

The digital preservation of the *George E Cowburn* scrapbook was made possible by his daughter, Shirley Norquest of Horseheads NY. Her efforts and willingness to preserve this valuable piece of NYST history are appreciated.



GE2692876

Sgt. George E. Cowburn

Sgt. George E. Cowburn, Troop D-Homer, will have completed 40 years, three months and 10 days service with the Division on his retirement June 10.

A native of Manchester, England, the sergeant came to this country with his parents when he was two years old in 1901.

In 1920, Cowburn became a member of the 101st Cavalry, National Guard, Troop D, at Manlius, where he became a proficient horseman before he resigned in 1924 to enlist in the State Police.

He was promoted to corporal in 1931 and to sergeant in 1948. Most of his service has been in Troop D, with assignments ranging from Boonville to Canandaigua and from Weedsport to Homer.

As a result of his experience in horsemanship with the Cavalry, the sergeant was assigned to the famed Rough Riders of Troop D. In July, 1925, while riding, his horse stumbled and fell, pinning the sergeant and causing serious internal injuries to Cowburn. This ended his career with the riders.

While assigned to the Boonville station, George met his wife, the former Miss Martha Wood of Boonville. They have a daughter, Shirley, who is now raising George's grandchildren, and a son, George, Jr., who is completing his work at Cortland State University this year.

The sergeant has been most active in community affairs, and has achieved the 32nd Degree of the Masonic Order, and is a Shriner. He was also Exalted Ruler of the Cortland Elks and is still an active member of the Cortland Elks' Degree Team. He is an honorary member of the Cortland Lodge, Knights of Columbus.

As a youth, George studied to be a machin-

ist and machine tools are still his hobby. He has a modern machine shop in the basement of his home. In recent years he has also become quite interested in golf, with, as he says, "varying degrees of success."

In the fall of 1963, he suffered a heart attack but is well on the way to recovery today.

A sincere, dedicated "old-time Troop" George is one of the men who forged the present-day reputation and status of the Division. He enjoys an enviable reputation in law enforcement circles throughout the Northeast, as well as being a respected resident of Cortland County. Sgt. W. L. McDermott, Troop D-Oneida



As appeared in a 1964 issue of the
magazine "Gray Rider"

GE2692876

Tpr Cowburn* at 5th Training
Session Troy NY 1925



A CLASS IN AUTO RECOVERY. One of the detectives from the automobile underwriters' bureau shows how motors are identified by chemistry.

GE2692876

Sgt. Cowburn Has Battled Criminals Over Action-Packed Span of 24 Years

Sgt. 1221 STEPHEN 128798



Served in Famed Rough Riders Early in Career

CORTLAND.—George Cowburn of the Homer sub station of Troop D, state police, who was promoted from a corporal to a sergeant on Jan. 16, has combatted crime in Central New York for almost 24 years.

When February rolls around Sgt. Cowburn will have completed 24 years with Troop D and a tour of duty that has found him serving with the state police in every county except Yates.

Sgt. Cowburn joined the troopers when Capt. Stephen McGrath had command at Oneida. During his early career with the troop, he was among the famous rough riders that made the unit famous all over the country.

Dare-devil horse riding nearly ended Sgt. Cowburn's career as a trooper. In fact, it nearly cost him his life. On July 25, 1925, at Oneida, the rough riders were practicing when Sgt. Cowburn's mount stumbled. The horse fell on the trooper and crushed his chest and abdomen.

THRILLING DAYS

Sgt. Cowburn recalls the boot-legger days when thrills came aplenty. He has recollections, too, of the milk strike battles in the north country and the Auburn prison riot as well as to holdups and battles with bandits far too numerous to mention.

But there is one case Sgt. Cowburn recalls with a lot of satisfaction.

On Feb. 8, 1927, he and Trooper George E. Wittwer were stationed at Old Forge. One Walter (Tip) Murray was wanted in connection with the murder of New York city Policeman James Masterson.

The New York detectives trailed Murray and a pal named Peter Seiler to Camp Utica at Old Forge. The camp was owned by Mrs. Grace Peterson of Forest Hills, L. I. and she was captured with the pair.

