

PATROLMAN GURNEY L. ROYAL
 Winston-Salem Journal/Twin City Sentinel
 original newspaper articles
 Winston-Salem Police Department scrapbook

**Negro Shoots
 Royall Down;
 Blackburn Is
 Cut on Neck**
 Aug. 2, 1941

**Officer Is Slain With
 Own Pistol As He
 Attempts Arrest**

(More Pictures on Page 2)

A Negro resisting arrest last night shot and killed Policeman Gurney L. Royall and severely slashed the neck of another officer, Paul T. Blackburn.

Police arrested Nathaniel Shad, 27, 909 1/2 Ridge avenue, before he left the scene. He was identified by witnesses as the man who shot the officer.

The shooting occurred at 10:20 o'clock at Third and Church streets, in the heart of the crowded Negro downtown business section.



G. L. ROYALL



PAUL BLACKBURN

Shad has a brief police record. In 1938 he was convicted in municipal court of assault with deadly weapon and was fined \$25 and taxed with the costs and given a suspended sentence of three months for three years.

In December of the same year he was tried for non-support and given a suspended sentence of six months with conditions.

According to available information, the Negro was cursing and (See Shooting—Page 4)

Shooting

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 raising disturbance in the section near the Lincoln theatre. Officer Royall attempted to arrest him and the Negro, attempting to get away, grabbed the policeman's pistol and shot him in the head.

Officer Blackburn, hearing the commotion, arrived at the scene about the time of the shooting and, attempting to stop the Negro, was cut in the throat.

According to police, the Negro fired five times with probably only the last one taking effect. Royall died almost instantly. He was removed by ambulance to a local hospital and was pronounced dead there.

Blackburn was thought to have been severely cut but investigation at the hospital revealed the gash had just missed the vital jugular vein. The gash was said to be about five inches just under the left jawbone. Another small gash was on the cheek above it.

Blackburn was released from the hospital after treatment and allowed to go home, where his wife was reported to be ill following a recent operation.

Royall, 36-years-old, joined the police force in September, 1937. Records at the department showed he had one child at that time.

Blackburn, 34, joined the force in January of 1935. He also has one child.

Gurney L. Royall was born in Yadkin county, October 23, 1904, the son of J. F. and Emma Vanhoy Royall. He spent his early life in Yadkin county, near Center, coming to Winston-Salem to reside in 1926. He was a local barber for 10 years, later joining the police force.

He was a member of Centenary Methodist Church. He was married on June 4, 1933, to Miss Ruth Nifong, who survives him.

Other immediate survivors include one daughter, Nancy Anne; the father, J. F. Royall, of Yadkin county; and five brothers, J. D., W. W., Frank and M. H. Royall, all of Winston-Salem, and Fred Royall, of Yadkin county.



WHERE OFFICER WAS SLAIN
 —The picture at top shows the spot where Policeman G. L. Royall met death last night on the west side of Church street when shot by a Negro resisting arrest. W. B. Davis, Duke Power Company bus driver, points to the spot, marked by the grass.

where Royall was found. Davis was said to have witnessed the shooting. The lower picture shows the spot on the east side of Church street where Officer Paul Blackburn staggered and fell after being slashed on the throat with a knife.—(Staff Photos.)

**Funeral Is Held
 For G. L. Royall**

Funeral services were conducted at Central Terrace Methodist Church at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon for Gurney L. Royall, member of the Winston-Salem police force, who was killed in the line of duty Friday night.

The body lay in state from 4 to 5 o'clock. Burial was in Salem Cemetery. Pallbearers were members of the Winston-Salem police force and the Forsyth county sheriff's department: J. F. Easter, J. C. Tucker, Joe Crawford, G. C. Hailey, C. A. Tutterow, J. C. Vestal, W. S. Parker and Sheriff Ernie G. Shore.

Cop's Slayer Held On Maximum Count

A Negro killer who slashed Policeman Gurney L. Royall with a knife and then shot him to death with the officer's own service revolver, was held in jail without bond, today charged with murder, the official reports of the crime



Held for the death of Policeman Gurney L. Royall is Nathaniel Shadd (above), 27-year-old Negro. Shadd, a powerful, 172-pound man, allegedly slashed Royall with a knife and then shot him to death with his own revolver.

showed.

