

VAN DER GIESSEN

22666/A

VAN DER GIESSEN, Arie
Antoon Gerrit GROEN

203 2/5/1916

RETURN TO
R/A ARCHIVES

P.O.W. Card

GIESSEN van der, Arie Cornelis

DUTCH Section.

Born: KRIMPEN a/d IJSSEL, 2.8.1916.

Alias: KRIMPEN van, Arie @ BRAM, MIK, YOUR GOOD FRIEND,
@ GROEN, Anton Gerrit.

Sent: From U.K. 1.10.1942.

Reported in concentration camp at HAAREN. Information was received in June 1943 in 'C' and/or S.O.E. telegram. Later this was confirmed by 2 S.O.E. agents, who escaped from HAAREN in Aug 43 and arrived U.K. Nov.43. In Dec.44 we received information via an S.I.S. line saying that agent had escaped from HAAREN on approx.28.11.44. Present whereabouts unknown.

Height 6'1". Square face; broad forehead; blue eyes; straight nose; full mouth; round chin; fair hair; heavily built.

P.T.O.

van der Giessen
pers

29th October, 1941.

Dear Rabagliati,

ARIE CORNELIS VAN DER GIESSEN

As you know, the Netherlands Government released
I. J. van Riet for service with this Section. He has
a friend in England with whom I have been in contact, and
who has expressed a wish to join us. He is Arie Cornelis van
der Giessen, born 2nd August 1906 at Krispen a/d IJssel,
Sergeant for special services Royal Netherlands Navy, temporary
address: Bangor Hotel, Bedford Place, V.C. 1. The special
services referred to are those of ship-building and repairing.
He was for some time employed at Southampton, but his work there
has ceased, and I understand he is more or less at a loose end
as he failed to pass the examination for a commission in the
Royal Netherlands Navy. He is a well known sailing man and has
got guts.

I should be greatly obliged if you would officially
apply for van der Giessen's release. In the circumstances
I doubt whether there will be much objection. I should be
very grateful if you would let us know as soon as possible, so
that I may train the two friends in work for which they are
most obviously suited.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

R.V. Laming.

Lieut-Colonel Rabagliati,
"G" Organization.

OWN NAME.

Van der Giessen

✓
NAME WHEN IN TRAINING.

Arie Krimpen

NAME USED IN THE FIELD.

Antoon Gerrit GROEN

22666/A

CODE NAME.

BRAM

NAME OF OPERATION.

CABBAGE

WCC
To: BSS/A

N/OR/1511

From: N

18 Jul 45

Reference your BSSA/KV/3422.

The only information that we have is contained in Paragraphs 8 and 9 of my WAM/27/31 dated 16 Jun 45 relating to these bodies.

Re: the escape of GIVK and ...

3. As far as the Special Section has been informed, none of those agents is that in November, 1944, it was information that PINKUP and CABBAGE together with agent ... agent ... had been successful in ... since when nothing further has been heard of ... CABBAGE.

... did however manage to reach Belgium ... he contacted an S.I.S. agent who transmitted a message ... behalf asking that he should do ... which they had agreed with ... frightened of his contact that he refused to have any ... to do with ... who also therefore failed from ... picture.

Most recently a Mr. G. ... 765 Arlington House, Arlington Street, S.E.7. has written the 29th March, 1945 to General J.G. ... House to state that his brother, who lives in ... actually contacted by ... in the period between ...

PARSNIP & CABBAGE

*Pava 859
Gang... 11/27/31*

You will recollect that Jan Jacob van Rietschooten (PARSNIP) and Aat van der GIESSEN (CABBAGE) were reported as having escaped from Haaren in about November, 1943, which was after the escape of CHIVE and SPROUT.

1. So far as the Special Section has been informed the story of these agents is that in November, 1943, we received information that PARSNIP and CABBAGE together with a third agent WEGENER @ LACROSSE, had been successful in escaping, since when nothing further has been heard of PARSNIP and CABBAGE.

WEGENER did however manage to reach Belgium where he contacted an S.I.S. agent who transmitted a message on his behalf asking what he should do; when S.I.S. sent the reply which they had agreed with N Section, their agent was so frightened of his contact that he refused to have anything more to do with WEGENER, who also therefore faded from the picture.