SLAYER FIGHTS

Troopers Cowburn and Wittwer and the detectives went to the camp to make the capture. The slayer put up a battle for his life and had to be shot. Seiler and the woman were captured. Seiler got life for his part in the crime.

Bullets were whistling around the camp at Old Forge when that capture was made and Sgt. Cowburn has heard the whine of many a bullet since. He has been shot several times since he met him at Oneida.

VETERAN EARNS PROMOTION—Sgt. George Cowburn of the Homer sub-station of Troop D, state police, who was promoted Jan. 16 after a colorful 24-year career.

Sgt. Cowburn has observed many changes in the state police from the days when winter duty was mostly on horse back down to the latest in the new PM radio communications system installed by the troop.

The veteran observes that thru scientific research and modern police methods, a criminal's career is becoming more difficult.

Incidentally, in recent examinations for promotion, Sgt. Cowburn had the highest mark.

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STUMBLING CHARGER FALLS ON RIDER

George Cowburn Suffers Chest
Stunts.

By Staff Correspondent.
ONEIDA, July 25.—Daredevil horseback riding may cost State Trooper George Cowburn his life or permanent disability. The rider fell beneath his horse at Oneida Barrack yesterday while practicing "Wild West" stunts that the rough riding squad will demonstrate this Fall at fairs and expositions.

Cowburn and several companions were going through their hair-raising stunts when his mount stumbled, throwing the rider beneath. The horse hit the trap, his knees boring into Cowburn's chest and abdomen. Efforts to revive the injured rider were futile. He was rushed to Broad Street Hospital where he is in critical condition.

The trooper was releasing a spring set of throwing blades, under the animal's saddle, aiming first via the handle on the opposite side. It was a 7 1/2 inch trap.

It was a 7 1/2 inch trap of the kind used by the police in the case of a horse pilferer before and after the wagon train.

Cowburn had performed his stunts many times successfully. He was made of the horse's neck and gun. While he was hanging at a moment's notice, the animal slipped, stumbled, threw traps and winded heavily striking his rider's chest.

X-ray photos will be taken today to determine the man's condition. He is suffering badly from shock and possible internal injuries.

COWBURN IMPROVES

Oneida, July 26.—Trooper George Cowburn, so painfully injured last Friday when his horse fell on him while practicing stunts at the barracks, still continues to improve at the Broad Street Hospital and now is said to have a good chance of recovery. He has a fractured

TROOPER BADLY HURT PRACTICING RIDING STUNTS

George Cowburn Reported
in Critical Condition
at Hospital.

OPERATION PERFORMED

Examination Reveals Serious
Internal Injuries
Besides Bruises.

ONEIDA, July 25.—Trooper George Cowburn, 25, member of the rough riding crew at Oneida Barrack, who was taken to the Broad Street Hospital yesterday afternoon following a fall from his horse while practicing stunt riding, was found today to be internally injured, and is reported to be in a critical condition.

After, when he was admitted to the hospital he appeared to be suffering only from bruises and shock, an examination followed by an operation this afternoon revealed more serious injuries.

Cowburn, a son of the late rider of the team owned by deceased Charles McCreath of the Oneida bar, is a member of the rough riding crew. He was a well known figure for performing stunts before a large crowd and counting fifty last year.

He is said by friends to have been in the trap as he was riding when the horse's neck and jaws again with the spring set.

It was while practicing this stunt yesterday that he fell. As he struck the ground his back struck, and fell on his side, which is believed to have caused his serious injuries.

TROOPER BADLY HURT WHILE ROUGH RIDING

Oneida, July 25.—Trooper George Cowburn, 25, of Troop 15, State Constabulary, who was so painfully injured, while practicing with the rough riding crew at the barracks in holding his own at the Broad Street Hospital where he was taken following the injury.

Cowburn, who is one of the crack riders of the troop, was practicing his stunt of going under the horse's back and up the other side, when he fell, his mount stumbling and plunging him to the ground with one knee. He was rushed to the hospital where it was found that he was suffering badly from shock and internal injuries.

An X-ray revealed that the young man is suffering from a fractured liver, and that he is in a very delicate condition. He seemed to show a slight improvement yesterday and his comrades have hope of his recovery.

