WENDELL I. TROYER

October 2, 1973

Officers Wendell Troyer and David Guider were assigned to ARGUS, the Oakland Police helicopter, on the evening of October 2, 1973. Officer Troyer, 47, was a twenty-two year veteran of the Department and the pilot that evening. Officer Guider, 26, had four years with the O.P.D. He was assigned the observer position in ARGUS.

At 9:35 P.M., as they were patrolling over East Oakland, they received a dispatch directing them to assist downtown units in a robbery. As they flew west the helicopter suddenly lost power and plummeted to the ground. The helicopter crashed in a large explosion and fire on Fruitvale, north of Foothill. Both officers were trapped in the flaming ARGUS and were unable to escape.

The initial investigation revealed a possibility that the officers were victims of a sniper. Witnesses claimed that they heard gunshots prior to the crash of the helicopter.

It was later released that the helicopter suffered a mechanical failure that resulted in the loss of power and subsequent crash.

Officer Wendell Troyer was married with two children.