

FROM OLYMPIAN TO SECRET AGENT

THE REMARKABLE CAREER OF JONKHEER ERNST W. DE JONGE



by Tony Bijkerk

Introduction:

In the movie *Soldier of Orange* (1978),¹ Paul VERHOEVEN'S epic tale about six Dutch classmates torn apart by World War Two, Ernst de JONGE is featured briefly but colourfully. As president of the *Leidse Student Society*, he is seen early in the film inflicting some damage on freshman Erik Hazelhoff ROELFZEMA with a very hot, very full soup terrine. First he spooned out the soup over ROELFZEMA'S head, then he poured it from the bowl, then he crowned the young man's head with it.

Erik Hazelhoff ROELFZEMA is played in the movie by Rutger HAUER and Ernst de JONGE by Jeroen KRABBÉ.

In the book *Soldaat van Oranje*, on which this movie was based, our subject Ernst de JONGE receives more mentions - especially when Hazelhoff ROELFZEMA drops him and another secret agent off at the Dutch coast near Katwijk during the night of 23 to 24 February 1942, to start work as secret agents for the *Allied Forces* in occupied territories.

Ernst de JONGE was an Olympic oarsman in the Games of the XIth Olympiad in Berlin 1936, rowing as stroke in the coxed pairs with Karel HARDMAN² and coxswain Hans van WALSEM³. They were not particularly successful, failing to make it to the semi-finals and eliminated in the repechages.

Through Karel HARDEMAN, I received a small booklet⁴ he had written about his and Ernst de JONGE'S youth in the Dutch East Indies, when they were neighbours, and especially about their time as students in Leiden and as rowers for the *Leidse Studenten*



Roeivereniging NJORD, with a culmination as rowers for their home country in the Berlin Olympics in 1936. Mr. HARDEMAN wrote this booklet in memory of Ernst de JONGE.

However, in this book very little is mentioned about de JONGE'S experiences as a secret agent in the Second World War. But fortunately the elder brother of Ernst de JONGE - Marien de JONGE, himself a colonel in the *Royal Dutch Army* - had already written an extensive biography,⁵ which included everything currently known about the experiences of his younger brother during that dreadful period.

With pleasure I received permission from both authors to use their material for this article.

Ernst Willem, jhr mr de Jonge

Ernst de JONGE was born 22 May 1914 in a little place called Sinabang on the isle of Simeuloë, an island off the Westcoast of Sumatra in the Dutch East Indies, in a family consisting of two parents and four other children, two older and two younger than he.

His father then worked for the *Java*

1 Movie: *SOLDAAT VAN ORANJE*; Starring: Rutger HAUER en Jeroen KRABBÉ; Director: Paul VERHOEVEN; Synopsis: Sweeping, true-life drama With its richly developed characters, moving narrative, and engaging suspense, this is guaranteed satisfaction for war, drama, art-house fans; Runtime: 156 minutes; MPAA Rating: R; Genres: Action, Classic, Drama, Foreign, Suspense, War; Country of Origin: Netherlands; Language: Dutch

2 Karel Jan HARDEMAN, *29 June 1914 in Surabaya (Dutch East Indies); general practitioner in The Hague for all his years as a doctor.

3 Johan Frans van WALSEM, *14 December 1916 in Batavia, Dutch East Indies (now Djakarta, Indonesia); †2 January 1943 in KZ Neuengamme, Germany.; chemical engineer; member of the underground; betrayed in November 1941; taken to prison Oranjehotel in Scheveningen and later to Camp Amersfoort; in October 1942 transported to Neuengamme; his POW number 10337; perished from tuberculosis.

4 *Herinneringen aan jhr mr Ernst W. de Jonge*, Drukkerij Ridderprint, Ridderkerk, ISBN: 90-9011861-6; 1998/1999; 79 pages.

5 This biography has no title but it consists of fifteen typed pages, from which I received a photocopy.



Κωπηλασία
Rowing

Timber Company. Later, when the family moved to Semarang on the isle of Java, he became friendly with his neighbour Karel HARDEMAN, with whom he attended basic school. In 1925 de JONGE'S father became director of the *Combined Javanese Timber Companies* in Amsterdam, causing the family to move back to the homeland.

