

Olaf Kraus

1912—1942



KRAUS, OLAF, maskinassistent, Gjerpen. Født 5. oktober 1912 i Solum, s. av Johan Kraus, f. 1873 i Bayern, og Nathalie Aleksandra Nyman, f. 1875 i Sverige. Gift 1938 i Gjerpen med Nelly Nykås, f. 1916 i Kviteseid. 1 barn. Dro til sjøs som ung gutt. Under krigen seilte han i alliert fart med d/s Frisco, og omkom 12. januar 1942 da skipet ble torpedert, på vei fra Savannah til Argentia N. F

Registernummer under krigen: 2500 London, 7450 NY.

D/S Frisco

Torpedert 13/1-1942 på reise fra Savannah til Arntia, Newfoundland av tysk [U-130](#) ([Kapitän zur See Ernst Kals](#)) på høyde med Long Island i pos: N 44.50' W 60.20'. Det finnes bare sparsomme opplysninger om dette krigsforliset, men seks overlevende ble tatt opp av dansk fartøy 14. januar og land-satte dem i North Sydney. Kaptein og to styrmenn ble drept i angrepet, mens åtte mann gikk i livbåtene. Disse åtte ble senere ikke funnet. 10 nordmenn, to briter og en svenske omkom.

Kilde: Krigsseilerregisteret



Krigsmedaljen

Frisco was the first Norwegian ship to be torpedoed in Operation Paukenschlag (described at the last external link provided at the end of this page). She was on a voyage from Savannah to Argentia, N. F., having left Savannah on Jan. 5-1942 with a cargo of lumber (see [Page 2](#)), and was attacked off Long Island by U-130 (Kals) on January 12, approximate position 44 50N 60 20W.

1 torpedo hit on the port side, the explosion causing a large hole below the water line and killing the lookout, **Herman Urheim**. The crew was ordered aft, while the captain and 1st Mate **Bernt Arnold Berntsen** went to the bridge, and 2nd Mate/Radio Operator **Erling Ellefsen** went to send an SOS. 5 minutes later another torpedo hit amidships, also on the port side, killing the 3 officers, setting the ship on fire and causing her to list heavily to port.

The position given above is from survivors' statements, who gave the time as 18:20 EST. U-130 recorded the position as Grid position BB 5826 (approximately 46 21N 58 35W), giving *Frisco's* course as 065°, steaming at 11 knots. One torpedo was fired at 01:16 CET from 1200 metres, 2nd torpedo fired from 430 metres.

The port boat was successfully launched with 9 people, and soon afterwards a starboard boat was lowered with 6 crew members who watched *Frisco* burn for about half an hour before losing sight of her (the 2 boats had parted company shortly after clearing the ship). The 6 were rescued by the Faroe Islands fishing schooner *Mjoanes* in the afternoon of the 14th (approx. 46 24N 57 20W) and landed at North Sydney, N.S. on the 16th where they were taken care of by the Navy League. The other boat was never seen again, which meant that 10 Norwegian, 2 British and 1 Swedish seaman had died.

Kilde: Warsailors.com