

COPY

PRIVATE THIJS TACONIS - DUTCH ARMY

Recommendation for the award of the Military Medal

Private Thijs TACONIS was landed in HOLLAND by parachute, with a wireless operator, early in November 1941 - since when he has done valuable and notable work both in performing the tasks for which he was originally despatched and in many other ways.

TACONIS has organised and trained 10 groups of saboteurs, each group consisting of an average of 8 men. These groups are situated in various parts of HOLLAND, and active but unobtrusive sabotage of transport and also arson has been and continues to be, undertaken.

At our request TACONIS planned and organised in June 1942 an attack on the German radio station at KOOTWIJK. There is every reason to suppose that this attack would have been successful had the assault party not come upon land-mines - the presence of which was not suspected - and roused the guard, with resultant failure. TACONIS' organisation has neither been shaken nor endangered in any way by this incident - thus affording proof of the efficient way in which his work has been done.

With the aid of Reception Committees organised locally by TACONIS, 10 deliveries of stores comprising in all 52 containers have been made. The total net weight of these stores exceeds 5 tons and they have been distributed amongst the various sabotage groups and safely hidden.

These same Reception Committees, under the guidance of TACONIS, have at different times received and given safe accommodation to 8 officers and other ranks proceeding to the field, whose chances of safety and the ultimate success of whose work has depended to an important extent on the services thus rendered. In fact, it is due to the assistance in the initial stages of TACONIS and his men that plans for the organisation of resistance groups in HOLLAND have been completed so rapidly.

One of the officers whom TACONIS received was unfortunate enough to suffer severe concussion on landing. He was none the less safely housed, given medical attention and finally, when after a few days he died, buried clandestinely and therefore without danger to our Organisation.

Many other services have been rendered by TACONIS and his helpers in the way of receiving special equipment and messages and passing them through to other agents in the field, and even latterly in obtaining most valuable information in regard to the issue of identity and ration cards in HOLLAND.

Throughout all these months of active and intelligent planning and organisation, TACONIS has been in constant danger, the nature and extent of which can only be surmised, but which, by his high degree of courage, resourcefulness and devotion to duty, he has combatted successfully. His work commands the unreserved respect of all who have experience of such activities.

I strongly recommend that TACONIS be awarded the Military Medal.

(Signed) G. Mo. V. GIBBINS.

Brigadier.

STREKSMA, Horst Reinder.

DUTCH Section.

Born: BERLIN, 14.10.19.

22666/A

Alias: SEVENSTER, H. @ PELT @ VERSTEEG, Horst Reinder.

Sent: From U.K., 24.10.42.

155  
Reported in prison camp at RAWICZ, Silesia, N.W. BRZSLAU.

Seen by escaped French agent in July 44.

Height - 5'8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Squarish face; high receding forehead; very light eyes; flat wide-bridged nose; large full mouth; square chin; curly hair; fair complexion.

I.T.O.

STEEKSMA, Horst Reinder P.O.W. Card DUTCH Section.

NO: BERLIN, 14.10.1919.

Alias: SEVENSTER, H @ PELT @ VERSTEG, Horst Reinder

Sent: From U.K. 24.10.42.

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very light eyes; flat wide-bridged nose; large full  
mouth; square chin; fair curly hair; fair complexion.

P.T.O.

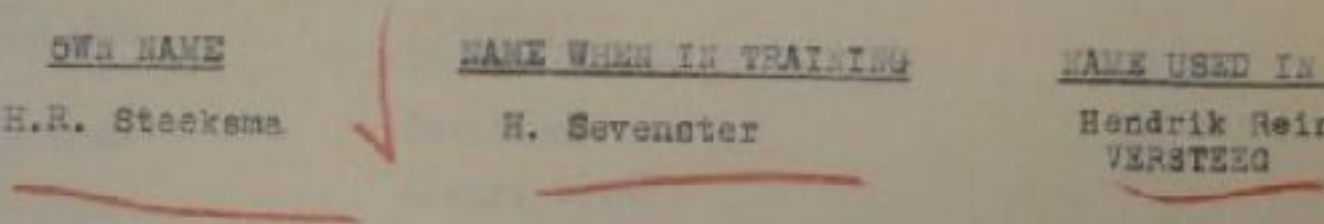


SWR NAME

H.R. Steekma

NAME WHEN IN TRAINING

H. Sevenster

NAME USED IN THE FIELDHendrik Reinder  
VERSTEEG

22666/A

CODE NAME.

