

PO George Basil McBain 71102 RAFVR
Croix de Guerre
AKA - Cecil
Code Name - Rhymer

George was born on 30 August 1917 in Taplow, Buckinghamshire, the only son of Capt George Brown Sievwright McBain DSC MC RAF and Swedish born Elva Alysh McBain nee Linghard.

Privately educated in Sweden, Switzerland and France, George was multi lingual in French, German and English, making him an ideal recruit for field work in France.

Recruited in 1943, George completed his SOE training and was granted a special commission in the RAF in January 1944. After specialised training as a wireless operator, George awaited his mission.

In January 1944 the "Musician" Network wireless operator was arrested by the Gestapo, and the captured radio was used in the "*Funkspiel*" deception. George was allocated to replace the wireless operator, unbeknown to SOE that the network had been infiltrated.



At 20:57 on 2 March 1944 George, and the two Agents of the "Bargee" network, departed RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire in 161 Sqn Halifax V LL388 MA-W. Successfully dropped at a site near Valenciennes, the Gestapo were waiting. The operation and reception on the drop zone had been arranged by the Germans as part of their "*Funkspiel*", using the captured radio set and codes of the "Archdeacon" and "Musician" circuits.

The Agents were arrested on landing and taken to Gestapo HQ at 84 Avenue Foch, Paris for interrogation. After interrogation, George was moved to the interrogation centre at Place des Etats-Unis, Paris, until he was transferred to Breslau Prison, Poland, in April 1944.

On 27 May 1944 George was brought back from prison in Breslau, with four others, in an attempt by the Germans to involve them in "*Funkspiel*". Refusing to take part, and unwilling to state he would not attempt to escape, George was moved to Rawitsch Prison.

In the period 24 June to 4 September 1944, after orders were received from Berlin for the execution of the SOE agents at Rawitsch, they were taken by SS-Obersturmbannführer Dr. Wilhelm Scharpwinkel, head of the Breslau Gestapo, from the prison to the KZ Gross-Rosen concentration camp, 100 km SW in German Silesia. George was executed and his body cremated.

Also killed : Capt Adolphe Rabinovitch; Lt Romeo Sabourin (Canadian Intelligence Corps)

George has no known grave and is commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial, Surrey

George is commemorated on Wall Panel (NYE)

Photo Source: Findagrave