Cpl Herman Johannes Overes Dutch Army
Bronzen Kruis
AKA – Herman Johannes Oomen
Training Name – Herman Oomen
Field Name – Herman Johannes Oud
Code Name – KEUR; CRESS



Herman was born on 7 October 1908 in Amsterdam, Noord-Holland, Netherlands, the son of Francis Antonius Overes and Johanna Catharina Maria Overes nee Scholten.

Educated at Amsterdam Elementary and Technical Schools, Hermann was employed as a carpenter in Amsterdam until 1935 when he emigrated to South Africa and settled in Pretoria.

In January 1942 Herman was called up for Military service and immediately sailed to London from Cape town in SS Windsor Castle. Herman enlisted in the Princess Irene Regiment of the Dutch Army in Wolverhampton, Staffordshire.

In July 1942 Herman joined the SOE (Dutch Section) and was trained at STS 6 West Court, Berkshire, STS 31 Beaulieu, Hampshire, Station XVII Brickendonbury, Hertfordshire, STS 51 Ringway, Manchester for parachute training and STS 61 Audley End, Essex. Allocated to his operation "Cress", Herman awaited his drop date.

At 01:32 on 29 November 1942, Herman, together with one other Agent, departed RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire in a 138 Sqn Whitley.

Successfully dropped at the drop zone near Valkenheide, North Leersum, Utrecht, 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, Herman was interrogated by the SS at the Oranjehotel in Scheveningen, the Hague before he was transferred to the SD prison Haaren, North Brabant in December 1942.

Following the escape of prisoners from Haaren on 29 November 1943 the remaining agents, including Herman, were first transported to the prison in Assen, then in 1944 to Rawicz. In July 1944 Herman was seen in Rawicz and is believed to have been murdered there, although the exact date of his death is unknown. The Dutch War Graves Foundation have allocated a death date of 7 September 1944.

Herman has no known grave and is commemorated on the Englandspiel Memorial, Den Haag, Netherlands

Herman is commemorated on Wall Panel - Not Yet Erected

Photo Source: englandspiel.eu