Pelt

NAME OF OPERATION

CELERY B

MINUTE SHEETMOVEMENTS

<u>18.6.42.</u>	S.T.S. 6
<u>13.7.42.</u>	Arissig
<u>1.8.42.</u>	S.T.S. 51
<u>7.8.42.</u>	(Leave) Rhodesia Crt.
<u>16.8.42.</u>	Beaulieu
<u>13.9.42.</u>	Howard Hotel
<u>24.9.42.</u>	Flat
<u>28.9.42.</u>	S.T.S. 17
<u>11.10.42.</u>	Flat
<u>15.10.42.</u>	S.T.S. 61
<u>24.10.42.</u>	In the field.

No. 2. SEVENSTER.

- (d) Dr. Cuypershof 48, Tilburg.
- (e) Father. Karel Kisaas Steekma. Aged 50. Not member of any political party, but sympathised with S.B.A.P.  
Mother. Theresse Minna Bischoff (German by birth). Aged 50. Same politics as father.  
Brother. Karel Cornelius Jan Steekma. Aged 24. Born in Berlin. Now living at Ringbeem Oost 29, Tilburg, where he works as book-keeper.  
Sister. Annemarie. Aged 16. Born in Berlin.
- Father, mother and sister went to Berlin about six months prior to the outbreak of war in Holland. His father had a good job as electrical engineer with the A.E.G.
- (g) Worked for four years as clerk in bookshop and shipping company at Tilburg.
- (h) No political tendencies.
- (j) Left Holland on May 17th, 1940, with 4th Coy. Grens Bat. Jagers, through Belgium to France. Left Cherbourg for Haverford West on May 31st, 1940.
- (k) Worked in Administrative Section, B Company, Nederlandsche Brigade, until joining STS.

HISTORY SHEET

PARTY NO. 2...

(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. 5.....

School No. 3.....

Name by which known.....

Nationality.... DUTCH..... Born at... Berlin.....

Date of birth... 14/10/1917.....

Profession... Clerk.....

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

- Father: living in Berlin Electrical Engineer
- Mother: " " "
- Sister: " " "
- Brother: " " Tilburg (book)

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

Children.....

Languages. (With order and degree of proficiency.)

- Dutch
- English: good
- German: good
- French: a little

Hobbies. Swimming, music

Places intimately known. Tilburg and Philips' factory atindhoven

Military History.
Served service in Middelburg 1939
Administrative course 1939
Squad Paymaster Sgt-Major 1941 (3rd July)

Past History (Including Education, diplomas etc. in Chronological order and past employment.)

- Elementary school in Berlin 1929 - 1937
- " " " Tilburg 1937 - 1938
- Secondary School in Tilburg 1938 - 1940 (Diploma)
- Evening Trade School 1938 - 1939
- Vocational training class 1938 - 1939

Measurements to be given in inches and weight in pounds.

Height... 64" ..... Weight... 110 lbs.....

Chest (Normal)... 33 1/2" ..... Waist... 32" ..... Seat... 17".....

EXPANDED... 35 1/2".....

Length of back from Nape to waist... 22".....

Width of back from Centre to :-

(i) Shoulder... 14 1/2" ..... (ii) Elbow... 13 1/2" ..... (iii) Wrist... 10".....

Length of Leg.

(i) Outside (waist to ground)... 32 1/2" ..... (ii) Inside... 21 1/2".....

Size round head... 14".....

Length of Foot... 10 1/2".....

Description (including peculiarities etc.)





N. SECTION.

H. R. STEEKSMAN

12.6.42.

P.T.C.

NAME STEEKESMA, Horst Reindar  
 P.T.C. 12.6.42. (previously 13.5.41.)  
 N.R.A. 15.6.42. ( " 26.5.41.)  
 BORN 14.10.19. Berlyn  
 PRK. EMPLOY. Serg. Maj. Administratie  
 REMARKS To go to S.T.S.6 as student  
 17.6.42. 18.6.42.

ALIAS C.S.M. SEVENSTER  
 signed S.D. 3.8.42  
 S.T.S.6. L/Cpls. Boks & Mendes. 2.7.42

Steekesma acts successfully as leader and representative of group of N.C.O's. This is quite understandable owing to his rank and proficiency in P.T. and sports. His authority is accepted by the others. Doesn't know much of military training owing to the fact that previously in his own army, he has been holding a confidential clerical position. Learns very easily. On his evenings out, his main preoccupation is to seek the company of the opposite sex.

