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George P. Monaghan, Commissioner

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A Thought for Thanksgiving

THE Police Commissioner through this editorial page extends to all members of the department and their families a fervent wish for a healthful and bountiful Thanksgiving.

While the threat of war still hovers ominously over the world interfering with the normal way of life, we, of the Police Department, have much to be thankful for in the great accomplishments of our forces.

Without question, members of the force continue the diligent performance of their duties. Great numbers of difficult crimes have been solved; thrilling arrests have been made by both patrolmen and detectives; and hardly a day goes by that their courageous deeds don't add new laurels to the honored traditions of the department.

Unfortunately, during the past few months, two brave police officers—Patrolman James McGillion and Detective Philip LaMonica—gave their lives in the performance of duty. No comfort can be had from such tragedies. Yet we may pray with their loved ones that they are at rest and safely in the Hands of the Maker. For us, their sacrifices present a new challenge for the future.

It is therefore with full knowledge of all the great services rendered by courageous and loyal policemen that the Police Commissioner desires to express sincere appreciation to the entire department for a job well done.

The Editor

Slain Detective Honored By Daily News

Journal-American Award Goes to Heroic Officer



The proud family of Patrolman Frederick Bauer look on as Commissioner Monaghan delivers the "Daily News" cash award to Mrs. Helen Bauer. From left to right they are Lawrence Bauer, Eleanor, Dorothy, Patrolman Bauer carrying grandson Fred Bauer, Frederick Bauer, Jr., the Police Commissioner, Chief Inspector Conrad Rothengast, Mrs. Bauer, daughter-in-law Mrs. Frederick Bauer, Jr., little Mary, and Lillian Bauer. Two other daughters Mrs. Patricia Glynn and Mrs. Helen Watkins were unable to be present.

COURAGEOUS Detective Philip A. La Monica, who was slain on September 21 while aiding in the capture of three escaped convicts and bank robbers, was posthumously awarded the September Hero Award of the New York Daily News. Police Commissioner George P. Monaghan accepted the award on behalf of Detective La Monica's widow, Mrs. Phyllis La Monica, who has been under the care of a physician since the slaying of her husband. The Commissioner turned over the award to Deputy Chief Inspector Edward Byrnes, commander of the Bronx Detective Division, for delivery to Mrs. La Monica when her health permits.

Acting on confidential information, squads of uniformed police and detec-

tives surrounded the upper Manhattan apartment house in which the desperados were hiding out. Detective La Monica was one of the first to enter the seventh-floor bedroom when one of the thugs opened fire. The latter's shots narrowly missed two patrolmen carrying machine guns. Detective La Monica hurled himself at the gunman, hitting his arm, and deflecting his fire. The escaped convict managed, however, to fire three shots. In the ensuing gun battle, La Monica was killed and another detective, Nicholas Cotter, was badly wounded. Two of the three gunmen were killed and the third submitted to arrest. La Monica, a member of the force since July, 1938, and a detective since June, 1949 leaves a family of two children, William 13, and

Renee, 9, in addition to his widow.

PTL. BAUER HONORED

The Policeman of the Month Award for September was granted by the New York Journal-American to Patrolman Frederick Bauer of the Warrant Squad. A veteran of over thirty-one years in the department, Patrolman Bauer had recourse to his revolver for the first time on September 3, when he was set upon by two muggers. Wearing plainclothes, Patrolman Bauer had served a summons in an apartment house when he was attacked by two men, who struck him in the face and slashed at him with knives. He drew his revolver and fired one shot which brought down one of the muggers, and, when the second man began to flee, he fired a second shot, which also found its mark. Both men, who were found to be drug addicts were summarily charged with attempted robbery and violation of Section 1897, Penal Law.



Commissioner Monaghan gives the Daily News cash award for September, to Deputy Chief Inspector Edward Byrnes, commanding officer, Detective Division, Bronx Borough Headquarters, for subsequent delivery to widow of slain detective hero, Philip La Monica. Mrs. La Monica who was unable to be present has been under the care of a physician, since the tragical slaying of her husband.

All In The Day's Work

TWO DETECTIVES SHOT IN GUN BATTLE



Philip La Monica Killed Nicholas Cotter Wounded

DETECTIVE PHILIP LA MONICA, 42nd Squad, lost his life and Detective Nicholas Cotter also of the 42nd Squad, was seriously wounded on September 21 in a gun battle to capture three felons who had escaped from Lewisburg Penitentiary in Pennsylvania, ten days before. Two of the convicts were shot dead in the battle, the other surrendered after a blazing gun duel in the close quarters of a Manhattan tenement in which more than thirty police officers participated.

Acting on information received from a man who had been tossed out of the apartment when he went to visit his girl-friend, thirty-one officers including detectives, patrolmen and members of the Emergency Service Division converged on the building where the men were holed-up shortly after midnight. All exits were guarded while a contingent of officers made their way to the four-room apartment on the seventh floor. In the forefront were Detectives La Monica, Cotter and Patrolmen Vincent A. Grant and Nicholas Matarazzo of Emergency Squad No. 5 who wielded machine-guns. The men broke down the door and headed for the bedroom where all three convicts and their girl-friends were. The police officers held their fire as one of the convicts said "I give up." A second later, he pulled a gun and began to shoot. The police officers returned the fire and in the battle that followed Detective Philip La Monica was killed and Detective Nicholas Cotter was critically wounded. Detective La Monica was killed when he tried to deflect a bullet aimed at his partners by wresting a gun from the hand of a felon. Two of the felons were killed and the third recaptured along with the women who were held as material witnesses.

