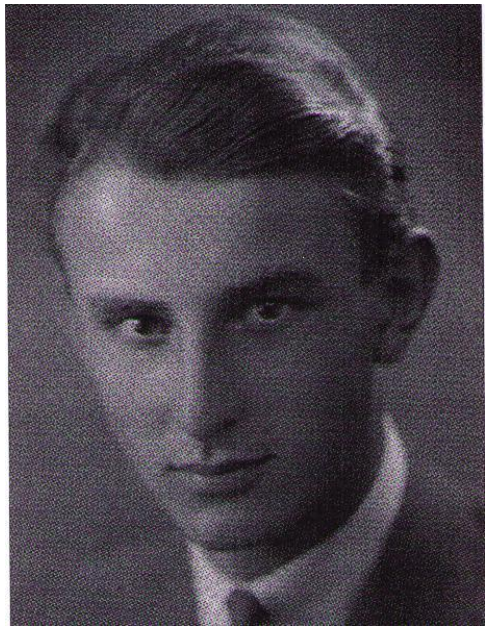


**Sgt Oscar Willem de Brey Dutch Army Bronzen
Kruis; Kruis van Verdienste
Training Name - Oscar Willem de Blank
Field Name - Oscar de Booy
Code Name - Croquet
W/T - Theo**

Oscar was born on 1 October 1921 in Wassenaar, South Holland the son of Willem Karel de Breij and Hilda de Breij nee de Vries.

Educated at the Lyceum in Den Haag, in September 1940 Oscar commenced studying mechanical engineering at the Technical High School, Delft with the intention of specialising in aeronautical design. Oscar's study was terminated when the occupying German forces closed the School following a protest by the students against the dismissal of the Jewish professors. It was at this time that Oscar came into contact with the Dutch Resistance in Delft and Den Haag helping young Dutch citizens to escape to the UK.



In September 1941 the Germans discovered the escape route in Katwijk and Oscar was forced to go in to hiding. In November, Oscar commenced his journey in order to join the Dutch forces in the UK. The journey was arduous, travelling through Belgium and Vichy-France and he was imprisoned twice in the Fort-de-Chapoly rison camp and spent a considerable time working in forced labour camps. Oscar eventually reached Spain in July 1942, and from there sailed to Curacao where he was allocated to the Princess Irene Brigade. Determined to reach the UK, in September Oscar travelled to Canada via Cuba and the USA before setting sail for England.

Following interrogation, Oscar was recruited into SOE and was trained at STS 6 West Court, Berkshire, STS 24 Knoydart, Scotland, STS 51 Ringway, Manchester for parachute training and STS 61 Audley End, Hertfordshire before he was allocated to his operation.

At 23:00 on 21 May 1943, together with two other Agents, Oscar departed RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire in 138 Sqn Halifax BB317 (NF-N).

Successfully dropped at the drop zone near Garderen, Gelderland, 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, Oscar 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 Oscar, 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. Oscar was executed, along with 22 other SOE agents, on 6 September 1944. According to camp documents, Oscar was shot at 08:15 whilst trying to escape.

Also Killed: Sgt Anton Berend Mink BK VK (Agent/Dutch Army); Laurens Maria Punt BK KV (Agent/Dutch Army)

Oscar 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 Oscar are believed to be buried.

Oscar is commemorated on Wall Panel - Not Yet Erected

Photo Source: oorlogsgravenstichting.nl