

**Lt Cornelis Carel Braggaar Dutch Navy Bronze
AKA - Kees Van Bakel; Mr Groeneveld
Training Name - Jan van Bakel
Field Name - Peter van Veen
Code Name - Bert; Parsley A**

Cornelis was born on 23 September 1913 in Amsterdam, the son of Abraham Cornelis Braggaar and Anna Hendrika Wilhelmina Braggaar nee Selter.

Following training at the Nautical College, in 1934 Cornelis joined the Dutch Steam Shipping Line as a third Officer. Not wanting to remain at sea, in 1935 Cornelis looked for a shore based occupation and commenced work as a radio operator for "Scheveningen Radio", a European Coastal Radio Station.

In 1939 Cornelis was called up for Military service in the Dutch Navy Reserve and, following the German invasion in 1940, his ship sailed to the UK.



In June 1942 Cornelis joined the SOE (Dutch Section) and was trained at STS 6 West Court, Berkshire, STS 52 Thame Park, Oxfordshire for Radio Security Training and STS 51 Ringway, Manchester for parachute training, before he was allocated to his operation "Parsley", the code name of Lt Cdr Roelof Christiaan who was missing following his drop into Holland on 24 September 1942. Cornelis was tasked with contacting the Intelligence Service in order to track down Jongelie.

At 00:28 on 17 February 1943, together with two other Agents, Cornelis 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, Cornelis was 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 Cornelis, 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. Cornelis was executed, along with 22 other SOE agents, on 6 September 1944.

Also Killed: Sgt Klaas van de Bor BK KV; Sgt Cornelis Eliza van Hulsteijn BK

Cornelis 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 Cornelis are believed to be buried.

Cornelis is commemorated on Wall Panel - Not Yet Erected

Photo Source: brabantsegesneuvelden.nl