In the ten days that the felons had been free, they lived a life of continuous crime. They stole six cars; kidnapped a doctor and a farmer; held a family of five captive for ten hours in their own house; held up two gun-stores, a diner and a bank in New



Daily News Photo

AFTERMATH

Top: Detective Philip LaMonica, killed while apprehending three escaped felons, is buried with full departmental honors. Below: Mayor Impellitteri together with Police Commissioner Monaghan and Chief Inspector Rothengast congratulate the police officers who helped capture the felons. Left: Detective Nicholas Cotter, seriously wounded, is treated by hospital doctors.



Daily Mirror Photo

York City. On their arrival in New York, they rented a furnished apartment in the Bronx where they stayed for a few days. Then one of the men picked up a woman and told her he didn't like the apartment they had. She told him a friend of hers had a nice apartment, but that she had a fight with her boy friend and needed money. The felon offered the woman \$300 a month for the apartment and it was accepted. The felons moved over to the new apartment. The "boy friend," not knowing the situation, visited the apartment and was bodily thrown out by the felons. He went to the police and reported his suspicions, which resulted in the raid and recapture of the men.

The two felons killed in the exchange of shots were brothers who had been imprisoned for a bank robbery committed by them. Their father when he learned of their death described them as "good boys who had never done anything wrong, until they got mixed up in the bank robbery."

The slain hero, Detective La Monica was buried with full departmental honors. Detective La Monica who joined the department in 1938 was made a detective in 1949. He is survived by his widow and two children.

At this writing, Detective Cotter is still on the critical list. The thirty-four year old detective joined the department in 1943 and was made a detective two years later. He holds six citations for daring police work and became a first grade detective in May of 1950.

PATROLMAN HOWARD LOWENTHAL, 83rd Precinct, suffered a broken leg on September 14, when a bullet fired by a prowler struck him below the knee. The gunman, pursued by Patrolmen Salvatore Russo and James Manley, 83rd Precinct, was shot and killed when he attempted to shoot his way out after he had been trapped. Patrolmen Russo and Manley were investigating a report that a prowler was in a building in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn. When they found the intruder on the ground floor, he turned and ran to the roof and then went down a fire-escape with the policemen in pursuit. He then jumped two fences to the rear of another house where he smashed a window and crawled in. The owner, awakened by the sound of glass breaking, started to investigate and was confronted by the prowler, who with gun in hand, warned him to be quiet. The thug then ran back into the street where he was again sighted by Patrolmen Russo and Manley, who ordered him to surrender. He begged for mercy and slowly approached the officers as though ready to surrender. When he was within fifteen feet of the officers, he suddenly fired four times at Russo and darted off into the night. The officers, assisted by others who had arrived at the scene, pursued their quarry, and in the running gun battle that followed wounded the prowler fatally. It was in this exchange of shots that Patrolman Lowenthal was wounded by one of the

shots fired by the prowler. The house-breaker had a long record of arrests for burglary and larceny and had served time at Elmira prison.

* * *

DETEKTIVES JAMES CANNON and William L. Taub, Narcotic Squad, had to fight off seven dope addicts who tried to overpower them when the detectives raided a hide-out on September 11. Detectives Cannon and Taub had searched the dope peddler's apartment and found a can containing twenty ounces of heroin which was seized. The questioning of the dope-peddler and his girl-friend who was in the apartment also, was interrupted by the arrival of five more persons. Taub took one of them outside for questioning while Cannon stood guard over the other six. Suddenly the dope peddler flailing a six-inch switch blade knife, lunged at the detective and tried to grab the can of heroin. Cannon fought back as the other members joined the fight. Taub, drawn by the noise, rushed in and shot the dope-peddler when he turned to charge at him. The peddler died of his wound. The others were charged with felonious assault.

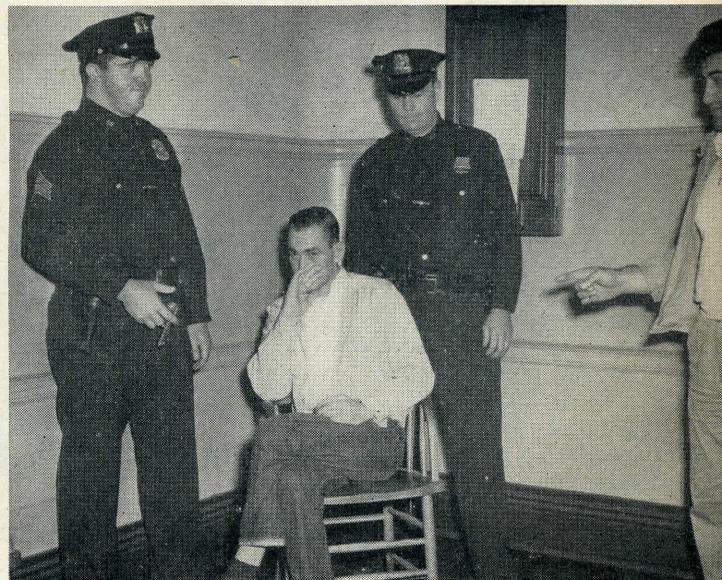
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A MAN who attempted to assault two women in Queens on September 16 was captured by Patrolmen Matthew Bauersfeld and Alex Kuscsik, 110th Precinct within an hour after the attacks occurred. The first attack occurred at 11:10 P.M. when a man



L. I. Press Photo

PATROLMEN Matthew Bauersfeld, left and Alex Kuscsik, 110th Precinct, book man accused of attacking two women, whom they apprehended from descriptions furnished by the victims. (Right) Sergeant John Ryan and Patrolman Teddy



Journal-American Photo

Stark, 40th Precinct, guard prisoner who is being identified by cab driver as the man who robbed him of Three dollars and his cab. The officers nabbed the suspect within five minutes after the alarm went out.