President Ernst
W. de JONGE

Ernst went to grammar school in Baarn and was a good student. He had a very good ability to concentrate, which would suit him well in his later life. However, he had a tempestuous, sometimes even reckless character, a great spirit of liberty, but was also sometimes somewhat unrestrained. He was expelled from school several times, but was always allowed to return, because he was also warmhearted, and had great charm.

His undisciplined way of life made it difficult for him to adapt to military life, which in those days was obligatory for every male person in the Netherlands. At the age of 18 he was entered the school for reserve-officers for the Mounted Artillery [SROBA] in Ede, and became notorious for his record of disciplinary punishments [the most in the history of the school!].

The Department of Defence even had problems in promoting him to the rank of officer, but the commanding officer of the school now intervened with a judgment that came to be prophetic: *"when it comes to war unexpectedly, this youthful cadet will show to be an exceptional officer"*.

In 1933, after finishing grammar school and the military period, he entered Leiden University to study law. He immediately felt at home in the student society and started rowing in the *Leidsche Studenten Roeivereniging Njord*, where he soon excelled. Together with Karel HARDEMAN, the friend from his youth in the Dutch East Indies, Ernst became part of the *"four with coxswain"* and with his team in 1936 and 1937 rowed the *"Varsity"*, which is the yearly race between the coxed fours of all Dutch Universities.

Because of his abilities as a leader, Ernst was first elected president of Njord and in 1937



even became president of the Student Society. It was in this position that he, during the 'ragging' period of the new draft of students, wounded the pride of a young student by emptying a soup terrine over his head. That student was Erik Hazelhoff ROELFZEMA [the original "Soldier of Orange"]. They were destined to meet again! Together with Karel HARDEMAN and coxswain Hans van WALSEM, Ernst started rowing in the two with coxswain. During the 1936

national rowing championships in the 'Slotervaart' near Amsterdam (the facility where the rowing of the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics took place), they finished second, behind a team from the rowing club *Willem III*. But since the two champs from *Willem III* were actually German, the Njord-team was still selected to represent The Netherlands during the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin.

This selection had great consequences for the team, because they now had to continue training, while normally they would have stopped for the rest of the summer. However, de JONGE and HARDEMAN took up the challenge, and from that moment skipping, weightlifting and rowing made up their daily schedule. They had a few problems with their respective studies, because Ernst (for law) and Karel (for medicine) had to pass an examination that year (for the ordinary degree), but these were managed. The team received the uniforms from the *Netherlands Olympic Committee*; grey flannel trousers, light-blue shirt and a blue double-breasted blazer with the NOC-logo.

And so, on a bleak (for students early mornings are always bleak) July morning in 1936, the three members of Njord assembled at the railway station in Leiden, travelled to Amsterdam, where they joined the other members of the Dutch Olympic team for Berlin. In Berlin the rowers were taken by bus to their temporary lodgings in Köpenick, in the South-Eastern part of Berlin, near the rowing course in the Wannsee, at Grünau. Their lodging was a recently built police barracks, which had been made available to all rowers.

Next day they resumed their training and went to the rowing facilities at Grünau. But

when they arrived at Grünau, their first conclusion was that the other countries had brought brandnew boats, while they had to row in their own old "*Jaap Dutry*" which was named after (and probably donated by) a Honorary Member of Njord Mr. Jaap DUTRY van HAEFTEN. However, they still had ten days to go before their own race was due. So, most days they took the boat out twice; they ate like wolves and got rid of the last ounces of fat they had. Maybe they even over trained themselves?

On the day of the qualification-races in the two with coxswain, August 12th, 1936, they did not row well, finishing sixth and last in the second heat, after France, Denmark, Switzerland, Jugoslavia and Japan.

However, they received a second chance in the repechages, which were rowed a day later on August 13th. But again they didn't make it and finished in third place in the first repechage behind Denmark (the only team that qualified for the final) and Switzerland, which like the Dutch team was eliminated. And thus ended their Olympic experience. Sure, they enjoyed their time in Berlin after the races, as any student would have.

Ernst de JONGE finished his studies in May 1938 and received his degree in law. He joined the Bataafsche Petroleum Maatschappij (B.P.M.) and was posted to the office in London, England. In August 1939 Ernst was called back to the Netherlands to fulfil his military obligations, and joined his artillery battery. But a short time later the B.P.M. requested the Department of Defence to release him, because they urgently needed Ernst for a job overseas. The Department relented and in February 1940, he was transferred to Curaçao in the Netherlands Antilles.

