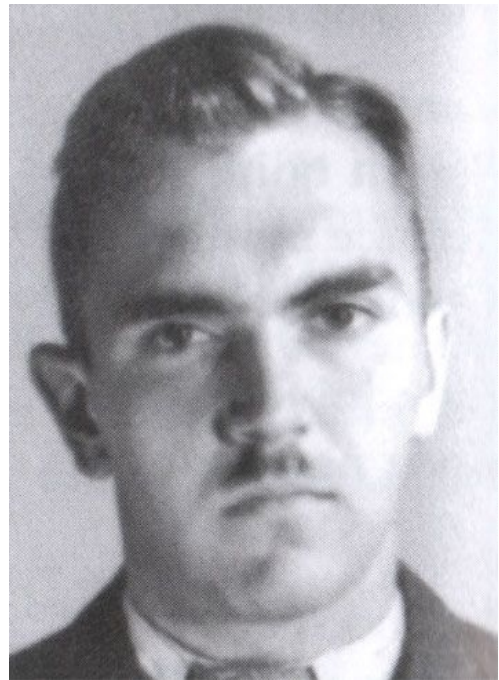


Lt David Haughton Finlayson 306891 SOE
AKA - Daniel Henri Grace
Code Name - Guillaume; Friar; Rhymer
Radio Callsign - Frockcoat

David was born on 25 September 1923 in Bayonne, SW France, the son of British parents John Campbell Finlayson and Lilian Edith Finlayson nee Tipper. Educated in France until the family returned to Wolverhampton in 1936, David studied engineering at Wolverhampton Technical College.

In July 1943, Special Operations Executive (SOE) recruited David, his linguistic skills making him an ideal recruit for field work in France. After successfully completing the three compulsory courses, David's final assessment said he would be suitable as a member of a clandestine circuit, but as he was only 19 years old he was considered too young to be placed in charge of a circuit, but was ideal to be employed as a wireless operator. David completed his training at the Wireless and Security School at Thame Park, Oxfordshire.



David was appointed as the wireless operator to the 3 man "Liontamer" Group, a new circuit to be established in the Valenciennes area in preparation for D-Day, and to support the "Archdeacon" circuit which had radioed arrangements for the drop and reception, and the "Musician" circuit which was to provide the reception party.

At 20:51 on 2 March 1944 David and his team departed RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire in 138 Sqn Halifax V LL251 NF-N. Successfully dropped at a site near Saint-Quentin, the Gestapo were waiting. The operation and reception at the drop zone had been arranged by the Germans as part of their "*Funkspiel*", using the captured radio set and codes of the "Archdeacon" circuit. The Agents were arrested immediately on landing and taken to Gestapo HQ at 84 Avenue Foch, Paris for interrogation. After interrogation, David was imprisoned at Fresnes Prison, Val-de-Marne, Paris.

In an attempt to extend the "*Funkspiel*", the German's used David's radio set and messages were sent to London until May 1944. David knew this, and while in Fresnes Prison tried to warn another prisoner in the adjacent cell by tapping the information in morse code. This prisoner, although released, did not report it to the authorities until he was interrogated by the Allies in August 1945. David had also alerted London by not declaring his security check, and it was this that finally led to the realization, and acceptance, that the Germans had infiltrated the circuits. In June 1944 David was transferred to Rawitsch Prison, Poland.

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. David was executed and his body cremated.

Also killed : 2nd Lt Maurice Albert Lepage (US Army); 2nd Lt Edmond Louis Fernand Lesout (US Army)

David has no known grave and is commemorated at the Brookwood 1939 - 1945 Memorial, Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey

David is commemorated on Wall Panel (NYE)

Photo Source: www.specialforcesroh.com