

02-03-1986 – Boston MA – John DAmato – Civilian -LEO PSD Ice Recovery

John D'Amato

Aged 37, civilian volunteer with the police SAR team, died whilst searching for a 6 year old boy (who was declared dead in hospital 2 hours after being found - he had been under the ice for two hours) who had fallen through the ice on the Ipswich River. The diver was missing for an hour before his absence was noted by the team. Reported in the Boston Globe.

<http://www.thediversassociation.com/index.php/sheets>

BOY DIES AFTER FALL THROUGH ICE; DIVER AIDING IN RESCUE IS MISSING

<https://secure.pgarchiver.com/boston/doc/294293028.html?FMT=ABS&FMTS=ABS:FT&type=current&date=Feb+3%2C+1986&author=Cullen%2C+Kevin&pub=Boston+Globe+%28pre-1997+Fulltext%29&edition=&startpage=19&desc=BOY+DIES+AFTER+FALL+THROUGH+ICE%3B+DIVER+AIDING+IN+RESCUE+IS+MISSING>

Feb 3, 1986 by Kevin Cullen,

Ipswich police Sgt. Peter Foote said John D'Amato, 37, of Hamilton, a volunteer diver, was missing long after the boy was pulled unconscious from the water.

A half-dozen divers who had spent up to two hours searching for Marcocelle went back into the freezing river last night to search for D'Amato. The search was suspended at 10:30 p.m. after several divers developed problems with freezing regulators on their breathing apparatus, Foote said.

At 6:18 p.m., Deputy Sheriff Michael Higgins came to the surface with the boy, Foote said. After the boy was removed for medical treatment and most rescue workers had left the scene, police realized D'Amato's car was left behind.

POLICE RECOVER BODY OF DIVER WHO AIDED IN SEARCH FOR BOY, 6

<https://secure.pgarchiver.com/boston/doc/294360654.html?FMT=ABS&FMTS=ABS:FT&type=current&date=Feb+4%2C+1986&author=Arnold%2C+David&pub=Boston+Globe+%28pre-1997+Fulltext%29&edition=&startpage=19&desc=POLICE+RECOVER+BODY+OF+DIVER+WHO+AIDED+IN+SEARCH+FOR+BOY%2C+6>

Feb 4, 1986 by David Arnold

[John D'Amato] entered the river with Michael Kennedy and another member of the Essex County Sheriff's Dept. But, upon [Peter A. Foote]'s request that Kennedy and other dive leaders "count heads" after the youngster had been found, Kennedy responded: "All here," thinking that Foote had been asking specifically about members of his Essex County team.

As a volunteer, Kennedy recalled saying, D'Amato was free to do as he wished.

While Kennedy and a partner wore safety ropes to tether them with other team members ashore, D'Amato entered at Kennedy's side without a rope. The visibility under the ice where the search was conducted is about three feet and the current sweeps the bottom at about five miles per hour, Kennedy said.

Kennedy recalled that D'Amato's last words were: "I think I'll check to the right." Kennedy went straight and then left and found the boy about 200 feet downstream from where the youngster had plunged.