One of the directors, Professor OPPENHEIM, who had been sent to Curaçao with a special secret assignment, had specifically requested to have Ernst de JONGE made available to him. The outcome of that mission became known on May 10, 1940, when the Germans invaded the Netherlands. On the same day the seat of the B.P.M. was transferred from The Hague to Curaçao. It had been to solve the great legal problems caused by this transfer that Professor OPPENHEIM had requested the assistance of Ernst de JONGE.

Ernst felt happy enough in Curaçao because he had responsible work and was appreciated by his direct boss, Professor

OPPENHEIM, and he also enjoyed the relaxed style of life. Quite often, though, his thoughts went back to his family in the occupied Netherlands. He decided to request Prince BERNHARD in London to get him back for war duties, but before writing to the Prince he took flying lessons and qualified as a civilian pilot.

His letter to Prince BERNHARD (and also to an uncle who worked as an adjutant to Queen Wilhelmina in London) finally met with success and the B.P.M. released him for duties in London. So, on August 31, 1941, he departed from Curaçao for London.

Arriving in England, he was immediately transferred to the "*Patriotic School*" in London, where he was interrogated by the *British Security Service* for his political reliability. At the end of the interrogation (and because of his attitude during the whole period) the authorities asked him if he was willing to work as a secret agent in the occupied home-country. Since he had been thinking of these possibilities himself, his immediate answer was positive - but only if they thought he could really do handle the task.

He was then ordered to the temporary director of the *Dutch Central Intelligence Service* [C.I.D.], Reserve-Captain DERKSEMA, but that visit turned out to be something of a disappointment. De JONGE formed the private view that the CID was not working too efficiently. Shortly after, he was invited to visit the *Military Intelligence 6* [MI-6], Dutch Section, under leadership of Lieutenant-Colonel RABAGLIATTI.

Where the *Dutch Intelligence Service* was doing administrative work, the British MI-6 took care of the training and transport of secret agents to occupied countries; and they were also in charge of radio communications with them while abroad. Ernst decided to opt for the training as a secret agent. He was a man of strong presence, with dark eyes and a penetrating look; heavy eyebrows and a striking face. He was not tall, but possessed a sense of true authority.

Before starting his training, Ernst had been invited to speak for *Radio Oranje* (directed at the occupied home-country) and he did that in his own direct and inspired way. His family in the Netherlands heard his voice and later reported that his speech was like a "*light in the dark*".

The training as secret agent in those days contained many aspects, like working with a radio (sending and receiving); lessons in

coding and decoding; all kinds of security-measures; of course knowledge of the organisation and the ranks of the German army; lessons in self-defence; and even parachute-jumps.

However, during his training period he was forcibly confronted with the inefficiency of the C.I.D., and this decided him to quit his training for agent, and instead opt for training as a pilot in the *Royal Netherlands Air Force*. About the same time, the C.I.D. was being reorganised and Marine Colonel De BRUIJNE was placed in charge. After a personal meeting with De BRUIJNE, Ernst had confidence in the candid marine colonel and an urgent personal request from De BRUIJNE made him decide to continue his career as secret agent.

The date to start his work as an agent was rapidly approaching, but the original plan to have him and his radio-operator Evert RADEMA dropped by parachute had been abandoned in favor of using the "transport service" to the Dutch coast, which had been initiated by Erik Hazelhoff ROELFZEMA and Chris KREDIET. This service employed a motor gun boat (MGB) from the *Royal Navy*, and it brought secret agents very close to the Dutch coast. The last few hundreds metres of the journey were bridged by a rowing boat to lessen the noise. Of course, these drop-offs could take place only during moonless nights.

The first drop should have taken place a few days after February 20, 1942, but went astray because of adverse conditions. For the second drop MGB 320, with Ernst de JONGE and Evert RADEMA aboard, took off from Felixstowe around 16.00 hours on 23 February 1942, to arrive off the Dutch coast near Katwijk around midnight. They had to wait until 3:50 in the morning, before the actual landing began, and at 4:20 in the morning of February 24, 1942, Ernst stepped ashore about one hundred metres south off the boulevard in Katwijk. As well as their own radio, they had brought an extra one. Recent snow made their footsteps more obvious, but fortunately there was not a person in sight.

Erik Hazelhoff ROELFZEMA went ashore with them and brought them to a first hiding place near the boulevard, where they could wait until the first tram would leave for Leiden. Erik then returned to the rowingboat, the MGB and England.

