

**Major Arie Johannes de Kruijff Dutch Army
Bronzen Kruis
Training Name – A J de Klijn
Field Name – Arie Johannes Kuyper
Code Name – ELST
AKA – Arie de Klijn**

Arie was born on 6 November 1912 in Amsterdam, Netherlands, the son of Petrus Johannes de Kruijff and Anna de Kruijff nee de Hoog. In May 1937 he married Jeanette Marie Woltering in Vlissingen, Walcheren. They had one son.

Educated in Amsterdam, in 1936 Arie emigrated to South Africa and settled in Johannesburg where he was employed as a floor layer.

In January 1942 Arie was called up for Military service and immediately travelled to London with his wife. In June 1942 Arie volunteered for service with SOE.

Following training at STS 6 West Court, Berkshire, STS24 Knoydart, Mallaig, Scotland, and STS 51 RAF Ringway, Manchester for a week's parachute training, in October 1942 Arie was allocated his operation - "Mustard", where he would recce and identify targets and train the local resistance in weapons and explosives use, and moved to STS 61 Gaynes' Hall, St Neots where he awaited his drop date.

At 22:34 on 28 November Arie, and his Wireless Operator, departed RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire in 138 Sqn Whitley V Z9763 (NF-L).

Successfully dropped at the drop zone at Ugchelen, Apeldoorn, Gelderland, Netherlands, 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, Arie 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 Arie, 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. Arie was executed, along with 22 other SOE agents, on 6 September 1944.

Arie 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 Arie are believed to be buried.

Arie is commemorated on Wall Panel - Not Yet Erected

Photo Source: oorlogsgravenstichting.nl

