

War heroine Odette dies ←

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Mrs Hallowes, of Eriswell Road, received the George Cross in 1946 for her efforts in World War Two, during which she was tortured after working for the Special Operations Executive (SOE).

Born in Amiens, France in 1912, she moved to Britain in 1932 with English husband Roy Sansom.

She was recruited to the SOE in 1942, after answering a BBC broadcast requesting pictures of the European coastline in an attempt to contact potential agents.

After her recruitment, she said goodbye to her family, and travelled to France to help the Resistance movement.

With the betrayal of her Resistance circuit in April 1943, she was captured, tortured, condemned to death, and taken to Germany in May 1944,

with six other women agents, all of whom were executed.

Following a spell in the Ravensbrück concentration camp, she was unexpectedly released in April 1945, and found by advancing Allies.

She subsequently returned to England, and remarried twice.

She was made an MBE in 1945, the Légion d'Honneur in 1950, and remained an active member of the Women's Transport Services and a stalwart of Forces Charities.

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