Before his departure, Ernst had written a personal letter to his parents, in case he would

not return from this assignment. In this letter, dated 15 February 1942, he took his leave of them and thanked them for their education and devotion to him. He told them that the duty to his country prevailed, and asked them to forgive him for the pain he might give them by taking this decision.

In the early morning of February 24, 1942, Ernst de JONGE and Evert RADEMA took the tram to Leiden together with a group of labourers going to their daily work. In Leiden they split; Evert RADEMA went to Amsterdam to his hiding address and Ernst went to Wassenaar, where he had received two different safe-addresses from the C.I.D. The first one immediately went wrong because a deadly frightened woman who had opened the door, slammed it close again before he could say a word!

At the second address he heard loud German voices, and that meant the end of that address too. Fortunately, Ernst had an uncle living close by, but one of the main rules from his training period had stated that contact with family had to be avoided. However, Ernst had shaved off his moustache and was wearing dark spectacles to disguise himself.

Fortunately, his uncle was home, gave him dry socks and a good breakfast - but his first goal was to find a new address where he could hide, and from where he could start his operations. He couldn't stay where he was, because his uncle Nol had three children in the house. They then called another uncle in Zutphen, a widower without any children, a lawyer. This uncle, Cai, agreed to be his host for the time being.

Thus Ernst travelled by rail to Zutphen. Because he had already broken the rules not to contact his family, Ernst also met with his parents, who were invited to visit Zutphen under some sort of pretext. Of course they were delighted to meet him again.

But from that moment onwards, his sense of duty would prevail and he sought means to get in touch with Maarten REUHLIN in Rotterdam, who was known to be deeply involved with the Dutch Underground.

On March 3, 1942, Ernst de JONGE travelled to Rotterdam, where he met with Maarten REUHLIN.

At REUHLIN'S home he also met with other people, like engineer Leen POT, who, as a former reserve artillery-officer (like Ernst de JONGE himself) had for himself started military

espionage, but who had in the mean time lost the possibility to get his information radioed across the Channel to the *Allied Forces* and as a consequence had to reduce, even temporarily stop his activities. Because de JONGE had brought the means [a radio transmitter] to reopen up the contacts with England, Leen POT now also decided to renew his activities.

De JONGE also met the owner of his new temporary address: engineer E. van DRIEL van WAGENINGEN, who owned an apartment at the Ungerplein in Rotterdam, where Ernst from then on also resided.

Within a short time, de JONGE'S organisation enlarged its activities and through his many friends, most of them former students, he collected information which could be of value for the Allies. He worked closely together with Kees DUTILH, a former student friend whom he fully trusted. DUTILH had already been in prison for a couple of months because of his work for the underground.

Ernst took care that those he involved in his work would not know about the others, nor about their activities, but he himself, like a spider in its web, knew them all. His radio man RADEMA also visited Ernst in Rotterdam regularly to receive the messages for transmission to England. For longer messages they could use a code by letter, which could be sent through 'safe' addresses in Sweden and in Switzerland. Leen POT and Kees DUTILH took care of military espionage, while Ernst collected economic information, for which he was better suited.

During the night of 16/17 March 1942 a secret agent who had just been landed at the beach near Katwijk was captured by a German patrol, which 'contaminated' Katwijk for future use - and it was decided to transfer all activities to Noordwijk. They rented a summer-house in Noordwijk, from which they could observe the German activities and take care of the incoming passengers from the Hazelhoff ROELFZEMA 'transport service'. As a ruse they had two of them, both students at the University in Leiden, live permanently in the house under the pretext they were studying for their examinations.

One of de JONGE'S special assignments had been to contact a Dutch politician named Koos VORRINK, who was invited to visit England by special request from Queen WILHELMINA, who urgently wanted to be better informed

about the political situation in the home country. Having finally been contacted, VORRINK hesitated to depart for England, but after a long wait decided not to go. Instead he decided to send a spokesman by the name of Lex ALTHOFF. ALTHOFF was then temporarily lodged in the house in Noordwijk.

Now followed a week of frenetic activities. Ernst decided to make use of this opportunity to present an extended report of his work to his operations officer in England, with more information than was usually contained in his telegrams. The report was on microfilm and included charts with the positions of German forces marked on these.