Several eyewitnesses told authorities that Nathaniel Shadd, 27, cut Officer Royall with a knife and, as the bleeding officer struggled with him, wrested his revolver from him and shot five times, emptying the gun at the policeman.

Policeman P. T. Blackburn, slashed about the throat and face by the Negro as he raced to Royall's aid, narrowly escaped death from a wound which just missed his jugular vein, but was reported in good condition today.

Another Negro reportedly interfered with Blackburn, grabbing his gun arm, while he grappled with the Negro slayer. Police had picked up a second Negro and were questioning him in this connection.

Clung to Slayer

The story of a heroic policeman who, badly wounded and weakened from the assaults of a Negro's knife, still clung to his prisoner and grappled with him until he was shot through the head with his own gun was graphically told today in the factual report of the investigation:

Policeman Royall had arrested Shadd in the 300 block on North Church street, at about 10:25 p.m., on a charge of nuisance and disorderly conduct.

The Negro, cursing, started to fight the officer, grabbed him around the hips and threw him to the ground. He had drawn a knife when the officer first started to arrest him, a witness said, and it was believed that he slashed the officer with it as they rolled over the sidewalk.

Regained Feet

The officer managed to regain his feet and struck Shadd with his blackjack before the Negro closed with him and threw him down a second time.

As they scuffled, the Negro tore the policeman's flashlight from his pocket and got his gun out of the holster.

They regained their feet again, the officer fighting for his pistol, and the Negro emptied the gun at him, shooting five times.

The Negro's first two shots went wild, the third hit the policeman on the finger of the left hand and the fourth struck him just above his left ear.

Fell to Street

He fell to the street at the edge of the sidewalk and did not speak or move again.

The Negro stood over him, fired another shot which missed him, snapped the empty gun at him and then threw the pistol down at the side of the dead officer and walked off.

Meanwhile, Blackburn, who was a short distance away, had heard the shooting and rushed up to Shadd before he got away.

The Negro slashed him across

More About— Cop Slayer

(Continued From Page 1)

the throat with a knife and then cut him on the face, but Blackburn held on.

The Negroes that filled the theatre district had crowded around excitedly and Blackburn reported that one interfered with him, grabbing his gun arm. But he held on to Shadd despite the interference and his own wounds, until help arrived.

Within a few moments after the shooting, Policeman S. C. Cable and G. L. Adams, who happened to be in a radio cruiser nearby, had received a report from headquarters and were on the scene.

They took Shadd into custody and he was taken to police station. He was questioned about the shooting but refused to admit anything in connection with it, it was understood.

The slain policeman was taken to the City Memorial Hospital but was pronounced dead on arrival. The .38 calibre bullet had passed completely through his head and had lodged against the right side of his skull.

Slashed With Knife

In addition to the gun wounds, he had been slashed all over the upper part of his body with a knife.

He had a cut on his back, on his left shoulder, three small cuts on the throat and one on the chest.

Jerome Miller, Negro eyewitness, told officers that Nathaniel Shadd had a knife and that he pulled it out of his pocket and opened it, threatening to cut Policeman Royall, when the latter first attempted to arrest him.

Royall's brother officers described the Negro as a powerfully-built man, five feet eight inches and weighing 172 pounds, but felt that he would not have been able to get Royall's gun if the officer had not been severely wounded fighting to get the knife away from the Negro.

Two other eyewitnesses told officers that they saw Shadd grab the gun from the holster and shoot the policeman and they made this statement to Shadd in jail later as they checked his identification, police reports showed.

Royall, who lived at 124 West Devonshire street, had been on the police force since 1937. He had a wife and a little girl about six years old.

Popular Officer

He was an extremely efficient officer and was very popular with the other men in the department.

Blackburn was treated at City Memorial Hospital and was able to go home then to his wife, who was reported to be ill following a recent operation.

He went back to the hospital this morning to stay for a few days until he recovers from the wounds, but is not in a serious condition.

It is the third time that Blackburn has had to go to the hospital recently for treatment of injuries and he was suffering to some extent from shock and nervousness.