

## Kenneth Alva Waters

Born: January 13, 1920  
Hometown: Hartford City, IN  
Class: 1943  
Service: Merchant Marine  
Position / Rank: Third Mate  
Date / Place of death: September 21, 1943 /  
Khorramshahr, Iran  
Date / Place of burial: September 21, 1943 / Christian  
Cemetery, Khorramshahr, Iran  
Age: 22



Kenneth A. Waters reported to the U.S. Maritime Commission Cadet School at Algiers, LA on the evening of September 22, 1941. After completing his initial training he was detached on December 4, 1941 to join the *SS Zoella Lykes* as Deck Cadet. He signed on aboard the *SS Zoella Lykes* on December 23, 1941 and remained aboard until he signed off on September 30, 1942. He then reported to Kings Point where he was assigned to Section A-105 before completing his training at Kings Point in April 1943. After graduation he served as Third Mate aboard the *SS Francis Lewis* from May to July 1943.

On July 15, 1943 at Philadelphia, PA Kenneth A. Waters signed on aboard the *SS Exhibitor* as Third Mate. The ship sailed without escort on the evening of July 22, 1943 for Freemantle, Australia via the Panama Canal. Upon arrival at Freemantle the *Exhibitor* was assigned to a convoy for the voyage to the Persian Gulf. The *Exhibitor* arrived in the Persian Gulf on September 12, 1943. By September 19 the *Exhibitor* was anchored off the Iranian port of Khorramshahr and began discharging its cargo.

At 1505 on September 19, 1943, while he was supervising cargo operations, Kenneth Waters was pinned between the body of a truck that was being unloaded and the ship's #2 Resistor House. Two hours later he was taken ashore by boat to the U.S. Army 21<sup>st</sup> Station Hospital for treatment. There he was diagnosed with traumatic rupture of the duodenum and shock resulting from the accident. Despite the efforts of the doctors and staff at the Station Hospital, Kenneth Waters succumbed to his injuries at 0602 September 21, 1943. He was buried the same day.

Based on his merchant marine service, Kenneth A. Waters was posthumously awarded the Atlantic War Zone Bar, Mediterranean-Middle East War Zone Bar, Pacific War Zone

Bar, the Victory Medal and Presidential Testimonial Letter. Kenneth A. Waters is amongst the more than 1,800 names listed on the World War II memorial on the grounds of the Blackford County, Indiana Court House.

Kenneth A. Waters was the second of Walter W. Waters and Frances Templeton Waters' three children and their oldest son. Kenneth's sister, Hope was three years older, while his little brother, Calvin, was five years younger. According to the 1930 U.S. Census, Walter Waters was employed as a machinist in a gear factory. By the 1940 U.S. Census, Walter was still working as a machinist, while Frances was working as a sales woman in a department store. At the same time Kenneth is listed as having completed one year of college while little brother Calvin was working on a newspaper delivery route.

The April, 1943 edition of "Polaris" described Kenneth Waters upon his graduation;

"Kenneth A. Waters, referred to as "Fluid" really doesn't know whether he's coming or going. Regarding by the prelims as a great sage. Is the mathematical genius of his class and happily proves it for the edification of all."