

Sgt Cornelis Eliza van Hulsteijn Dutch Brigade Bro
AKA - Cornelis Eliza van der Hoorn
Training Name - Kees van der Hoorn
Field Name - C E van Hoek
Code Name - Otten

Cornelis was born on 8 February 1912 in Terneuzen, Zeeland, Netherlands, the son of Johannes Franciscus van Hulsteijn and Cornelia Elisabeth Faberij van Hulsteijn nee de Jonge.

Educated at Middelstum School and Groningen Technical College, Cornelis was trained as an architect's assistant and builder. In 1935 he travelled to Johannesburg, South Africa for work. In 1939 Cornelis began the journey back to his homeland; however, when the Germans invaded Holland he made his way to the UK.

Arriving in the UK in May 1940, Cornelis volunteered for service in the Dutch Brigade where he served until June 1942 when he joined the SOE (Dutch Section). Trained at STS 6 West Court, Berkshire, STS 24 Knoydart, Scotland and STS 51 Ringway, Manchester for parachute training, Cornelis was allocated to his operation "Radish", a section focused on working to build and direct the local Dutch resistance, and awaited his drop date.

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; Lt Cornelis Carel Braggaar 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: englandspiel.eu

