It Was to Have Been a Day of Joy
Officer Critically Hurt at Wreck Scene

By Keith Lawrence
Staff Reporter

Yesterday was to have been a day of celebration in the Winston-Salem Police Department. It turned out to be a day of agony and waiting. An officer was clinging desperately to life.

Plans for Capt. John Landon's retirement party had been in the works for weeks. Officers from the department's North Division wanted to send their captain, a 31-year veteran, out with style.

They decided to honor him at a luncheon at a restaurant on Peters Creek Parkway. The luncheon was to have started at 11 a.m. yesterday. But those plans were scrapped by an accident that morning.

Landon returned from the accident scene about 11 a.m. He had seen Officer Don Allred, 39, lying on U.S. 311. He had seen rescue workers trying to get the officer's blood pressure raised.

When Landon arrived back at North Division headquarters, he announced that his party was cancelled. "There's no need to celebrate today," he said.

According to Maj. J. E. Masten, this is how Allred was injured.

A call came in shortly after 9 a.m. reporting a minor three-car accident at the intersection of U.S. 311 and Deliahook Road. Officers Allred -- a policeman for 16 years -- and J.T. Thompson responded.

Witnesses told police that a blue truck pulling an empty trailer came over a hill on U.S. 311 about 9:30 a.m. and ran into Allred. Allred was thrown against a car that was involved in the accident. Police said they were not sure whether he had been pinned against the car.

Rescue workers tried for 30 minutes to stop the bleeding from Allred's head, according to witnesses at the scene. At one point, Allred had no blood pressure. Dr. Lew Stringer pumped fluids into Allred's body. His blood pressure returned.

Allred was taken to the emergency room of Forsyth Memorial Hospital. An officer at the hospital said Allred was unconscious in the intensive-care unit. A hospital spokesman said last night that

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Allred was in critical condition.

Officers arrived at the hospital throughout the day to console Allred's family. There wasn't much to say.

Landon, dressed in a gray pin-stripe suit and a beige beret, sat somberly in North Division headquarters yesterday afternoon. He chomped down hard on a cigar and stared at the floor as he spoke.

"They still wanted to have the party," he said, "but I saw him out there. You can't have a party when one of your fellow officers is hurt."
Policeman Hurt in Accident Dies

By Gary Tarpening
Staff Writer

Donald W. Allred, a veteran patrolman of the Winston-Salem Police Department, died yesterday afternoon. Allred had been unconscious, hooked to life-support equipment since Thursday when he was hit by a truck while investigating a minor traffic accident.

Allred, who would have been with the department 17 years in about a month, was pronounced dead at 4:40 p.m. at Forsyth Memorial Hospital. A hospital spokesman said that massive head injuries caused his death. He was injured about 9:30 a.m. Thursday while investigating a three-car accident at U.S. 311 and Delabrook Road.

According to police reports, Allred was standing behind one of the three cars, which was parked in the right southbound lane of U.S. 311, when a blue, 6-ton tractor pulling an empty trailer crested a hill north of the intersection.

The blue truck struck Allred, knocking him into the air, police said. While he was in the air, the truck struck the car, knocking it about 30 feet further down the street. Allred landed facedown between the truck and car, police said.

James Hobert Bennett III, the driver of the truck, told reporters at the scene of the accident that he saw neither Allred nor the accident when he came over the hill.

Police said that the accident is still under investigation.

Rescue squad members worked on Allred at the intersection of U.S. 311 and Delabrook Road for 20 minutes, trying to stop bleeding from his head wounds. His blood pressure dropped to nothing but was raised after workers pumped fluids into his body.

He was taken to Forsyth Memorial, where he stayed in critical condition.

Allred, 29, of 441 Wiser St., is the first officer to die from injuries received on duty in more than 20 years.

According to city personnel records, the last policeman to die on duty was Al C. Kinard, who was killed Sept. 9, 1944, when he was thrown from his motorcycle.

Police officials said yesterday that Kinard's death prompted the department to make motorcycle patrolmen wear helmets.

In a statement prepared yesterday afternoon, Police Chief Lucius A. Powell commended the officer and expressed the department's grief over his death.

Powell said that Allred, a Winston-Salem native and a 1962 graduate of Griffith High School, was recognized during his career for professional excellence.

"During his 17 years of service to this department and community," Powell said in the statement, "Officer Allred distinguished himself as a soft-spoken individual who dealt with people as individuals, seeking to receive from them the respect and honesty he showed to them. The department mourns the untimely death of this officer, killed in the line of duty."

Police officers and officials quietly dropped by Powell's office yesterday afternoon as word spread that Allred had died.

In North Division headquarters on West Fourth Street last night, officers began to prepare for Allred's funeral by placing black bands across their badges. They said that the bands are traditional symbols of mourning and will be worn through the day of Allred's funeral, which has not been set.

Sgt. W. C. Cranford, who was a rookie trained by Allred, said that his former supervisor was a competent police officer. Allred spent most of his time with the patrol division since he joined the department on Feb. 12, 1964. He also was in the community services unit, working as a school liaison officer at Philo Junior High School.

"Don was the type of guy you could send out on anything and make sure it was done well," Cranford said.

In March 1979, Allred was awarded the advanced See Police, Page 20

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law enforcement certificate for excellence in training and professional accomplishment.

Other officers said that Allred, who was married and had twin 13-year-old daughters, was a devoted family man. And he was liked by almost everyone in the department, they said.

"He was one of the nicest guys around," said Sgt. C. C. Lane. "A very non-controversial person."

The members of the Winston-Salem Board of Aldermen bowed their heads in silent prayer when they learned of Allred's death at their meeting last night.

Alderman Vivian H. Burke, chairman of the board's Public Safety Committee, said she was saddened by the death. "When the accident occurred, it bothered me greatly," she said.