

12-21-1979 – Philadelphia PA – Wilfred Doyle – LEO Auto Accident - River

## Sergeant Wilfred Charles Doyle

<https://www.odmp.org/officer/4283-sergeant-wilfred-charles-doyle>



*Philadelphia Police Department, Pennsylvania*  
End of Watch Friday, December 21, 1979

### WILFRED CHARLES DOYLE

Sergeant Doyle drowned while responding to a report of a woman who had jumped off of the Girard Bridge. He was driving to the scene when his patrol car left the roadway at Montgomery Drive and Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, and plunged into the Schuylkill River. The initial report came when a man walked into the 23rd District station and informed the desk officer that his wife planned to jump from the bridge. When the officers drove the man to the scene the suspect suddenly jumped from the bridge himself.



### BIO

- **Age** 31
- **Tour** 11 years
- **Badge** 274

### INCIDENT DETAILS

- **Cause** Drowned

### ***Police Officer Drowns on the Way To Search River for Philadelphian***

<https://www.nytimes.com/1979/12/23/archives/police-officer-drowns-on-the-way-to-search-river-for-philadelphian.html>

Dec. 23, 1979

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 22 (UPI) — A 31-year-old police sergeant drowned yesterday as he was joining a search for a man who had jumped into an icy river here.

The body of Wilfred Doyle, an 11-year veteran of the police department, was found two and a half hours after his car skidded off an icy road and plunged into the Schuylkill. The body of the man who jumped was not recovered.

The police said the man, who identified himself as William Epps Bey, had come to the 23d Police District station and told officers that his wife was planning to leap from the Girard Bridge. Mr. Bey was driven to the bridge, then stepped from the squad car and jumped into the river. His wife could not be located.