Everything was ready for the transfer of persons and material, and when finally the message arrived from England over *Radio Oranje* signalling the "Go Ahead", all measures were taken in the house in Noordwijk to have it run smoothly. RADEMA and de JONGE both were kept at a distance, to limit any possibilities of failure.

And what a failure it was! The motor torpedo boat designated to make the contact, arrived right in the middle of a German patrol with "Schnellboote" and had to abandon the operation in an exchange of fiery shooting.

The result of this failure was that the 'transport service' could not continue for the time being.⁶

The German Secret Service

The German *Abwehr* was the *Intelligence Service of the German Army*. It had several "Abteilungen" (Departments), Abteilung I was in charge of espionage, while Abteilung III was involved with contra-espionage.

The German Police had been transformed into an immense apparatus, as is quite usual in a totalitarian community. This group was called the "Reichssicherheits-hauptamt" (RSHA) under leadership of Heinrich HIMMLER.

In the Netherlands the commanding officer of *Abwehr* III was Josef GISKES, while Joseph SCHREIEDER commanded the section contra-espionage of the *Sicherheitspolizei* (Security-police). Unfortunately for the Dutch Underground, the Germans used many infiltrators, traitors to their own country. The Germans called these men: "Vertrauens-männer" (V-männer).

⁶ Looking back, the failed effort to land agents near Noordwijk on May 12th, happened to be the final effort of the "Contact Holland" and the Hazelhoff *Roelfzema* "transport service".

Through the infamous "Englandspiel"⁷, the Germans had heard about the existence of a new hitherto-unknown agent with an "Indo-European"⁸ appearance. One of the V-Männer had provided them with information that a group of people from the underground would be trying to steal a fishing trawler while at sea, to cross over to England. The date for this take-over was planned for May 18, 1942.

Unfortunately for him, Ernst de JONGE had also heard of this plan and decided to make use of this possibility to transfer the microfilms (containing his extended report and the charts of the German positions), to England. These should have been going over earlier, with Lex ALTHOFF, and by the 'transport service' by MTB, which effort had failed.

The matchbox containing the microfilms was now handed over by engineer E. van DRIEL van WAGENINGEN, owner of the apartment where Ernst de JONGE was hiding, to one member of the escaping group. Just before the fishing trawler could depart on May 18, 1942, the whole group of escapees aboard was arrested by the Germans and the matchbox with the microfilms was found upon the man carrying them.

Joseph SCHREIEDER studied the material and found it to be of such a high quality that he decided to find out which underground group was responsible for it. He instructed one of his most notorious V-Männer Anton van der WAALS (who called himself Anton de WILDE during this period) to find out as much as possible about this case.

Soon the link to engineer E. van DRIEL van WAGENINGEN became known, and Van der WAALS decided to visit the man's apartment.

Van DRIEL van WAGENINGEN was not home, but van der WAALS then heard from the rather talkative doorman that another person

with with an "Indo-European" appearance also temporarily lived in the apartment. When SCHREIEDER received this report from van der WAALS, he remembered the earlier description of such a person and decided to act immediately.

Ernst de JONGE celebrated his 28th birthday on 22 May 1942. He had received a radio message from London that day informing him about the satisfaction of the government with the good work of his group. This made him very happy, and he said that this was the best birthday present he could expect to receive.

However, that same day he also learned about the arrest of the trawler escapees, and decided to move to a new address. This could not be done immediately and he was also unable to leave the apartment because he had an appointment with Lex ALTHOFF in the apartment that same evening. Leen POT arrived for dinner, and a short time later Lex ALTHOFF arrived too.

When the doorbell rang for a third time, Ernst opened the door and looked into the barrel of a pistol. Five men dashed into the apartment and overwhelmed the three Dutchmen. With separate cars they were taken away to *Gestapo*-headquarters at the Binnenhof in The Hague. They were interrogated separately during the whole of the night.

Next morning they were taken away to another address at the Binnenhof and during this transport on foot two things happened: Leen POT escaped from his captors⁹, while Ernst saw a former student friend walking across the street and called out to him loudly, by name. In this way it became known that Ernst de JONGE had been captured by the Germans. The other members of the group

⁷ The "Englandspiel" can be described as the ultimate disaster in espionage, as the Germans captured most special agents, together with their radio-operators, which had been parachuted into the Netherlands by the British *Special Operations Executive* [SOE] which was part of the *British Secret Service*. After their capture, the German contra-espionage misused the radio-operators, by putting them under severe pressure to contact the SOE in England and act as if nothing was wrong. They even sent material over (carefully screened of course) and in this way kept that line open for twenty months, while the SOE across the Channel never suspected treason! To the defence of the radio-operators must be said that most of them, when contacting the home-base under pressure of the Germans, 'forgot' to enter their security-checks, but the home-base never seemed to notice. In total 52 agents were captured with 16 radio-transmitters and the special codes, further many tons of weaponry and ammunition. The V-Männer played a very important role in this "Englandspiel"!

