

Kjos, Kaare Strand

Age: 32

Nationality: Norwegian

Rank: Lieutenant

Unit: Royal Norwegian
Naval Air Force

Occupation: Gunner

Service No: ?

Birth: 13 November 1908
Bergen, Norway

Home Town: Horten, Norway

Death: 18 March 1941

Crash of Northrop N3-PB #5
Patricia, Bay, BC

Burial: Commemorated at “Lost Airmen of the Empire”
North Saanich, BC, Canada

Others: Sub-Lt. Jens Riser (pilot)



Biography

Kaare Kjos was born on 13 November 1908, to Ole and Magna Kjos. He had three siblings; Odd Strand, Kjeld Strand and Finn Strand. Kaare married Astrid Saxe, born in Rotterdam in 1910, and they had a daughter, Kjiersti, born in Horten, Norway, in 1938. A son, Kaare Saxe was born in San Pedro, California, in November 1941, over eight months after his father's death. Horten is the location of a Norwegian Naval Base.

In June 1940, Kaare travelled without his family to New York, USA on the "Samaria".

He described himself as a Government Official. Astrid and Kjiersti followed him in February 1941, travelling from Lisbon, Portugal to New York. Astrid is here described as the wife of a Naval Officer, in the USA to purchase aircraft. This would have been the time when Norway was purchasing N-3PB's from Northrop in Hawthorne, California. Kaare's family settled in California after his death.

On 18 March 1941, a month after his wife and daughter arrived in USA, Kaare was a gunner on Northrop N-3PB #5 when it crashed on take off at Patricia Bay seaplane base. He was in the aircraft when it sank and his body was recovered later in the day by naval divers. His burial place is unknown.



Sea planes under construction
at Northrop, Hawthorne, CA, USA



Test Flight of N-3PB in California 1941

Details of Crash

At about 10:00 am on 18 March 1941, three airmen from the Royal Norwegian Naval Air Service took off in Northrop N3-PB No. 5 from Patricia Bay seaplane base. The men aboard were:

Lt. Erik Bjerneby (Observer)
Lt. Kaare Kjos (Gunner)
Sub-Lt. Jens Riser (pilot)

The aircraft reached 300' altitude and began a steep turn to the left. After 120° into the-turn the aircraft stalled and hit the water, port wing low, and burst into flames. Two RCAF personnel, LAC's Coulon and James, saw the crash and rushed to the scene in their boat. They encountered a curtain of flaming gasoline, but managed to reach the aircraft and pull out Lt. Bjerneby. Two other RCAF crash boats reached the scene and tried to extinguish the flames, but the wreck sank with Lt. Kjos and Sub-Lt. Riser still aboard. LAC's Coulon and James received the British Empire Medal for their bravery. The cause of the accident was determined to be low speed in the turn,

In June 1941, Finn Strand Kjos, the brother of Kaare Kjos was killed in a crash of the same type of plane when he was instructing a pupil at Island Airport in Toronto, ON and collided with the ferry.



Navy divers searched for the bodies of the two missing men and managed to recover that of Lt. Kjos on the day of the crash. The search continued until the body of Sub-Lt Riser was recovered on March 25th.

On March 21st, a memorial service for the two men was conducted at the seaplane hangar. Their burial place is unknown. On March 22nd, the RNNAF Unit departed from Patricia Bay.

From Victoria Times Colonist March 19 1941

Two Die When Plane Crashes on Water at Patricia Bay Airport

**Pilot and Gunnery Officer of Royal Norwegian
Naval Air Force Killed, and Lieutenant Severely
Injured in Fatal Side-Slip at Low Height**

MARKING the first air fatality in the Patricia Bay region of the Western Air Command, a seaplane of the Royal Norwegian Naval Air Force crashed shortly after taking off on the water at 10 a.m. yesterday, taking the lives of two officers and severely injuring a third. All were officers in the Royal Norwegian Naval Air Force.

An official statement issued by the Western Air Command, R.C.A.F., described the accident in the following terms:

"A flying accident to a seaplane aircraft of the Royal Norwegian Naval Air Force occurred at the Royal Canadian Air Force station at Patricia Bay at 10 a.m. this morning, causing the deaths of Pilot Sub-Lieutenant Yens Rilsner and Gunner Lieutenant Kaare

Kjos, and severe injuries to Observer Lieutenant E. Bjornedy. The aircraft was engaged in operations and had just taken off. It slipped into the water from a turn at low altitude, and sank immediately. Salvage operations are under way to recover the bodies of the victims."

Official investigation has been ordered, as is customary in cases of air crashes. Meanwhile, with the

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assistance of the Provincial Police, parties were organized to commence salvage operations on the seaplane to recover the two bodies. Lieutenant Bjornedy, severely injured, was rushed by ambulance to the R.C.A.F. hospital at Patricia Bay.

By nightfall divers had recovered one of the bodies, which was taken to a local undertaking parlor. At a late hour last night the injured officer's condition was reported serious.

The crash occurred less than a month after two other Norwegian airmen, Instructor Harald Kruse and Flying Pupil Erling Jorgensen, were killed when their plane crashed into the waters of Burrard Inlet, near Vancouver.