

TOLEDO AREA POLICE MEMORIAL SERVICE

A solemn obligation



Patrolman Fred Diesel
E.O.W. May 6, 1944

On October 14, 1938, Officer Fred Diesel was shot and seriously wounded in the face and hip by a gunman who held up the Little Brown Jug Restaurant, 1130 W. Bancroft Street. In March of 1938, he was seriously injured when his motorcycle crashed head-on into an auto at Madison Avenue and 18th Street. Though he survived two close calls in the line of duty, on May 1, 1944, Officer Fred Diesel was involved in another serious accident that would take his life a few short days later.

Officer Diesel and his partner, Everett Sampsell, had filled their motorcycle tanks at the Safety Building to go on duty, when a hit-skip auto sped by them. The car, driven by Joe White, 45, of 1013 South 15th Street, had been involved in a hit-skip accident on Collingwood Avenue only minutes before.

Both officers gave chase and were side by side when the motorcycle ridden by Officer Diesel struck two soldiers attempting to cross Erie Street, Tech. Sgt. James Stephan and Staff Sgt. Julius Clauss. Both of the soldiers were stationed at the Rossford Ordnance Depot. Sgt. Stephan died the day following the accident.

Officer Diesel had suffered a fractured skull and pelvis. He died from his injuries at 10:20 a.m. on Saturday, May 6, 1944. He was 43-years-old. He was appointed to the police department on November 16, 1933. Officer Diesel resided at 3729 145th Street and left behind a wife, Betty.

Fred Diesel

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2012