Sgt Pieter van der Wilden Dutch Army
Bronzen Kruis
AKA - Pieter Waiters
Training Name - Pieter Wouters
Field Name - Pieter van den Berg
Code Name - Nol; Dolf's Cousin



Pieter was born on 8 May 1914 in Haarlem, North Holland, Netherlands, the son of Jacobus Johannes van der Wilden and Adriana van der Wilden nee Bosman. In August 1937 he married Catharina Bruijn in Pretoria, South Africa. They had one daughter.

Educated in Haarlem, on leaving school Pieter was employed by his uncle in the van der Wilden family building firm. In 1936 Pieter emigrated to South Africa and settled in Pretoria.

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

In July 1942 Pieter joined the SOE (Dutch Section) and was trained at STS 6 West Court, Berkshire, STS 24 Knoydart, Scotland, STS 31 Beaulieu, Hampshire, STS 51 Ringway, Manchester for parachute training and STS 52 Thame Park, Oxfordshire for Radio Security Training before he was allocated to his operation "Tennis", as WT operator to "Hockey" the code name of Lt Jan Christian Kist.

At 23:37 on 18 February 1943 Pieter, together with his leader, departed RAF Tempsford, Bedfordshire in a 138 Sqn Halifax.

Successfully dropped at the drop zone near Garderen, 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, Pieter 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 Pieter, 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. Pieter was executed, along with 22 other SOE agents, on 6 September 1944.

Also Killed: Lt Jan Christian Kist BK BV

Pieter 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 Pieter are believed to be buried.

Pieter is commemorated on Wall Panel - Not Yet Erected

Pieter's cousin, Sgt Willem van der Wilden, was also murdered in Mauthausen on 6 September 1944, another victim of "Englandspiel"

Photo Source: dirkdeklein.net