William Kress

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2012