⁸ Ernst de JONGE had certainly no "Indo-European" appearance, but his dark eyes and heavy eye-brows gave him a rather striking appearance. However, for all that the description had disastrous results.

⁹ Leen POT was born 8 July 1910 in Zierikzee; after his time in the military (he attended the same school (SROBA) as Ernst de Jonge but earlier, in 1929), he started to study as an engineer in Delft, but did not

immediately took action and were able to prevent further damage.

Almost at the same time radio-operator Evert RADEMA had also been arrested and SCHREIEDER tried to induce RADEMA to set up another "*Spiel*". Both Ernst and RADEMA stubbornly refused to surrender their security-check. Although the Germans tried to contact MI-6 with RADEMA'S radio, London immediately concluded that the security-check failed in the message and they kept quiet and didn't answer.

SCHREIEDER tried it again eight times, in vain. After the war, SCHREIEDER told his interrogators that both RADEMA and Ernst had not been forthcoming during their interrogations, and in fact had been very uncommunicative.

After a period of several months in what was called "*Oranjehotel*" (nowadays the prison where the prisoners of the Yugoslavian Tribunal are kept in confinement) in Scheveningen; they were transferred to the prison in Haaren (a former seminary), in the province of Noord-Brabant. The most dangerous prisoners were kept in isolation on the second floor - Ernst and RADEMA among them.

Only in January 1943, Ernst's parents received permission to write him letters or to hand over packages for him. Ernst himself was also allowed to write and he must have written about six letters, from which only half were delivered.

In November 1943, after an incredible escape of three prisoners from Haaren, fifty-

one former agents (those on the second floor from Haaren) were secretly transported to Assen, in the province of Drenthe. They had been blindfolded with hoods, and were handcuffed. The situation in Assen prison was much worse and the prisoners suffered from malnutrition and cold. Ernst was able to write one more letter (his last) dated February 23, 1944, to his parents.

On April 30 1944, the fifty-one prisoners were transported to Rawich, 50 kilometres north of Breslau in Silesia. Forty of these were, on September 5, 1944, transported to KZ Mauthausen, where they were all killed in a most repugnant manner. Among these victims was Evert RADEMA. The administration of Mauthausen documented the killings as "*Auf der Flucht erschossen*" (shot while trying to escape).

From the other eleven, Ernst de JONGE among them, no detail has ever been discovered about the way they were killed or where they have been buried. It is thought that they may have been shot either in Rawich, or during a 'transport'. The official Dutch historian of the Second World War, Dr. L. de JONG thinks it might be possible that they were killed in KZ Gross-Rosen.

However, only the memory remains of these brave men, who gave all they had for a better world!

finish his course. He started working for *N.V. Cemsto*, until in 1939 he was called back into the military. After his demobilisation in 1940, he started his underground activities and later, through Maarten REUHLIN, became part of Ernst de JONGE'S group. After his escape from the Germans he went into hiding, because he had nothing left: no identity-papers, no safe-address where he could hide and no immediate contacts with his former group. He found out that RADEMA had also been captured. Later, and together with Kees DUTILH (1915-1944), he took over the work of Ernst de JONGE as leader of the now called *Group-Kees*. Leen POT was one of the few people in this work to survive the Second World War. When Kees DUTILH was captured by the Germans on March 10, 1943 (Kees DUTILH was executed on February 24, 1944), Leen POT took over leadership of the group by himself. Because of his earlier arrest he was known to the Germans and for that reason he decided to leave the country. He handed the *Group-Kees* over to Siewert de KOE, and escaped as a stowaway on a ship to Sweden. Later he continued his journey in the bomb-bay of a Mosquito-fighter to London. However, *Group-Kees*, which was started in March 1942 by Ernst de JONGE, then extended by Leen POT and Kees DUTILH, these two succeeded by Siewert de KOE and later leaders, continued its most important intelligence work, in spite of many set-backs, to the very end of the war.