S.T.S. 6. L/Cpls. Boks & Mendes 9.7.42.

This party is progressing most satisfactorily. Keanness and zeal as strong as ever. Shows a very great team-spirit. Steekesma and some of the others seem to have gathered quite a lot of information concerning our organization and about the adventures experienced by people during their work for us. These rumours do not seem to have shaken their morale and determination.

S.T.S.6. L/Cpl. Mendes 16.7.42

Shows great team spirit with rest of party. Previously it was stated that he was looked upon by the other N.C.O's as their leader. I have nevertheless observed that when officially appointed to exert his authority (viz as the Sgt. Major) he only does so very reluctantly and fails to make a great impression. In other words, his leadership which

was mentioned on the previous occasion only applies to his excellence for physical tests and far less from the point of view of a dominating character.

S.T.S.51 Cpl. Mendes 5.8.42.

Lacks security-mindedness. Far too impulsive in thought and action. Only realises his mistakes after being told. To give an example: At 'drome' calls over to us a fellow countryman, ex-friend from his camp to exchange greetings with him. The result was that real names were used during the ensuing conversation in the presence of Kap-horst. In view of the possibility that the latter may be withdrawn from the course it was rather imperative that he should not have got to know a single identity of the others. Steeksma has sought the company of women at dances.

D/CE.3. to N. 14.8.42.

Steeksma required extremely careful handling with regard to future Security training as his background even though it was confidential does not seem to have given him much practical experience of Security in the Field. P.S.P.'s final report in which it is stated "he only realises his mistakes after being told" is an example of how dangerous this man could be if he is not carefully trained. Would you therefore consider his case carefully before sending him on for further training, and if you do send him on, he should be warned most specifically that should he fail to satisfy our requirements with regard to Security and the objects for which he is being trained, his future activities would have to form the subject of very serious consideration.



STEEKSMA, Horst Reindar.

FAMILY

Father: living in Berlin,  
Electrical Engineer. Mother  
& sister living in Berlin.  
Brother living in Tilburg.

STATE

Single.

LANGUAGES

Dutch; English - good. German  
good: French - a little.

HOBBIES

Swimming, music.

AREAS KNOWN

Tilburg & Philips' factory at  
Eindhoven.

MIL:SERVICE

Stated Service in Middleburg  
1939. Administrative course  
1939. Became Paymaster Sgt.  
Major 3.7.41.

HISTORY

Elementary school in Berlin  
1925-29. Ditto in Tilburg  
1929-32. Secondary School in  
Tilburg 1932-35 (Diploma).  
Evening trade School 1935-39.  
Working as shipping clerk  
1936-39.

MEASUREMENTS

Height 68 $\frac{3}{4}$ " Weight 155 lbs.  
Chest (Normal) 37 $\frac{1}{2}$ " EXPANDED  
39 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Waist 30" Seat 38".  
Length of back to waist 19".  
Width of back to Shoulder 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "  
Elbow 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Wrist 30".  
Outside leg 43" Inside 31"  
Size round head 22" Length of  
foot 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

S.T.S. 31 14.9.42.

Commandant's Report: Extremely intelligent  
and quick-witted. Very keen and hard-working.  
He has, however, one constantly recurring  
fault - that of jumping to conclusions and  
into hasty action without sufficient thought.  
It is a question whether this combination of  
courage and hastiness would not make him  
more suitable for a type of Commando activi-  
ty, rather than for slow patient work of a



clandestine nature. He has a pleasant personality; but most people would not consider him to be a very consistent or reliable superior.

S.T.S. 17 16.10.42.

Commandant's Report: Keen, intelligent and thorough. He showed throughout the course a high degree of initiative and resource, coupled with common sense. Could be relied on to do any work thoroughly. Appeared capable of both instructing and planning.

SPECIAL TRAINING SCHOOLS,

ROOM 98,

HORSE GUARDS,

WHITEHALL, S.W.1.

