



CHARLES FREDERICK CASH

MAY 9, 1986

Friday, May 9, 1986: Corrections Officer Frederick Cash was beaten to death by an inmate with a hammer while supervising prisoners at the Western Kentucky Farm Center (now WKCC) North of Eddyville. The offender dragged Officer Cash's body into a barn before stealing a prison van and escaping the facility. The offender was captured in a nearby county and later convicted of the officer's murder. Officer Cash served with the Department of Corrections for 10 years.



JULIUS R. CUMMINS

JULY 21, 1949

Thursday, July 21, 1949: Guard Julius Cummins was killed in an vehicle accident near Eddyville while returning to the Kentucky State Penitentiary from the prison farm. Guard Cummins, along with several inmates, were riding in a truck loaded with onions when they collided with another vehicle and overturned. Guard Cummins was thrown from the vehicle and sustained fatal injuries. Nine prisoners who were passengers also sustained injuries in the accident.



HODGE CUNNINGHAM

OCTOBER 3, 1923

Wednesday, October 3, 1923: Guard Hodge Cunningham and two other guards at the Kentucky State Penitentiary in Eddyville were shot and killed by inmates who were attempting to take over the dining room of the prison. The three offender inmates involved in the murders were found dead three days later after officers stormed the dining facility. One of the offender inmates had been killed in the standoff and the other two offender inmates committed suicide.



OWEN DAVENPORT

JULY 18, 1956

Wednesday, July 18, 1956: Lieutenant Owen Davenport was stabbed to death in the prison yard of the Kentucky State Penitentiary in Eddyville.

The 23-year old offender inmate stabbed Davenport in the back with a home-made knife. At the time of the incident, the offender inmate was high on drugs which had been smuggled into the prison. The offender inmate was convicted of Davenport's murder and sentenced to death. Lieutenant Davenport served with the Department of Corrections for 13 years.



WARDEN L. R. GUMM
DECEMBER 17, 1945

Monday, December 17, 1945: Deputy Warden L.R. Gumm was shot and killed by an inmate at the Kentucky State Penitentiary in Eddyville. The offender inmate had obtained a gun which had been smuggled into the prison. The offender inmate also wounded a second guard in the incident. The offender inmate was later convicted of Gumm's murder and was subsequently executed.



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PATRICIA ROSS

MARCH 1, 1984

Thursday, March 1, 1984: Corrections Officer Patricia Ross was beaten to death in a dining facility by an inmate at the Kentucky State Penitentiary in Eddyville. The inmate lured Officer Ross into a food storage area and then beat her to death after she refused his sexual advances. The inmate offender also assaulted another inmate who walked in on the incident, leaving him critically injured. The offender later died in prison after being convicted of Ross' murder.

Officer Ross served the Department of Corrections for 3 years.



BRANDON HEATH THACKER

APRIL 16, 1998

Thursday, April 16, 1998: Alcoholic Beverage Control Investigator Brandon Thacker was shot and killed as he was driving from an undercover assignment with three other investigators on the Western KY Parkway (now I-69) near Eddyville. The investigators were in a caravan with Thacker in the last vehicle. He radioed to other officers that a vehicle was driving erratically and moments later he radioed he had been shot. One investigator turned around to render aid to Thacker while the other two investigators chased down the erratic driving offender who killed Thacker and detained him until KSP troopers arrived to assist. Officer Thacker served with ABC for 4 years.



CAMERON PONDER

SEPTEMBER 13, 2015

Sunday, September 13, 2015: Kentucky State Police Trooper Cameron Ponder was shot and killed following a vehicle pursuit on I-24 near Lamasco at 10:20pm. The offender fled the scene in his vehicle and later fled on foot into a wooded area near Eddy Creek. He was located several hours later by KSP Special Response Team members where he was shot and killed after pointing his weapon at a trooper. Trooper Ponder was a US Navy veteran. He served with KSP at the Mayfield Post for 9 months.



CHIEF WILLIAM GIVENS BURDEN

APRIL 7, 1950

Friday, April 7, 1950: Kuttawa Police Chief William Burden was shot and killed as he and a Kentucky State Police Trooper attempted to serve a warrant on a woman charged with threatening with intent to kill another person. As Chief Burden approached the front door, the woman's husband opened fire with a 410 gauge shotgun, killing Burden. As the trooper ran to the front of the home from the rear, the male offender also shot and wounded him before fleeing the scene. The husband and wife were arrested a short time later. The male offender was later convicted of manslaughter. Chief Burden previously served as the Dawson Springs Police Chief and had served with the Kuttawa Police Department for 2 years.



GUARD WILLIAM MONEYMAKER

APRIL 21, 1931

Tuesday, April 21, 1931: Guard William Moneymaker was beaten to death with a hatchet at the Kentucky State Penitentiary in Eddyville by an offender inmate. The inmate then took the guard's pistol and committed suicide.



GUARD V.B. MATTINGLY

OCTOBER 3, 1923

Wednesday, October 3, 1923: Guard V.B. Mattingly and two other guards at the Kentucky State Penitentiary in Eddyville were shot and killed by inmates who were attempting to take over the dining room of the prison. The three offender inmates involved in the murders were found dead three days later after officers stormed the dining facility. One of the offender inmates had been killed in the standoff and the other two offender inmates committed suicide.



GUARD WILLIAM GILBERT

OCTOBER 3, 1923

Wednesday, October 3, 1923: Guard William Gilbert and two other guards at the Kentucky State Penitentiary in Eddyville were shot and killed by inmates who were attempting to take over the dining room of the prison. The three offender inmates involved in the murders were found dead three days later after officers stormed the dining facility. One of the offender inmates had been killed in the standoff and the other two offender inmates committed suicide.



MARSHAL JOHN COX

DECEMBER 24, 1892

Saturday, December 24, 1892: Lamasco Town Marshal John Cox was shot and killed while attempting to arrest a man for disturbing a religious gathering on Christmas Eve. The male offender fled the scene after shooting Marshal Cox, but was arrested two months later in Princeton.