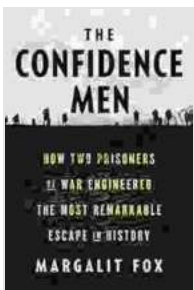


The Great Escape: How Two Prisoners of War Engineered the Most Remarkable Escape in History

In the annals of World War II, few stories are as gripping as the Great Escape. On the night of March 24, 1944, 76 Allied prisoners of war tunneled out of the supposedly impregnable Stalag Luft III prison camp in Germany. This daring escape attempt, code-named Operation Husky, was the result of months of meticulous planning and execution. Two prisoners, Roger Bushell and Harry Popow, played key roles in its success.



The Confidence Men: How Two Prisoners of War Engineered the Most Remarkable Escape in History

by Margalit Fox

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 12640 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
X-Ray : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 313 pages



The Planning

The planning for Operation Husky began in the autumn of 1943. Bushell, a British officer who had been captured in 1940, was the mastermind behind the escape. He assembled a team of trusted prisoners, including Popow, a

Polish pilot who had been shot down in 1942. Together, they developed a plan to dig three tunnels under the camp's perimeter fence. Each tunnel would be approximately 300 feet long and 6 feet high. The prisoners would use a variety of tools, including spoons, knives, and shovels, to dig the tunnels.

The Digging

The digging began in November 1943. The prisoners worked in shifts, taking turns digging, shoveling, and hauling away the dirt. They worked in complete secrecy, knowing that if they were caught, they would be severely punished. The digging was slow and difficult, but the prisoners persevered. By March 1944, the three tunnels were complete.

The Escape

On the night of March 24, 1944, the prisoners began their escape. They emerged from the tunnels one by one and made their way to a nearby forest. They were armed with compasses, maps, and forged documents. The prisoners split into small groups and headed in different directions. They hoped to make it to neutral territory or to contact Allied forces.

The Aftermath

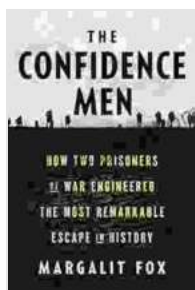
Unfortunately, only 23 of the 76 prisoners who escaped made it to safety. The rest were captured by the Germans and returned to Stalag Luft III. Bushell and Popow were among those who were recaptured. They were both executed by the Germans in September 1944.

The Great Escape was a daring and ultimately unsuccessful attempt to escape from a German prison camp. However, it remains one of the most

remarkable stories of courage and determination in the history of World War II.

The Legacy

The Great Escape has been the subject of numerous books, films, and television shows. It is a story that continues to inspire people around the world. The escape attempt showed that even in the darkest of times, hope can prevail. It is a reminder that the human spirit is capable of great things.



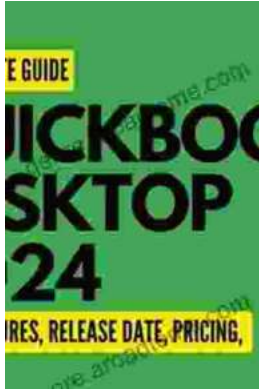
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