

Coast Guard Man Drowned When Attempting to Save Two Boys Drifting in Boat

**W. P. Sullivan Falls Overboard in Act of
Throwing Buoy to Youths Later Saved.**

When attempting to rescue two boys who had drifted in a rowboat more than a mile from shore near the lake harbor piers, W. P. Sullivan, a member of the United States Coast Guard, stationed at Summerville, was drowned about 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Sullivan fell overboard as he was trying to throw a life buoy to the two boys who were struggling in the rough waters of Lake Ontario. They were saved through the efforts of other members of the Coast Guard, who had gone to their rescue with Sullivan.

The two boys, Fred Speary, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred H. Speary, and John Serou, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Serou, of No. 1872 Lake avenue, had gone out in a rowboat yesterday afternoon with two other boys, all of whom average about 15 years. The boys had rowed to the end of one of the piers, when two of them got out, preferring to walk back on the pier, while the two other more daring lads attempted to row back.

Could Not Make Shore.

A strong south wind had lashed the waves into a fury and the combined strength of the two boys was insufficient to cope with the wind and waves. Repeated attempts to row back to shore were without success. They would pull for the shore, but the wind would veer the boat and drive it north. Before they were aware of it the rowboat had been blown a mile from the pier.

The Coast Guard men, observing the plight of the boys, went to their rescue. When they reached the rowboat they found the two frightened youngsters in

the boat being tossed about like playthings by the huge waves. Immediately, Temper-Surfman Sullivan stood up in the boat in order to toss a life buoy toward the youngsters. In the act of doing it he fell overboard. Surfman W. M. Donovan then attempted to throw the same buoy to Sullivan and he too fell overboard. Surfman A. T. Gilbert jumped into the water and rescued Donovan, but Sullivan was drowned before he could be given assistance. The two youngsters finally were transferred to the Coast Guard boat by means of the buoys, and they were returned safely to shore.

Body Not Recovered.

Sullivan's body has not been recovered. The spot where he was drowned is said to be about ninety feet deep. The only hope held out for the recovery of his body is the possibility that it will be washed ashore, which is considered unlikely.

Surfman Sullivan had been connected with the United States Coast Guard here for the past three years. He was 27 years old, having been born on March 7, 1895, at Ellisburg, N. Y. He had lived most of the time in New York city. During the war he was in the army service and took part in two engagements in France. He enlisted in Watertown, N. Y., on December 15, 1917, and was transferred to Fort Slocum, later to Camp Merritt, and finally was sent to France in the early part of 1918. He received his honorable discharge on August 12, 1919, soon afterward enlisting in the Coast Guard service. Sullivan is said to leave only one relative, a brother, John Sullivan, of Texas.

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