

PATROLMAN JOHN MARSDEN SAMPSON
Winston-Salem Journal
original newspaper articles
Winston-Salem Police Department scrapbook

FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 6, 1940

WINSTON-SALEM (N. C.) JOURNAL

Motorcycle Officer Seriously Injured

A Winston-Salem motorcycle policeman was critically injured, and two Negroes suffered comparatively minor injuries in two separate accidents in and near Winston-Salem late yesterday.

J. M. Sampson, motorcycle officer with the city police department since May 23, 1937, suffered serious head injuries and possible internal hurts when the motorcycle on which he was pursuing a speeding automobile was in collision with a bakery truck operated by Ronald Herbert Fields, of 1914 Glascoe street.

The accident occurred at Patterson avenue and Sixteenth streets about 4:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

Fields, driving south on Patterson, had started to make a left turn into Sixteenth street. The motorcycle operated by Sampson struck the side of the truck before its driver could swerve to either side and avoid a crash.

According to investigating officers, Sampson retained his hold on the controls of his machine, but was unable to escape a fall when the vehicle came to a fearful, jarring halt.

It was not at first thought the officer was seriously hurt. He was taken to City Hospital for treatment of a cut on the head. Hemorrhages and loss of consciousness developed about two hours later, and his condition was reported grave last night.

An operation was performed shortly after 9 o'clock in an effort to save his life.

No action was taken against Fields other than a citation to

court on a reckless driving charge—a formal step taken in any accident of a serious nature.

DECEMBER 9, 1940

John Marsden Sampson, 34, motorcycle officer with the Winston-Salem police department, died at 9:15 o'clock at a local hospital yesterday morning of injuries suffered when his motorcycle crashed into the side of a truck Thursday afternoon as the officer was trying to overtake a speeding motorist.

Mr. Sampson resided at 922 East Twenty-second street. He was born in Yadkin county November 1, 1906, the son of J. B. L. Sampson and Sallie Hutchens Sampson. He came to Winston-Salem to live in 1922. He became a member of the Winston-Salem police force May 23, 1937.

Before joining the police force, Mr. Sampson was with Chatham Manufacturing Company. He served for six years as a sergeant in Company G, 120th Infantry. He was a member of Harmony Grove Friends Church, in Yadkin county.

In October of 1929, Mr. Sampson was married to Miss Marie Gwynn. She survives.

Other survivors include one daughter, Gwendolyn; the parents, who reside at Winston-Salem, Route 1; four brothers, David A. Sampson, Roanoke, Va.; John Harold Sampson, Acton, Mass.; Leonard W. Sampson, Winston-Salem; and George Sampson, Fort Jackson; one sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Hartman; and the grandmother, Mrs. David Sampson, of Guilford College.

The body will be taken home today where it will remain overnight. It will be taken to Friends Church at 10 o'clock Tuesday where it will lie in state until 11 o'clock, the hour for the funeral. Rev. J. M. Hayes, Rev. G. W. Edgerton and Dr. Francis C. Anscombe will be in charge. Pallbearers will be from the Winston-Salem police department. Burial will be in Forsyth Memorial Park.



J. M. SAMPSON

