

Walter E. Brothers

U.S. Navy RM3C

Missing In Action – February 18, 1942 – Atlantic Ocean



American Defense
Service Medal

American Campaign
Medal

World War II Victory
Medal

Brothers was a U.S. Navy radioman third class. He was killed in action Feb. 18, 1942, in the Atlantic Ocean while serving on the *USS Truxtun*. On Christmas Day 1941, U.S.S. *Truxtun* departed Boston, Massachusetts in the screen of Convoy HX-168. She arrived at Reykjavik on 13 January 1942 and, six days later, headed back to Argentia with Convoy ON-57. At 0410 on 18 February while acting as escort to USS *Pollux* in Placentia Bay, Newfoundland, *Truxtun* ran aground "in a howling gale" between the outport communities of Lawn and St. Lawrence, near Chambers Cove. Under extremely violent and freezing sea conditions she broke up almost immediately after grounding and, in spite of the heroic efforts of the local populace, lost 110 members of her crew to the elements. *Pollux* was also wrecked with 93 fatalities, and USS *Wilkes* also grounded, but made way with no fatalities.

His family lived in Henderson County. He is memorialized at *Tablets of the Missing at East Coast Memorial*, Battery Park, New York City.