Most recently a Mr. C. DROOGLEEVER FORTUYN of Room 763 Arlington House, Arlington Street, S.W.1. has written on the 29th March, 1945 to General J.W. Van COORSCHOT at Hereford House to state that his brother, who lives in Maastricht, was actually contacted by WEGENER in the period between his escape from Haaren and his arrival in Belgium. It appears that he told DROOGLEEVER FORTUYN in Maastricht the story of what had happened, but this man took fright and he thought he was an agent provocateur and did, in fact, nothing whatever to help him. He has since been shown a photograph of WEGENER and has recognised it as his unwelcome caller. Both were the sons of wealthy fathers and it was always thought that they must have gone under-ground and been maintained in hiding by their families though from the information at our disposal this does not now seem to have been the case.

Since N Section have been unable to trace these agents since the liberation of Holland and in view of the fact that they have not contacted their families, one must suppose that they met with some mischance after their escape and been deported to Germany or executed.

2. We have now received further information as follows:-

"J.J. van Rietschoten crossed in September 1941, by canoe from Holland to England. He was dropped as parachutist over Holland in May 1942, and was almost immediately taken by the Germans and put in a prison at Haren (North Brabant). After about one year A. van der Giesen was also dropped as parachutist, taken prisoner and joined V. Rietschoten at Haren prison. About half a year later both boys escaped from

Haren prison and went to Rotterdam where they were hiding. They were able to contact their parents through the intermediary of a well trusted friend of the family.

At the beginning of May, 1944, they departed somehow for Bergen op Zoom, and it is known that they arrived there. They then crossed from Bergen op Zoom to South Beveland with the intention to cross back to England. So far no reliable confirmation of this has yet come to hand. No one has ever received their secret code-word of safe arrival.

On 25th May, 1944, news came from Geneva - a postcard for the parents of v.d. GIESEN, that he was well and hoped soon to write a letter.

This was accepted in Holland as proof that they both had safely arrived in England. No news from J.J. van Rietschoten. In March 1945, news came through a girl friend that J.J. v. Rietschoten had been seen by someone in London. The person whom had seen him was also dropped by parachute in September near Amsterdam. He told this girl friend a story in September, of two boys who had escaped from Haren prison. When asked if he knew the boys, he replied yes, and that he had seen one of the boys in July 1944 in London. Steps have been taken to locate this person and to check this information. There is also news that J.J. van Rietschoten was alright in December, 1944, and was seen in England in Feb. 1945. This may however be a unreliable information. This news was later confirmed by original telegram and a second telegram again of December 1944. This telegram was a Christmas wish from A.v.d. GIESEN to his parents.

REQUEST:

If these two boys returned to the U.K. why should they not have telegraphed their parents after the liberation of Holland, or reported to the services they were employed by?"

In view of these statements could you please furnish us as soon as possible with any explanation which may occur to you in the light of any discoveries which your mission may have been able to make in Holland. We wish to be in a position to provide a prepared statement to the source of the most recent enquiry about the welfare of these agents.

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HISTORY SHEET

PARTY... 33 E...

(To be submitted to S.T.S., H.Q. in duplicate
after 1st week. Third copy to be attached to
Form T.2.)

S.T.S.No....44.....

School No. 2.....

Name by which known....VAN DER GIJSEN.....

Nationality.....DUTCH.....Born at...KRIMPEN.. A/D IJSEB.....

Date of birth...2. 8. 1916.....

Profession....SHIPBUILDER.....

Family:
(Giving full particulars of circumstances, location, etc.)

Father: Living at Krimpen a/d Ijssel (Shipyard Director)

Mother: Living at Krimpen a/d Ijssel

Sister: 1. Living at Krimpen a/d Ijssel.

Sister: 1. Living at Rotterdam (Married)

Brother Living at Krimpen (Shipbuilding)

Married or single....Single.....

Children.....

Languages.
(With order and degree of proficiency.)

Dutch.

English (Very Good)

Hobbies.

Sailing and All Sports

Areas intimately known.

Dutch Rivers and Zeeland

Military History.

8 months Sailor in Navy 1936.

Returned to Navy at beginning of War.

Past History

(Including Education, diplomas etc: in Chronological order and
past employment.

Preparatory School in Krimpen - 1921 - 1923.

Preparatory School in Rotterdam - 1923 - 1928.

Trade School in Rotterdam - 1928 - 1931.

Public School in Overeen - 1931 - 1933.

Working at father's Shipyard as apprentice since 1935.

In England in 1937 and 1938 at Furness Shipbuilding Company and Swann Hunter
and Whigham Richardson.

Then returned to Father's Yard until the outbreak of War.

22/9/39
17
May 1940