GE2692876

Trooper Is Injured Chasing Speeder

Corporal Cowburn Suffers Fracture of Wrist as Cars Crash

Cortland, Nov. 10.—Corp. George E. Cowburn, who suffered a fracture of the left wrist in an accident which occurred while he was chasing a speeder in North Main Street, Homer, shortly before midnight on Saturday, is to be removed to his home today.

Charles B. Cokeliet of 32 North Main Street, Homer, who was unaware that Corporal Cowburn was in pursuit of another driver, swung his car across the path of Cowburn's car. The trooper's car went into a skid as he applied the brakes, striking the Cokeliet car, rolling over on the right side and striking the rear of a parked truck.

Mrs. Ethel Cokeliet, 54, suffered a cracked rib and bruises, and Mr. Cokeliet suffered a slight cut on the right hand. Dr. Charles J. Kelley and Dr. William F. Newcomb were called. Trooper William F. Wheeler made a report of the accident.



GEORGE E. COWBURN

Values Public Opinion

To the Editor of the Post-Standard:

Orchids to A State Trooper for his fine letter, "State Trooper Gives Hint of His Problem." Also, to S. K. Herzog for his fine letter, "N. Y. More Liberal." At the same time let's give our editor a greenhouse, full of flowers, for his two splendid articles, "Memo to Albany" and "In the Doghouse."

Keep in writing, soldiers, even tho you are armed with only a pen, for in the end, public opinion, without rifle or sword, is a powerful factor. ELWOOD J. WARD.
Fulton.

MORRELL FINED \$15

HOMER. — Stephen Morrell pleaded guilty to a charge of illegally possessing a slot machine at the Homeville Diner when arraigned Saturday before Police Justice L. M. Austin and was fined \$15. Corp. George Cowburn and State Trooper John Miller arrested Morrell. *W. H. Howard 11/14/42*

SLOT MACHINE BRINGS FINE

HOMER. — George A. Huson, proprietor of a S. Main st. diner, pleaded guilty Thursday before L. M. Austin, police justice, to a charge of possessing a slot machine in his place of business. Huson was fined \$10 and Justice Austin turned over the \$8.20 found in the machine to the village poor fund. Corp. George Cowburn arrested Huson. *11/14/42*

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STATION ASSIGNMENTS DURING 40 YEARS & 5 MONTHS WITH STATE POLICE

1924 ONEIDA-WATERLOO-ONEIDA-CENTRAL SQUARE-MEXICO
1925 PORT BYRON-NORTH SYRACUSE-ONEIDA-SICK LEAVE
1926-27 SICK LEAVE-ONEIDA-BOONVILLE
1927-28 MOHAWK- PALMYRA
1928-29 HOMER- WEEDSPORT
1929-30 NORTH SYRACUSE-OLDFORGE
1931-32 OLD FORGE-WATERLOO
1932-34 LIVERPOOL
1934-35 MORAVIA-
1935-36 REMSEN-CAZENOVIA
1936-38 PHOENIX-PULASKI-WEEDSPORT-CLIFTON SPRINGS - CANANDAIGUA
1939-43 HOMER-AUBURN
1943-47 AUBURN
1947-57 HOMER
1957-58 THURWAY
1958-63 HOMER
1963-64 SICK LEAVE

APPOINTED FEB. 1st. 1924- RETIRED JUNE 10-1964.

APPOINTED CORPORAL SEPT. 1, 1931-SERGEANT JAN. 6. 1948-(PROVISION

SCHOOLS ATTENDED- POLICE SCHOOL- 1925 TROY, N.Y.
2nd COMMAND-TACTICAL-HACKETTSTOWN, N.J. DEC. 19
NON-COM SCHOOL - TROY

GE2692876

Trooper Sicilia Hurt *Sort Standard of Aug. 20th 1933* Gravely When Cycle Crashes Side of Car

INJURED WHILE ON PATROL TRIP

Auto Turns in Path Too
Late to Swerve

Trooper Carmen Sicilia, attached to the North Syracuse state police station, was injured seriously when he rode his motorcycle into the side of an automobile that suddenly turned in front of him on the Syracuse-Brewerton highway, between North Syracuse and Cicero, about 9 o'clock last night.

