

Capt Adolphe Rabinovitch 234268 MiD
Croix de Guerre with Etoile de Vermeil.
AKA - Guy Leboutin
Code Name - Arnaud; Gerard

Adolphe, known as Alec, was born on 27 May 1918 in Moscow, Russia. When Adolphe was a child, the family moved to British Mandated Palestine, before re-locating to Cairo, Egypt. Educated in the Sorbonne, Paris, Adolphe was resident in the USA on the outbreak of war.

In 1939 Adolphe volunteered for service with the French Foreign Legion, but was taken prisoner by the Germans in June 1940 when France capitulated. After three months in captivity, Adolphe escaped and arrived in the UK via Spain, volunteering immediately for service with SOE.

First parachuted into France in August 1942, Adolphe worked as the wireless operator for the "Spindle" network and, in May 1943 when the network collapsed, managed to evade capture, returning to the UK via Spain.



At 20:57 on 2 March 1944 Adolphe, and two wireless operators, departed RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire in 161 Sqn Halifax V LL388 MA-W, his mission to set up the "Bargee" network. 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.

Following a brief firefight, Adolphe was wounded and, unable to continue his escape, he was arrested and taken to Gestapo HQ at 84 Avenue Foch, Paris for interrogation. After interrogation, Adolphe was imprisoned at Fresnes Prison, Val-de-Marne, Paris until he was transferred to Rawitsch Prison, Poland, in June 1944.

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. Adolphe was executed and his body cremated.

Also killed : PO George Basil McBain; Lt Romeo Sabourin (Canadian Intelligence Corps)

Adolphe has no known grave and is commemorated on the Brookwood 1939-1945 Memorial, Surrey

Adolphe is commemorated on Wall Panel (NYE)

Photo Source: Findagrave