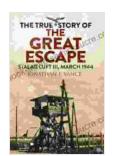
# Stalag Luft III: The Great Escape of March 1944

The Great Escape took place on the night of March 24, 1944. Seventy-six Allied prisoners escaped from the camp through three tunnels that had been dug over a period of months. The escapees were led by Roger Bushell, a Royal Air Force officer who had been captured in 1940.

The escapees made their way to the nearby town of Sagan, where they split into groups of two or three and attempted to blend in with the local population. However, most of the escapees were quickly captured by the Germans. Only three of the 76 escapees made it to neutral territory.

The Great Escape was a remarkable feat of planning and organization, and it is considered one of the most daring escapes of all time. However, it was also a tragedy, as 50 of the escapees were executed by the Germans.



### The True Story of the Great Escape: Stalag Luft III,

March 1944 by Jonathan F. Vance

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 4.5 out of 5 Language : English File size : 6816 KB Text-to-Speech : Enabled Screen Reader : Supported Enhanced typesetting: Enabled : Enabled X-Rav Word Wise : Enabled Print length : 538 pages : Enabled Lending



The story of the Great Escape has been told countless times in books, movies, and television shows. It is a story of courage, determination, and sacrifice. It is also a reminder of the horrors of war and the importance of freedom.

### The Camp

Stalag Luft III was a large camp, housing over 10,000 prisoners of war at its peak. The camp was surrounded by barbed wire fences and guard towers. The prisoners were housed in barracks, and they were forced to work in the coal mines and on the farms in the surrounding area.

The conditions in Stalag Luft III were harsh. The prisoners were often cold and hungry, and they were subjected to frequent beatings and torture. However, the prisoners also found ways to resist their captors. They organized secret meetings, and they smuggled in radios and other supplies. They also dug tunnels and planned escapes.

The Great Escape was the most ambitious of all the escape attempts from Stalag Luft III. It was planned and organized by a group of British officers, led by Roger Bushell. The escapees spent months digging three tunnels under the camp's fences. They also created elaborate disguises and documents to help them blend in with the local population.

The Great Escape was a daring gamble, but it ultimately failed. Most of the escapees were captured by the Germans within a matter of days. However, the escape did have a lasting impact. It showed the Germans that the Allied prisoners were not willing to give up, and it inspired other escape attempts.

## The Escape

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#### The Aftermath

The Great Escape had a profound impact on the prisoners of war and on the Germans. The escape showed the Germans that the Allied prisoners were not willing to give up, and it inspired other escape attempts.

The Germans also reacted to the escape by increasing the security at Stalag Luft III. They built new fences and guard towers, and they increased the number of guards. They also began to execute any prisoners who were caught trying to escape.

The Great Escape was a tragedy, but it was also a victory for the human spirit. The escapees showed the world that even in the darkest of times, hope and determination can prevail.

### The Legacy

The story of the Great Escape has been told countless times in books, movies, and television shows. It is a story of courage, determination, and sacrifice. It is also a reminder of the horrors of war and the importance of freedom.

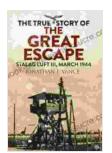
The Great Escape is a reminder that the human spirit can triumph over even the most difficult circumstances. It is a story that will continue to inspire generations to come.

#### **Related Articles**

- The Great Escape: A True Story of Courage and Determination
- Stalag Luft III: The Nazi POW Camp Where the Great Escape Took
   Place
- Roger Bushell: The Leader of the Great Escape

#### **External Links**

- Stalag Luft III Memorial Museum
- The Great Escape Society
- The International Red Cross



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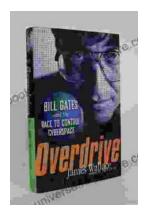
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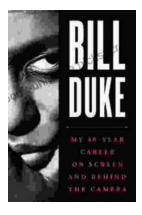
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