

**03-16-1943 Michigan – Ralph Broullire – State LEO Ice Rescue****Trooper Ralph Broullire**

<https://www.odmp.org/officer/2318-trooper-ralph-broullire>

*Michigan State Police, Michigan*

End of Watch Tuesday, March 16, 1943

**RALPH BROULLIRE**

Trooper Ralph Broullire drowned while attempting to rescue two boys in Saginaw Bay.

After Trooper Broullire and two other rescuers made it to the boys, high winds and rough water capsized their boat, killing all five people. Trooper Broullire's body was not recovered until one month later when the weather began to calm.

**BIO**

- **Age** 28
- **Tour** Not available
- **Badge** Not available

**INCIDENT DETAILS**

- **Cause** Drowned

**Michigan State Police**

[https://www.facebook.com/MichiganStatePolice/photos/a.10150358028612216/10150748992797216/?comment\\_id=10158609419207216](https://www.facebook.com/MichiganStatePolice/photos/a.10150358028612216/10150748992797216/?comment_id=10158609419207216)

In memory of our fallen trooper who made the ultimate sacrifice on this day in 1943:

June 26, 1914 - March 16, 1943

Tpr. Ralph L. Broullire drowned in Saginaw Bay while trying to rescue two boys from an ice flow.

In the evening of March 16, 1943, the two young men became stranded on an ice flow that had been pushed offshore by 55 mile per hour winds. Trooper Broullire and two other men set out in a boat in an attempt to reach the boys. Another boat also started out, but was turned back by high winds and waves. Signals received from flashlights on the ice flow indicated that Trooper Broullire and his companions had reached the boys.



**Tpr. Ralph L. Broullire**

This was the last contact with the men. The icy waters of the bay claimed the life of Trooper Broullire and the four others.

Storms and high winds seriously hampered the search for the victims. The body of Trooper Broullire was recovered on April 18, 1943.

Trooper Broullire was the 14th MSP officer to die in the line of duty.

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn88063294/1943-04-19/ed-1/seq-7/>



<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn88063294/1943-03-20/ed-1/seq-3/>



<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn88063294/1943-03-18/ed-1/seq-1/>

## 3 More City Youths Missing in Ice Floes

(Pictures on Page Three)

A U. S. Coast Guard plane joined forces today with the Ontario provincial police and Detroit police in the search for three Detroit youths feared lost in the ice floes of Lake St. Clair.

They brought to eight, the total of Michigan persons adrift in the free ice of the Great Lakes. Five were reported lost Tuesday in Saginaw Bay.

The Detroit trio were identified by Ontario police as Terry Timmins, 17, of 2075 W. Philadelphia; Buddy Rogers, 15, of 2010 W. Philadelphia, and Stanley Jesse or Jaffe, also 15, who was reported to live in Twelfth.

### TAKE BOAT RIDE

The three went to the Stony Point cottage of the Timmins boy's parents yesterday afternoon to go for a boat ride.

They last were seen drifting in the gale late yesterday between Peche Island and Belle River, Ont.

Police reported they were told by neighbors living near the Timmins' cottage that the three youths were lightly dressed when they put out in the small rowboat.

### FORCED TO RETURN

The Detroit police harbormaster's division put out in a boat late yesterday and searched until sundown, when the high wind and drifting ice fields forced them to turn back.

"I don't see how the boys could have survived the night in the boat," Constable Gibson said this morning. "The small boat would either have been capsized

or crushed. We could see the water in Lake St. Clair breaking over the edge of the ice field."

Lookouts along the lake front and searchers scanned the lake with high-powered glasses from lighthouses.

### TO SCAN LAKE HURON

The coast guard plane which joined in the search this morning, also was scheduled to fly over Lake Huron, seeking the five lost in Saginaw Bay.

Included were two boys who were marooned when the ice broke from shore while they were attempting to bring their fishing shanty to shore, and three men who set out to rescue them.

Lost were John Guyott, 15; Donald McIntyre, 19, the first to be lost; State Trooper **Ralph Broullire**, 27; Virgil Fortin, 27, and Otto Van Dyke, 34.

All but the trooper were residents of nearby bayshore colonies.

## 58 Yanks, Britons Die in Jap Camp

CHUNGKING, March 18 (INS)

—Fifty-eight American and British prisoners were murdered, committed suicide or died last week in a Japanese concentration camp at Shanghai, the Chinese central news agency said today.

Today's Instalment

"The HUMAN COMEDY"

By William Saroyan

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<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn97063183/1943-03-19/ed-1/seq-7/>

# Weather

(Continued from Page One)  
and Ontario officers hunted three youths who became lost in Lake St. Clair while on a fishing trip. They were identified as Terry Timmins, Detroit, and two unnamed Windsor companions. Last seen, the boys were drifting on an ice floe between Peche Island and Belle River, Ont.

Search continued meanwhile in Saginaw Bay for three men and two youths feared lost or drowned.

The boys disappeared on an ice floe, and were once spotted 20 feet from shore. They were identified as John Guyott, 15, and Donald McIntyre, 17.

A party composed of two fishermen and a state trooper set out in a boat to rescue the boys, and became lost. The fishermen were Virgil Fortin, 27, and Otto Van Dyke, 34. The trooper was **Ralph Broullire**, 27.

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn97063183/1943-03-17/ed-1/seq-1/>

## Bay Searched For Five Missing Men

Detroit, Mich., Mar. 17—INS—Coast Guardsmen from three stations today searched the ice floes of Saginaw Bay for two young fishermen and a rescue party of three.

The rescue group, headed by a Michigan state trooper, was officially reported missing early today after it had apparently failed in efforts to reach the youths.

The fishermen were John Guyott, 15, and Donald McIntyre, 19, both of Bay City.

State Trooper **Ralph B. Broullire**, 27, and Otto Van Dyke and Virgil Frotin, of Bay City, put out in a boat to rescue the youths.

### MSP HONOR?ROLL

<https://www.sentinel-standard.com/article/20120407/NEWS/304079989>

On the night of March 16, 1943, a Bay City man telephoned the home of local State Police Post Commander, Sgt. Fred Keune, to report two boys, aged 18 and 15, had been standing on the ice in Saginaw Bay when it cracked apart, setting them adrift. Sgt. Keune called the Post and Trooper Ralph Broullire, 28, assigned to the Bay City Post, was dispatched to the scene.

A Coast Guard boatswain's mate arrived, along with Deputies with a Sheriff's Department boat. The boat was not seaworthy.

Other Troopers attempted rescue with a State Police boat, but the waves and water was too rough. Through signals with flashlights, the boys, helped by 55 mph winds, were now about two miles out in the bay.

Coast Guard officials from Tawas City and Harbor Beach were on the way. The urgency of rescue prompted Tpr. Broullire and two other men to use the Sheriff's Department boat to attempt a rescue.

Last contact from anyone was about 11:30 p.m. that evening.

A State police detail remained alert on shore all night and throughout the next day. Coast Guard cutters arrived on March 17, but high winds and waves forced them to turn back.

Trooper Broullire's body was finally recovered on April 18 after it floated to shore.

The other four people also perished in the event.

Tpr. Broullire, who enlisted in the MSP on Dec. 18, 1937, was buried at Iron Mountain and was the fourteenth Trooper to die in the line of duty.

*Trooper Rob Herbstreith, Michigan State Police, Niles Post, is a Community Service Trooper available to answer readers' questions.*

Email him at [TrooperRob53@yahoo.com](mailto:TrooperRob53@yahoo.com)