Sicilia, whose home is in Canastota, suffered a fractured skull and a fractured jaw. Most of his teeth were knocked out when his head hit the car and he suffered lacerations about the face. He was semi-conscious late last night.

The trooper, on highway patrol duty between his station and Brewerton, was riding south towards North Syracuse on the three-strip concrete road when the car, headed in the opposite direction, turned across his path into the Log Cabin, a roadside

PROMOTED



Sergt. Solvay Perry

SOLVAY PERRY NEW TOP KICK

GE2692876

Four Troopers Assigned To Canandaigua Station

George Cowburn
The Canandaigua sub-station of the State Police has been manned at full strength of four troopers for the summer season, Corp. George Cowburn, commanding officer, reported today.

Trooper Earl Tuttle former Canandaiguan, has been assigned here from Troop D headquarters at Oneida barracks. Tuttle served here last year. Also assigned here from the barracks is Trooper Richard Camp.

Trooper Richard Voigt, who has been serving at Williamson, will be assigned to motorcycle duty. Trooper A. F. Ryder has been transferred to the Cazenovia station.

TROOPER CARRIER PAINFULLY HURT

Motorcycle Skids, Throwing Him
to Pavement

W. H. Jones

MISHAP WEST OF KIRKLAND

6-8-35

Trooper Suffers Brain Concussion
and Shoulder Injury

State Trooper Lee Carrier, New Hartford sub-station, was painfully injured when the motorcycle he was riding skidded and he was thrown to the pavement in avoiding a collision with an auto a short distance west of Kirkland shortly before 3 Friday afternoon.

He suffered concussion of the brain, shoulder injury and multiple bruises. He was taken to Faxton Hospital and is under the care of Dr. Fred J. Douglas.

Spencer W. Taylor, Clinton, driver of the auto, told Corp. Joseph Stealey he was entering the Syracuse Road from a dirt road opposite the Westmoreland Road junction. He said he stopped and, not seeing any vehicle near, entered the highway. As he did so his machine cut in front of the cycle, which was traveling west. Trooper Carrier applied the brakes of the cycle, but the machine struck some loose gravel on the pavement and went into a skid, throwing him. The cycle was only slightly damaged.

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Trooper Has Gruesome Hobby



Trooper Melvin Handville of Elbridge patrol and his scrapbook of 250 violent death pictures which he makes a hobby of collecting.

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No. 272

License to Have and Possess Pistol, Revolver or Firearms.

State of New York,
County of Hamilton } ss
Town of Inlet

In accordance with the provisions of Section 1897 of the Penal Law, permission and **LICENSE** hereby given and granted † to George E. Cowburn

of the ~~City~~ Oneida ~~N. Y.~~ N. Y. a citizen of the United States, over the age of sixteen years:

- (1) To have* a revolver or pistol in his Dwelling.
- (2) To have* a revolver or pistol in his Place of Business.
- (3) To have and carry* a revolver or pistol while in the employ of self and others
- (4) To have and carry* a revolver or pistol, and such weapon may be concealed, and the person applying for this License has given proof of his good moral character, and that proper cause exists for the issuance thereof.

~~(5) For purposes of~~ being** ~~of~~ this License is issued for this particular reason, and under the following conditions:

and certify to the good moral character of the applicant.

This License is for ----- from date hereof, and **Until Revoked**
License may be annulled or revoked at any time, pursuant to Section 1897 of said Penal Law.

Issued at Town of Inlet N. Y., this 18th day of Nov. 1930. x10

Signature of Holder of License,

George E. Cowburn

Frank E. Tiffany
Judge, Hamilton County, N. Y.
(Title of Office, etc.)

NOTE.—A License will come under one of the Headings marked 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, and the officer issuing the License must put the other four Headings which do not apply. *Insert word Pistol or Revolver. †If License is limited as to time, see fill out this part. ** An Alien, etc. Only a Judge of a Court of Record can issue a License to an Alien, or to an alien not a citizen of and usually resident in the State of New York. †In case of an Alien, etc., cross out all reading matter following this mark, and fill out No. 5.

