



## WALLACE J. MUSCOVICH

April 23, 1944



Patrolman Wallace J. Muscovich was off duty and walking on the 1000 block of Franklin Street, on April 16, 1944 when he heard a gunshot. He saw a man run out of a second hand clothing store, stop, turn, and fire a round at the proprietor. The proprietor fell to the ground. The shooter ran south on Franklin followed by a young woman. Officer Muscovich commandeered a passing car, jumped on the running board, and gave chase. He lost sight of the woman on 9th Street but followed the suspect to a hotel at 472 8th Street, and confronted him in the second floor hallway.

Patrolman Muscovich, described as a crack shot, fired three times at the armed suspect and dropped him. The suspect was able to fire twice at Muscovich, hitting him both times. Officer Muscovich and the suspect were transported to Highland Hospital, and O.P.D. officers conducted an intense search for the female. Investigators soon established that the suspect had attempted to rob the clothing store, and that his female accomplice was an escapee from a state institution.

Officer Muscovich received massive blood transfusions from his brother officers. He hovered between life and death for a week, finally succumbing to his wounds on April 23, 1944.

A native of Vilna, Poland, Officer Walter Muscovich was appointed to the Department as an "emergency patrolman" in June 1943; that is, he was a replacement for a regular officer who had been called into service for the war effort. He was a former professional wrestler who went by the name "Ivan Managoff." He was survived by his wife and eight-year-old son.