

**Sgt Klaas van de Bor Dutch Brigade Bronzen Kruis;
Kruis van Verdienste**

**AKA - Klaas Verhoef; Little Klaas; Nicolaas van den
Bos**

Training Name - Klaas van de Brand

Field Name - Klaas Penning

Code Name - Huib



Klaas was born on 24 May 1913 in Harselaar, Barneveld, Netherlands, the eldest son of Cornelis van de Bor and Rikje van de Bor nee Mulderij.

Receiving minimal education, Klaas was employed in the bulb fields and deemed unfit for military service due to a knee injury. When the Germans invaded Holland, Klaas became involved with the resistance group "Committee Unit One for All, All for One", which was active in Hoevelaken and the surrounding area, headed by Frans Tromp. Taking employment as a mole catcher, this made it easier for Klaas to move around the area without arousing suspicion. In the Spring of 1941, The German SD infiltrated an agent into the group - Helmut Wetzko- under the guise of a deserted German airman. Identified as a threat, Klaas was ordered to murder him by Frans Tromp. On 6 April Wetzko's body was discovered and Klaas was identified as a suspect by the Dutch police, but they were reluctant to arrest a resistance fighter and advised him to leave the area. Klaas travelled to England via France, Spain and Portugal, arriving in early 1942. In August 1942 Klaas joined the SOE (Dutch Section).

Trained at STS 6 West Court, Berkshire, STS 24 Knoydart, Scotland and STS 51 Ringway, Manchester for parachute training, STS 31 Beaulieu, Hampshire and Stn XVII Brickendonbury Manor, Hertfordshire, Klaas was allocated to his operation "Endive", working as a sabotage leader, and awaited his drop date.

At 00:28 on 17 February 1943, together with two other Agents, Klaas departed RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire in 138 Sqn Halifax II W1012 (NF-Z).

Successfully dropped at the drop zone near Hoorn on the banks of the IJsselmeer, North Holland, the Gestapo were waiting. Unbeknown to SOE, the Germans had infiltrated the Dutch Section and were operating a very successful counterintelligence operation, known as "Englandspiel". Immediately arrested and identified as a wanted resistance fighter and murderer, Klaas was brutally interrogated by the SS and transferred to the SD prison Haaren in North Brabant.

Following the escape of prisoners from Haaren on 29 November 1943 the remaining agents, including Klaas, were first transported to the prison in Assen, then in 1944 to Rawicz. Most agents were then transferred to the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria. Klaas was executed, along with 22 other SOE agents, on 6 September 1944.

Also Killed: Lt Cornelis Eliza van Hulsteijn BK; Lt Cornelis Carel Braggaar BK

Klaas has no known grave and is commemorated on a Memorial Plate at Mauthausen that covers the area where the ashes of all agents killed with Klaas are believed to be buried.

Klaas is commemorated on Wall Panel - Not Yet Erected

Photo Source: www.oorlogsbronnen.nl