State Police Press Drive To End Slot Machine Racket Costing Public Huge Sums

Arrested May 16, 1935



Troopers and the machines confiscated from W. J. Stocham's gasoline station on the Buckley Road. At the left, Trooper John Wheeler holding a machine that returned coins only if the player was a good guesser. Right, Trooper Frank Stritter with a mint vending machine that paid both chewing gum and cash prizes. The machines are valued at \$125 each.

Science Made at Marcellus and ... **GE2692876**

Seek Identity of Man Killed on Homer Road

Troopers and Car Which Snuffed Out Pedestrian's Life

Post-Standard 5/27/40

CORTLAND—An unidentified man walking along the highway was instantly killed early Sunday morning just north of the Preble cross rd. on the Homer-Tully highway when he was struck by an automobile owned and driven by Arthur Allan Gallinger of Fabius.

Occurred on Curve

Scene of the fatal accident is the curve about one-eighth of a mile north of the Preble cross rd. at Baltimore. Coroner Claude E. Chapin, after viewing the body, estimated the man's age at between 28 and 30 years and, judging from his clothing, the coroner believed the victim may be a farm laborer.

An inquest has been ordered for 10 a. m. Monday in the office of District Attorney Louis H. Folmer at the courthouse. Coroner Chapin, with Coroner William F. Newcomb, viewed the body later Sunday and found the right leg had been severed, the left leg fractured; the left arm was broken and crushed; a possible fractured skull and a crushed chest were suffered.

Time of the accident has been fixed at 12:30 a. m. Sunday. Motorcycle Officer Arden Sickmon of Tully was placing flares on the highway at the scene as State Trooper George Lawrence of the Homer patrol arrived on the scene.

EMPLOYED IN SYRACUSE

Gallinger, an employe of the Brown, Lipe Chapin corporation, Syracuse, told the trooper that he was driving north toward Tully when he saw the man walking on the highway.