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 DECLARATION
 

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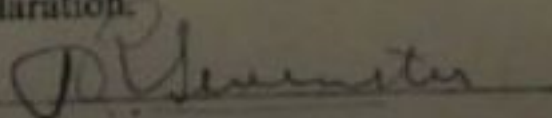
I declare that I will never disclose to anyone any information which I have acquired or may at any future time acquire as the result of my connection with this Department, unless such disclosure is necessary for my work for the Department.

In particular I declare that except under the conditions aforementioned, I will in no circumstances give away any information concerning:—

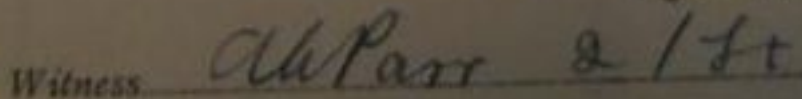
1. The name, alias description, identity, location or duties of any past, present or future member of this Department.
2. The name, alias description, identity, location or duties of any member of the staff, or any persons working with this Department, either as a member of the forces or as a civilian.
3. The nature, methods, objects or subjects of instruction of this Department.
4. The location or name of any establishment of this Department.
5. The past, present or future location, movement or employment, either potential or factual, of myself, any other member of or any person working with this Department.

I declare moreover that I understand that I am personally responsible for any disclosure of such information I may make and that disciplinary proceedings under the Official Secrets Acts 1911 and 1920, the Treachery Act 1940, or the Defence (General) Regulations 1939 may be taken against me if I at any time or in any way contravene the terms of this declaration.

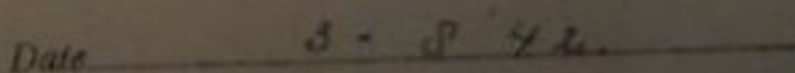
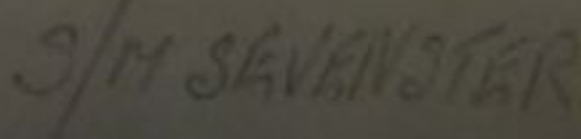
Signature



Witness



Date

No: S.F. 1040.

Date .....

M.I.5. (Captain STRONG)

Have you any trace, please, of

Name: STRECHMA, Horst Reijnder

Nationality: Dutch

Date and Place of Birth (or approximate age): 1918 in Berlin

Occupation: Sergeant in the Dutch Army

Present whereabouts and address (if possible): c/o The Dutch Army

Any outstanding particulars:

Reasons for enquiry: For possible employment as Agent

S.O.2  
13. 5. 41.

Remarks by M.I.5:

NOTHING RECORDED  
AGAINST.

*Alamfort*

20 MAY 1941



CARD 341

C.R.

Date

17.6.42.

5

SURNAME STEURDIA ✓  
(State name at birth if different or if known by any other names.)

FULL CHRISTIAN NAMES Horst Reinder

DATE & PLACE OF BIRTH Berlin 14.10.19

NATIONALITY

NATIONALITY AT BIRTH (if different from above.)

PRIVATE ADDRESS

PERMANENT ADDRESS

NATIONAL REGISTRATION NUMBER

BRIEF PARTICULARS OF PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

Serg. Maj Administration

FULL NAME, NATIONALITY AT BIRTH AND PLACE OF BIRTH OF FATHER, MOTHER, HUSBAND/WIFE.

NOTE—If applicant or parents naturalised, state Number, Date and Name in which Certificate was granted.)

PARTICULARS OF RELATIVES NOW IN ENEMY OR ENEMY-OCCUPIED OR CONTROLLED COUNTRIES (Husband, wife, father, mother, brothers, sisters, sons or daughters only.)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RELATIONSHIP</u>	<u>PRESENT ADDRESS</u>
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APPLICANT FOR EMPLOYMENT AS—

Agent in Holland.

Note: This man was already listed N.R.A 26.5.41. Have you any further information on him?

Nothing further known.

THIS IS A COPY  
ORIGINAL DOCUMENT RETAINED  
IN DEPARTMENT UNDER SECTION  
3 (4) OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS  
ACT 1958



*Case*

22666A  
**S.O.2.**

MINUTE SHEET.

C.X. ....  
Source .....  
No. ....  
Date 13. 5. 41.

For possible employment as Agent

*NT.*

STEEKSMA, Horst Reijnder ✓

Dutch

Born 1918 in Berlin

Sergeant in the Dutch Army

c/o. The Dutch Army

DISTRIBUTION.

C.R.

ACTION PROPOSED.