

POLICE TO GIVE A NEW MEDAL TO CASUALTIES

A new police department medal will be issued during the new year, Police Supt. Orlando W. Wilson announced yesterday—"one which I hope we'll never have to award."

The new Police Blue Star award, similar to the Purple Heart medal, will be given to policemen or women who have been critically or fatally injured while in the performance of police duty, Wilson said.

He spoke during his first press conference since his return late Monday from a lecture tour of New Zealand and Australia.

Criteria for Award

The Blue Star award will be given to those injured by attack from an assailant or during acts of valor, Wilson said. Since 1872, 331 policemen have lost their lives in the line of duty. During Wilson's administration, since 1960, nine policemen have been killed in the line of duty.

Wilson reported that 1,357 police officers have lost time as a result of injuries received in the line of duty from Dec. 1, 1965 to Dec. 1, 1966.

Wilson said the city fared well during the holiday traffic



situation with four fatalities from Dec. 16 to 22 and four from Dec. 23 to 26.

He urged motorists to be cautious during the New Year holiday, noting that late Friday night, early Saturday morning, and New Year's eve are the most dangerous times.

During his tour of Australia and New Zealand, Wilson gave five lectures in Sydney before 25 senior officers of the two countries.

"I did not give them any suggestions on how to run their department," Wilson said. "I just told them what we do here."

Topics in Discussion

He said they were especially interested in Chicago's communications system, the relationship between patrol and detective operations, and the internal investigation division, which deals with complaints about the misconduct of police officers.

Police problems appear to be "much the same as in Chicago," Wilson said, "tho they are less pronounced."

Asked if Minor K. Wilson, Democratic candidate in the Nov. 8 election, would return to his old job in the police department, Supt. Wilson said he is waiting for Wilson to make a decision. He said he had not spoken to him since his return.

After his three-week tour of the foreign countries, Wilson spent a week's vacation with relatives in Los Angeles.