Just as he swung his car to the

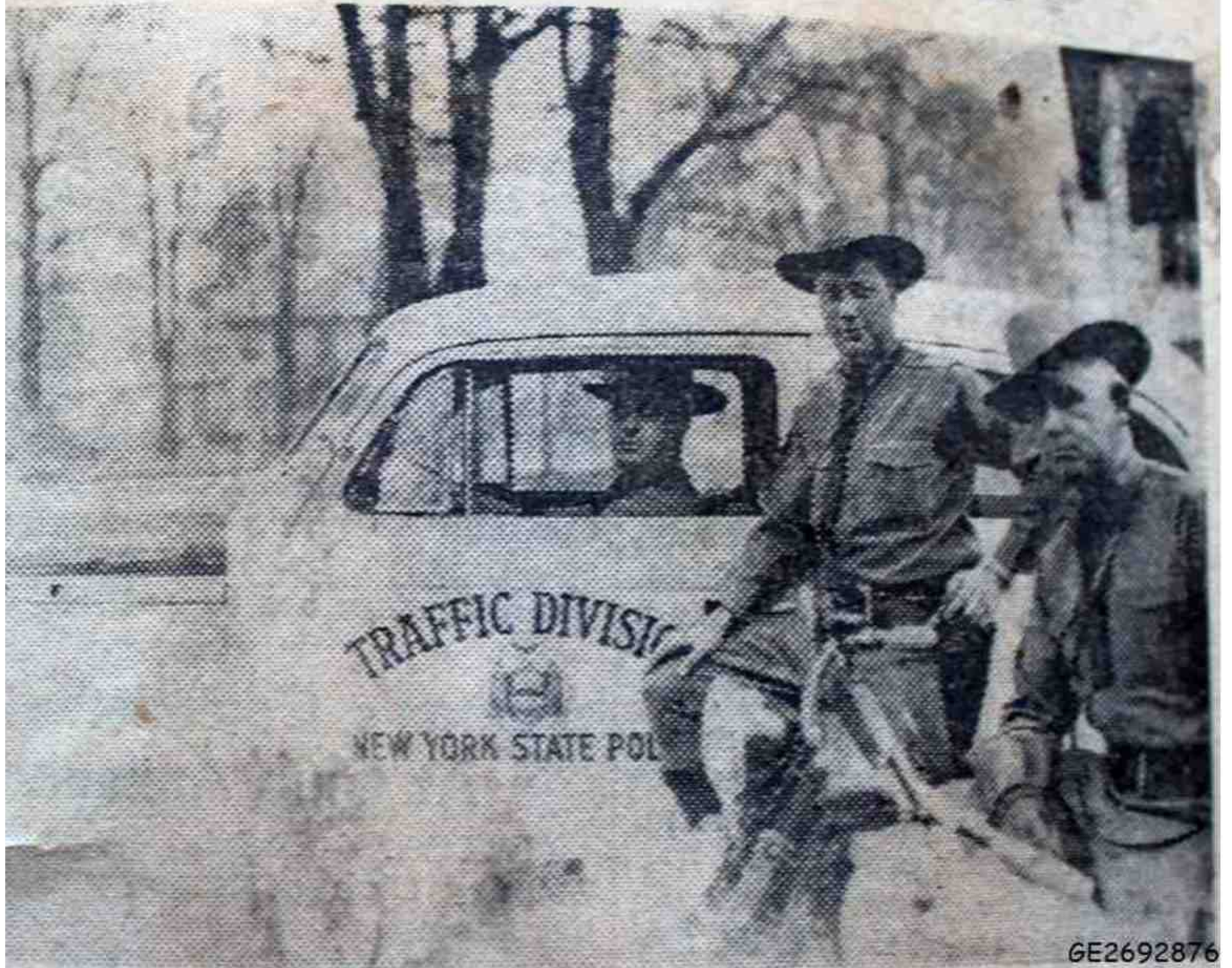


State Trooper George Lawrence, (left), Corp. George Cowburn and the Gallinger car, which figured early Sunday in the first highway fatality of the season in Cortland county.

Trooper in Sheepskin on Frosty Summer Morn Has Last Laugh on Scornful Brother Officers

942699876

Homer State Police Patrol



GE2692876

Sergt. Curtin Named Utica Police Chief

Traffic Division Member
Released to Accept
New Post

Troop 16 Years
Native of Albany, He
Studied for Priesthood
in Rome, Italy

Special Dispatch to The Herald

Utica, Feb. 15. Sergt. Charles P. Curtin of Troop D, state police, has been officially granted a four month leave of absence from his current post so that he may take over the post of acting chief of the Utica Police Department, Capt. Stephen D. Nichols, commanding officer of Troop D, disclosed today.

Sergt. Curtin's official leave begins March 1 and ends July 1.

Commissioner Joseph N. Sullivan of Albany said today he had no announcement to make relative to the appointment of Sergt. Curtin as acting chief of the police department to replace Chief Nicholas C. Doll, who is going with three lieutenants, four sergeants, three captains, a deputy chief, a chauffeur, four detectives and 12 patrolmen, on Feb. 27.

Commissioner Sullivan said he did not know Sergt. Curtin had been granted a formal leave of absence as reported by The Herald.

The position of acting chief will be filled by Chief Doll, Commissioner Sullivan said. Sergt. Curtin's annual appointment is expected

Leaves Troop D



SERG. CHARLES P. CURTIN

to be made sometime before March 1.

Sergeant Curtin at one time studied for the priesthood, has taught school and has been in practically every country in the world.

While at North American College at Rome Italy, where he was studying to become a priest, Sergeant Curtin was stricken with influenza and suffered a nervous breakdown in 1924, and was forced to return home the following year.

State Police Cut Would One Man

banvard GE 2692876

SEVERAL PAY TRAFFIC FINES

State Police Gather in Eight Over
Saturday-Sunday

Court of Recorder
RANGE IS FROM \$5 TO \$25

5/13/40
One Admits Drunken Driving After
Hitting Another Car

Eight arrests were made by state police from the Homer substation over the weekend in a drive on traffic violators.

Wildie Aldrich, 52, of Homer, R. D. 2, was fined \$25 by Justice of Peace Roy J. McMaster, when he pleaded guilty to a charge of driving while intoxicated following his arrest by Corp. George E. Cowburn and Trooper George T. Lawrence following a crash Saturday, north of Homer. Fred J. Barden of 10 Grace Street, Cortland, with his wife, was driving south toward Homer when the Aldrich car struck his machine. Both Mr. and Mrs. Barden escaped with bruises. Norman Aldrich, 20, a passenger in his father's car, was also arrested.

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